

- LOCATION:** Baghdad, Iraq
- DATE:** 12 December 2018
- CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster
- PARTICIPANTS:** Danish Refugee Council (DRC); Handicap International (HI); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO); Intersos; Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B); Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F); Mercy Hands; OCHA.
- ACTION POINTS:**
- Logistics Cluster to follow up with the Federal Customs Directorate in Baghdad regarding meetings.
 - Logistics Cluster to share Mercy Hands's procedure for cost sharing of common storage in field locations.
 - Logistics Cluster to obtain and share federal tariffs for medicines and other non-food items (NFI).
 - Partners to share recent local vendor information with DRC, for compilation into a consolidated database.
- AGENDA:**
1. Federal Customs Procedures
 2. Exit Activities
 3. Logistics Cluster Updates and Common Services
 4. AOB

1. Federal Customs Procedures

- The Federal Government of Iraq customs procedures remain in place, including for movement of cargo from the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) to Federal Iraq (FI).
- An emergency procedure was put in place for the floods response for simplified cargo movement approvals from 28 November to 4 December, of which 16 approvals were granted to 6 humanitarian partners.
- One medical partner raised the issue that there is not enough time to go through federal procedures for tax exempted medicine stocks stored in Erbil with destination locations in FI, and are therefore exploring the possibility of paying the Federal taxes in order to meet delivery deadlines, and avoid expiring medicines.
- **Import process Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** were circulated to partners. This procedure has been in place for some time, though not previously imposed.
- As the federal procedures will remain, the Logistics Cluster encourages partners to work with the new procedures; invest in staff, develop lines of communication with relevant Federal Government authorities, and plan in advance. Prioritise local procurement when possible.
- The Logistics Cluster published several SOPs regarding import procedures that can be found on our [website](#). Some points to note:
 - The FI customs procedures have been in place for some time, though have not always been applied.

- All organisations must be registered in FI in order to move cargo, even if it is procured locally. Lacking registration, an NOC access letter will not be issued.
- Cargo planned for transport to any FI area should be imported using FI processes (even if imported into KRI first); and requires an access letter from the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC)/National Operation Centre (NOC).
- Cargo imported to KRI using the FI processes still requires the NOC access letter in order to be transported to FI areas.
- Cargo imported to Baghdad for distribution/use in FI areas does not need to apply for any additional clearance. Organisations need to provide an exemption/facilitation letter before applying for a JCMC/NOC access letter.
- Items procured locally in KRI will only need an NOC access letter to move into FI areas; organisations must provide proof of local purchase via invoices.
- The same documents are required at central and provincial level entities, as well as checkpoints.
- In the case of goods being transported to Syria via FI, organisations only require customs clearance from KRI and the NOC access letter. FI customs are not involved in the process. The NOC access letter should be presented to customs in the Mosul Area Office which will notify the relevant checkpoints en route to the border.
- The National Operation Centre (NOC) access letter will be circulated by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC)/NOC to the regional level checkpoint so that cargo is allowed through.
- It is expected that a unified import procedure to include FI and the KRI may be implemented in early 2019.
- The Logistics Cluster followed up with the International Health Department (IHD) as to why import approval letters for medicines are no longer addressed to KIMADIA (customs management). According to IHD all UN, INGOs, and NGOs are now exempt from being processed through KIMADIA¹, so IHD will forward documents directly to relevant government authorities, such as customs, for further action.

2. Exit Activities

- The Logistics Cluster transition strategy is moving ahead, as gaps and bottlenecks initially reported when the cluster was activated have reduced or no longer exist, according to analysis of service usage data and partner feedback.
- The exit strategy has been endorsed by partners and presented to the Humanitarian Coordinator through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).

Main points:

- Common storage services will be closed by end of December 2018.

¹ KIMADIA is a contracted partner of the Federal Government tasked to facilitate the practical aspects of customs import – medicines and medical materials.

- Coordination and information management will be transitioned to WFP-led sector working group by March 2019.
- One Stop Shop handed over to the Joint Crisis Centre (JCC)/Ministry of Interior by March 2018. Customs FI focal person to continue to around end of December 2019.
- Preparedness activities with the Federal and KRI government to commence February 2019.
- Transition period January/February 2019; Logistics Cluster closed by 1 March 2019.

3. Logistics Cluster Updates and Common Services

Warehouses

- The warehouses that the Logistics Cluster currently has will close by 31 December 2018, except for Dohuk (30 November 2018).
- Mercy hands intends to offer a cost recovery common storage service in Qayara, Jeddah, Hamam Al Alil camps, Tikrit and possibly Fallujah. The SOP will be shared with partners in the coming weeks.

Trainings

- The Logistics Cluster held the Logistics Response Training (LRT) in Erbil from 11 to 16 November. The training involved participants and facilitators from 23 different organisations (NGO/INGO/KRI/FI/donors/UN).

MSU Loans

- The Logistics Cluster is going through the process of donating loaned Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to users in the field and will retain a small stock of MSUs available for urgent emergency field loans.
- 4 MSUs currently with a partner in Salamaniya camp are no longer required, if any partners are interested in the loan or donation of these MSUs, please contact the Logistics Cluster.

4. AOB

- DRC explained that they have recently conducted local market assessments and have developed updated vendor contacts and information for Baghdad, Tikrit, Dayala, and areas of Anbar. DRC requests partners to share their vendor information for a compiled updated vendor database.

The next meeting is expected to be conducted in mid-January 2019.

Contacts:

Cameron Kiss

Logistics Cluster Coordinator

cameron.kiss@wfp.org

Khalid Arabi

Customs Focal Point

khalid.arabi@wfp.org

Andrii Shapkin

Logistics Officer

andrii.shapkin@wfp.org

Gabriela Espana

Information Management Officer

gabriela.espana@wfp.org

Farhad Rasul

One Stop Shop (OSS) Focal Point

farhad.rasul@wfp.org