LOCATION: Baghdad, Iraq
DATE: 10 July 2018
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS: Al Ahgsan, Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC), Medecins Sans Frontieres – France (MSF-F), Medecins Sans Frontieres – Switzerland (MSF-CH), Mercy Hands, OXFAM, Prime Minister’s National Operations Centre (NOC), Terres des Hommes-Swiss, The United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), UN OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF.

ACTION POINTS: Logistics Cluster to share the meeting minutes and attendance list with JCMC to facilitate the follow up on the issues discussed.

AGENDA:
1. Previous Action Points
2. Roundtable discussion on access approvals and import procedures
3. Logistics Cluster updates and common services
4. AOB

1. Previous Action Points

- The Logistics Cluster has circulated the revised Concept of Operation (ConOps) document that was endorsed from partners.
- The Logistics Cluster to continue to invite relevant government entities to coordination meetings to facilitate discussion and clarification on import, access and clearances procedures.

2. Roundtable discussion on access approvals and import procedures

- Present at the meeting were the Deputy Director of the Prime Minister’s National Operations Centre (NOC) and a representative of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC). Participants used the opportunity to inquire directly about issues with customs clearances and access constraints they are facing.
- Two organisations reported that in several occasions, when moving humanitarian commodities in and out of Baghdad area with the JCMC approval letter, some check points require to receive the telegraph reference number from the Baghdad Operations Centre before access is granted to trucks. One other participant mentioned that the same issue is happening in some of the check points in Ninewa, despite the fact that the organisation has a valid JCMC access letter. Government representatives clarified that this is not an official requirement and that discussions between the different ministries are taking place to ensure a coordinated approach and operations run smoothly at check points.
- Participants asked clarification on the duration of the access letters, which may vary according to the nature of the operation (e.g. quantity of items to be dispatched, locations, numbers of suppliers and drivers included in the request), due to security reasons and misuse of these access permits by some transporters.
- Another issue raised was in regards to the process to submit the clearance requests from humanitarian organisations, as some experienced delays when presenting the documentation in hard copies. The JCMC and NOC confirmed that electronic requests via emails are valid.
- For staff missions into Mosul area, the procedure remains the same and a JCMC access letter should be requested, even when transporting small quantities of stationary and office equipment. In case of issues, the
Ninewa Operations Centre can be contacted as JCMC deployed a dedicated representative in each of the Governorates.

- An organisation voiced concerns over delays in receiving cargo import clearance from the Ministry of Health, which caused delays in their operation. Another organisation mentioned the delays in obtaining the clearances to import IT and telecommunication accessories that have to be processed and cleared by the Ministry of Interior and relevant security agencies, in addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Additional questions and follow up on customs and import processes can be addressed to: khalid.arabi@wfp.org

3. Logistics Cluster updates and common service

- The Chair shared the updated ConOps map with the common storage facilities currently available. Organisations in need of storage space in one of these locations can send a Service Request Form (available here) to iraq.clustercargo@wfp.org.
  - Baghdad: 1,000 m²
  - Dahuk: 1,400 m²
  - Erbil: 2,700 m²
  - Hamam al ‘Alil (MODM): 1,040 m²
  - Hamam al ‘Alil (UNHCR): 2,080 m²
  - Tikrit: 3,400 m²
- In case of warehouse gaps and storage needs in any specific locations, organisations can reach out to the Logistics Cluster. In addition, Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) can be loaned to single humanitarian organisations, and the Logistics Cluster facilitates the transport and erection.
- Participants were reminded about the interactive online access map that outlines the roads and crossing points that are not operational, and provides information about check points as well as entry points. The map is available here. Inputs can be sent to gabriela.espana@wfp.org.

4. AOB

- The Logistics Cluster will be holding a coordination meeting in Erbil on 16 July, with representatives from Ibrahim Khalil Customs authorities and Intertek Inspection company attending. Organisations are encouraged to attend.
- An online User Survey will be circulated through the mailing list to seek partners’ feedback on Logistics Cluster activities, including coordination and information management, as well as service provision.

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