

- LOCATION:** Baghdad, Iraq
- DATE:** 21 January 2019
- CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster
- PARTICIPANTS:** Al-Shomuk Foundation for Human Development and Human Rights, Blumont, Handicap International (HI), International Medical Corps (IMC), IOM, Medecins Sans Frontieres France (MSF-FR), Mercy Corps, Mercy Hands, NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI), OCHA, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Save The Children, Terre des Hommes, World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ACTION POINTS:**
- Partners experiencing complications importing cargo via the Federal Iraq processes are to document and report the issue to the Logistics Cluster with a short summary by Monday, 28 January (template to be circulated with these minutes) to iraqclustercargo@wfp.org or farhad.rasul@wfp.org
 - The Logistics Cluster to compile partners' import information and advocate for simplification of cargo importation process, in partnership with NCCI and OCHA Access Unit.
 - The Logistics Cluster to check that the current Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for importation of cargo to Federal Iraq remains valid and recirculate if there is any change.
 - The Logistics Cluster to share a map of the customs checkpoints.
- AGENDA:**
1. Previous action points
 2. Customs procedure
 3. Exit activities
 4. Logistics Cluster updates and common services
 5. AOB

1. Previous Action Points

- The Logistics Cluster shared Mercy Hands procedure for cost sharing of common storage in field locations with partners. For more details contact karar.esam@mercyhands.org
- The Logistics Cluster made a request to the appropriate government ministry for an official document listing cargo that would have associated import tariffs applied. However, the response from government authorities was that such a document does not currently exist.

2. Customs procedures

- In November, the government of Federal Iraq established customs checkpoints and imposed federal import procedures to move cargo from the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) to Federal Iraq (FI).
- The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) now requires a federal tax exemption letter from Baghdad customs authorities before they will provide a cargo movement letter now to any organisations.
- Organisations which attended the meeting shared their experiences navigating the FI import processes, and the constraints experienced, including delays of up to three months.
- Partners reported confusion as to which department(s) the required documents must be submitted to.

- Partners should use the official Faida/Flefel customs checkpoint and not schedule cargo transport across the Makmour/Khazar checkpoint. A map of the customs checkpoints will be shared with the meeting minutes.
- Although the Logistics Cluster SOP for FI import processes remains valid, it has been reported that some government departments impose different procedures.
- The Logistics Cluster has advocated to OCHA, the HCT and HC for the simplification of customs procedures for humanitarian organisations.
- The organisations that attended the meeting requested that the NCCI, OCHA Access Unit and the Logistics Cluster coordinate for further advocacy.
- The SOPs for importing to Federal Iraq, transiting through KRI, which was shared in June 2018 are still valid and available here: <https://logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-import-process-federal-iraq-transit-through-kri> . The Logistics Cluster will follow up on this procedure with the relevant authorities and communicate to partners if there were any changes.
- Humanitarian Organisations have reported difficulties in cross KRI-FI cargo movement and clearance. These difficulties include:
 - Difficulties obtaining the tax exemption letter from JCMC.
 - Difficulties at the checkpoint level due to security staff not accepting the authority of the movement approvals and requiring additional approvals from their own higher level authorities.
 - The Joint Coordination Center (JCC) and JCMC cargo movement letters have specified windows for cargo movement between specified dates. However, it has been noted that it is difficult to coordinate movements with both cargo letters to align due to the unspecified and variable timelines pertaining to customs clearance.
 - Difficulties obtaining a Federal tax exemption for cargo moving within Federal Iraq from Qayara to Baghdad.
 - None of the organisations that attended the meeting reported successful completion of FI import processes.
 - UN agencies and NGOs reported that the processes remain unclear.
 - Some UN agencies reported a three-month wait to obtain a tax exception letter.
- Partners are requested to report all complications regarding customs processes to the Logistics Cluster (farhad.rasul@wfp.org) or OCHA Access Unit (thomasp@un.org).

3. Exit activities

- The Logistics Cluster is in the process of deactivation and transition to a sector working group that will be co-led by WFP and Mercy Hands. Contacts are shared below.
- Today is the final Logistics Cluster meeting. Sector meetings will be planned mid-February.
- The sector group will maintain the meetings on a monthly basis in Baghdad and Erbil, continue to prepare and circulate IM products such as SOPs and updates, maintain a customs focal person to work closely with the OCHA Access Unit on all customs clearance issues, and continue group communications through the existing Skype group and mailing lists.

4. Logistics Cluster updates and common services

WAREHOUSES

- Mercy Hands will continue to provide common storage services in Tikrit and Hamam Al Alil camps to assist with the transition following the closure of the Logistics Cluster common storage services. Mercy Hands common storage services will operate under a cost recovery basis to cover required costs of managing the sites.

MSU LOANS

- The Logistics Cluster is going through the process of donating loaned MSUs to users in the field, and the sector will retain a small stock of MSUs available for urgent emergency field loans.

PREPAREDNESS

- The Global Logistics Cluster will send a preparedness officer to Iraq in February for three months to work with the government to develop capacity building opportunities and develop a preparedness plan.

5. AOB

- Partners reported delays in receiving the staff movement JCMC Access letters. The OCHA Access Unit encourages partners to report all delays in issue of access letters to Paul Thomas (thomasp@un.org) in order to allow follow up.
- INSO requested partners to report requests for informal at customs checkpoints. Contacts: Tuna Türkmen, +964 751 244 7987, sa.northwest@iraq.ngosafety.org , inso.iraq.north (skype). The reports will be kept anonymous.

CONTACTS

LOGISTICS CLUSTER

Cameron Kiss

Logistics Cluster Coordinator

cameron.kiss@wfp.org

Gabriela Espana

Information Management Officer

gabriela.espana@wfp.org

Farhad Rasul

One Stop Shop (OSS) Focal Point

farhad.rasul@wfp.org

LOGISTICS SECTOR GROUP

Teklemariam Moges

Logistics Sector Co-Coordinator

teklemariam.moges@wfp.org

Husham Abdullah

Logistics Sector Co-Coordinator

husham.abdallah@mercyhands.org

Karar Esam

Mercy Hands

karar.esam@mercyhands.org

Elise Madouche

Mercy Hands

elise.madouche@mercyhands.org

Mohamed Ali

Mercy Hands

moha.ali@mercyhands.org

Farhad Rasul

Customs Focal Point

farhad.rasul@wfp.org

Ahmed Alkarawi

WFP Sector IM focal point

ahmed.alkarawi@wfp.org