

- LOCATION:** Baghdad, Iraq
- DATE:** 9 October 2018
- CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster
- PARTICIPANTS:** Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB); ICRC; International Medical Corps (IMC); OCHA; Médecins du Monde; Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B); Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F); Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-S); MSF-OCB; Mercy Hands; Terre des Hommes (TDH); UNFPA; UNICEF; The United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS); Un Ponte Per; WHO.
- ACTION POINTS:**
- Logistics Cluster to share OCHA Civ-Mil Coordination (CIMCoord) representative contacts.
 - Logistics Cluster to share MSF-B Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for medical import clearance.
- AGENDA:**
1. Import / Customs discussion with Kimadia
 2. Previous action points
 3. Humanitarian and operational updates
 4. Access updates
 5. Logistics Cluster updates
 6. AOB

1. Import / Customs discussion with Kimadia

- Kimadia is part of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and is responsible for approving customs clearance for the importation of medicine and medical appliances to Iraq. They are the direct link and liaison with the directorate of General Customs in Baghdad.
- Organisations were advised that the following documentation and information is commonly required when importing medical cargo into Iraq: packing list, invoice, gift certificate (a document verifying goods are to be used for humanitarian purposes), clearance request letter (including recipient details, project details including project number, entry point and destination) and tax exemption.
- It was noted that all documentation must be translated into Arabic, and cargo quantity, volume and weight should be precise. Partners should also have all relevant documents for the clearance process in advance, in order to check documents for accuracy and clarity.
- The International Health Department (IHD), part of MoH, is responsible for approval and processing requests for the importation of medical items.
- It was noted that there is a 9-10 step process for the clearance process between Kimadia/IHD and the Ministry of Finance (MoF). Due the changing nature of importation procedures of medical items, there is no general documentation on clearances available. MSF-B has composed a general guide which will be shared with partners.
- Kimadia is authorised to clear cargo entering the country for Iraq's five main national entry points: Baghdad and Basra airports, Umm Qasr sea port, Ibrahim Khalil for import to Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and

Federal Iraq (FI), and Trebil. Kimadia do not provide clearances at Erbil International Airport and Najaf International Airport.

- If cargo is going to FI, transiting through KRI, approval and clearance is needed from the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC). As part of the clearance process organisations are required to obtain two letters from Customs (one for Ibrahim Khalil crossing and one for the Perde/Altun Kupri crossing).
- If imported items are to be split between KRI and FI, this will need to be cleared accordingly. Kimadia recommends organisations prepare separate documentation, stating where goods will be distributed (and in what quantities).
- If the final place of distribution is not yet defined when requesting clearance, organisations should provide a detailed project explanation and the corresponding project number.
- Tax exemptions for UN Agencies are issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Tax exemptions for NGOs and INGOs are issued by the relevant line ministries, depending on the type of cargo. All humanitarian organisations are entitled to a tax exemption upon presentation of a gift certificate (a document verifying goods are to be used for humanitarian purposes).
- It was noted that pre-approval for cargo clearances is done on a case-by-case basis.
- Emergency cargo clearance approvals and the registration for new medical items are also conducted on a case by case basis.
- If organisations have border-related questions or queries in regards to the importation of medical items, organisations should contact Customs directly.
- Current clearance processes can take up to 60-70 days. Kimadia has recently switched to accepting clearance requests via email, which is expected to accelerate the process.

2. Previous action points

- Logistics Cluster to assess and clarify capacity of newly opened Altun Kupri Bridge. The bridge has a 20 mt weight limit. This was also shared with partners through the Skype group.

3. Humanitarian and operational updates

- Participants were provided with very brief overview on the latest humanitarian updates in Iraq.
- According to Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, the following camps closed in September: Al Jamea'a (Karkh, Baghdad), Kadhra'a (Karkh, Baghdad), Daquq (Daquq, Kirkuk), Barzinja (Sulaymaniya, Sulaymaniya).

4. Access updates

ACCESS WORKING GROUP (AWG)

- The AWG has started meeting again following internal changes in OCHA Civ-Mil Coordination (CIMCoord).
- Meetings will take place every second week, running in both Baghdad and Erbil.
- Logistics Cluster and the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) will be providing support to ensure information is delivered to all partners, as OCHA CIMCoord updates its contact database.
- A key outcome from the meeting was a request for partner organisations to regularly report and share details on any access constraints they are currently facing.
- The CIMCoord duty phone is no longer activated. Access constraints should be reported directly to the respective CIMCoord representative of the governorate where the access constraint took place (contacts details for each governorate shared with these minutes) or to gabriela.espana@wfp.org.

MOSUL

- Huraya and Oberoi bridges are under repair. Organisations have been advised that no heavy vehicles can currently cross, and delays are anticipated. The current capacity for Oberoi is reduced to 40 mt. For Huraya Bridge current capacity is 30 mt.

KIRKUK

- Safra / Perde (Altun-Kupri) cross points: Custom authorities in Baghdad have confirmed that Perde cross point is now partly operational. Al Safra cross point will remain operational until the new cross point in Parde is fully operational, at which point Al Safra will be gradually closed. Custom procedures remain the same.
- Two customs offices have been placed along the following highways: Kirkuk-Erbil highways and Kirkuk - Slemani highways. The Iraqi Federal Police are in charge of the two customs offices, which will tax the trade of goods between KRI and Federal Iraq (FI). They officially started working in last week of September. Taxes are to be collected by FI; the amount is yet to be confirmed.

SULAYMANIYAH

- The flight ban at Slemani International Airport will remain in place for another three months (JCC).
- The Logistics Cluster continues to update the access constraints map. The link is available [here](#). Organisations are encouraged to share information on access constraints with the Logistics Cluster: gabriela.espana@wfp.org

5. Logistics Cluster updates and common services

- Common storage totaling 11,620 m² is available across six locations:
 - 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

- Changes in storage capacity have been updated on the newly published Concept of Operations map, available on the Logistics cluster [website](#).
- Logistics Cluster common storage service will close down by 31 December 2018. The Logistics Cluster is assessing storage facilities around the country, and will share the information with partners.
- Partners are reminded that the cluster has Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in stock in Erbil, Baghdad and Duhok, available for loan, at no cost to the user, for any organisation requiring further storage capacity. The cluster will provide the transportation, erection and disassembly of the MSU, the organisation just needs to prepare the land. Any information requests can be sent to gabriela.espana@wfp.org.

6. AOB

- MSF-B is looking for warehouse space (600 m2) available in Baghdad, preferably near Mansour area. If partners have any information on this topic, kindly contact Mustapha Ahmad: msfocb-iraq-supplyco@brussels.msf.org
- ICRC is seeking 3000-4000 m2 of warehouse space in or around Baghdad. Any information from partners on this topic, kindly contact Zoran Curkovski: zcurkovski@icrc.org
- The Logistics Cluster can provide contact details for warehouse owners in Baghdad. Please contact gabriela.espana@wfp.org for more information.
- For partners requiring supplier and service information for Basra; Agility Logistics is able to assist.
- MSF intends to conduct a market assessment in Basra over the coming month. The Logistics Cluster will share the outcomes, on completion.

Contacts:

Cameron Kiss	<i>Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	cameron.kiss@wfp.org
Andrii Shapkin	<i>Logistics Officer</i>	Andrii.shapkin@wfp.org
Gabriela Espana	<i>Information Management Officer</i>	gabriela.espana@wfp.org
Farhad Rasul	<i>One-Stop-Shop (OSS) Focal Point</i>	farhad.rasul@wfp.org
Khalid Arabi	<i>Customs Focal Point</i>	khalid.arabi@wfp.org