IRAQ – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Dahuk
DATE: 16 December 2015
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster IM Officer
PARTICIPANTS: Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Islamic Relief, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), UNICEF, WFP

AGENDA: 1. Operational Updates 2. Common Storage Services 3. Any Other Business

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1. Operational Updates

• The Chair gave an update to participating organisations on the status of the OFDA/USAID Non Food Items (NFIs) incoming cargo. As of 14 December 2015, a total of 372 mt/ 3,219m³ of stock is being stored in the Logistics Cluster storage facilities of Erbil, while 240 mt/ 1,933 m³ of stock is being stored in the Logistics Cluster Baghdad Warehouse. Additional 3,634 mt/ 22,460 m³ and 1,147 mt/ 4,516 m³ of commodities are expected to arrive in Erbil and Baghdad respectively by January. Meanwhile initial releases and dispatches to receiving organisations (UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA) have also started. The Logistics Cluster is coordinating the in-Country information flows, cargo handling, storage, management and tracking of the above mentioned cargo.

• Discussion between participating organisations moved to the recent developments regarding access in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). Due to a deterioration of the regional and internal security context, the KR-I airspace has been closed twice during the last month, while the border crossing with Turkey has been recently closed, both causing delays in the shipments of relief commodities. Organisations have started working on contingency plans to be better prepared in responding to humanitarian needs should the situation escalate further, with negative impacts on their supply chain. Organisations are also constantly updating staff evacuation plans taking into consideration any limitation on access throughout the area.

• The Chair presented the findings of the recent inter-agency security assessment conducted in the Sinjar region. While damage and destruction to infrastructure and services have been widely witnessed, and humanitarian needs are estimated to be high, the main operational constraint is the heavy contamination of landmines in the area.

• Coordination on the matter with authorities is seen as crucial and anti-mine actors have been contacted to provide a clearer estimate of the situation as well as ad-hoc trainings on how to recognize and work in a mine-contaminated area.

• The majority of organisations that will assist the people in need will likely operate from Dahuk and will initially rely on local actors for the programme implementation. The city of Sinuni could serve as a humanitarian staging area. Permission for humanitarian actors to access the different locations will be granted by the Dahuk authorities; no restriction has been reported so far.

www.logcluster.org
2. Common Storage Services

- The Logistics Cluster gave an update on the emergency stocks in hands (non-OFDA) at the different hubs in the country. Currently 170 m³ of relief NFIs belonging to Médecins Sans Frontières – Switzerland, are being stored at the Logistics Cluster warehouse in Dahuk, and 59.31 m³ of NFIs (dignity kits) belonging to UNFPA are stored in the Baghdad facilities.

- As of 15 December 2015, the total space available for organisations’ use in the three locations is:
  - Dahuk = 1,597 m²
  - Baghdad = 5,026 m²
  - Erbil = 10,120 m²

3. Any Other Business

- Oxfam presented the results of a recently conducted returnee trends study, which highlighted the main factors impacting returns.

- The Chair introduced participants to a new platform for humanitarian staff called ‘Humanitarian ID’. This portal designed by OCHA will officially be launched and presented to the entire humanitarian community in Iraq in the coming days and aims to serve as a global directory for humanitarian personnel operating in emergencies.

- In November, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) approved new guidelines on Civil-Military Coordination for Iraq. The document can be shared with interested organisations upon request.

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