IRAQ – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Dahuk, Iraq
DATE: 20 December 2017
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS: Help – e.V., Médecins du Monde (MDM), OCHA, Syria Relief.

ACTION POINTS:
- The Logistics Cluster to share any updates on the re-opening of the checkpoints: Sahela, Nawaran and Mahkmour.
- The Logistics Cluster to share the latest updates on the access process from Dahuk via Mosul Dam.
- The Logistics Cluster to ensure the participants are included in the mailing list and Skype groups.

AGENDA:
1. Previous Action Points
2. Humanitarian and operational updates
3. Roundtable discussion on response and logistics constraints/bottlenecks
4. Logistics Cluster updates and common services
5. AOB

1. Previous Action Points
- The Logistics Cluster shared the latest Access Constraints map.
- The Logistics Cluster shared the results of the meeting on humanitarian access from Dahuk via Mosul Dam.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to seek clarity on the validity of the JCC access letter for both cargo and staff.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to follow up with relevant focal points to gain clarity on the INTERTEK requirements in countries of origin.

2. Humanitarian and Operational Updates
- Insecurity continues in and around Tuz Khourmatu, Salah al-Din; organisations are encouraged to follow the INSO and cluster Skype groups for live updates. Access from Kalar to displacement sites around the area is not problematic, as of the time of writing.
- The requirements for the Ninewa access letter have changed, restricting the validity of each letter to one week and five trucks. It remains unclear as to whether one organisation can make multiple requests, each covering five different trucks. Organisations present reported no problems faced so far. The revised Mission Facilitation procedure from the office of the Joint Team has been shared.

3. Roundtable Discussion on Response and Logistics Constraints/Bottlenecks

Access
- There has been no change to any international border crossings since the previous meeting. Ibrahim Khalil (Turkey), Fishkhabor (Syria) and Bashmaq (Iran) remain open; the KRI airports remain closed to all but domestic Iraqi Airways flights.

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The Mosul-Dahuk Highway (HWY 2) is now functioning for humanitarian traffic, but as of 16 December, the east-west route running directly below the Mosul Dam is restricted to dam workers only. Partners can travel south from Dahuk, through Badrya and down into east Mosul. From there, they can also cross into west Mosul and on to the western Tigris areas, if needed.

NGOs require an approval letter from the Dahuk governorate office and then the Asayesh, to pass this route. A total of 40 requests were submitted; these have been approved and are ready for collection. These letters are a blanket approval for staff movement for three months (until the end of March 2018), and a one-off approval for cargo movements. Those wishing to ship goods through this route will need to apply each time they have a new consignment. The Ninewa access letter for NGOs and a Ninewa Operational Command (NOC) letter for UN agencies are also required for any organisation moving on past the Kurdish Defence Line (KDL).

Access between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and federal Iraq: Khazer checkpoint remains open; Nawaran, Makhmur and Sahela checkpoints remain closed. Comments from Dahuk authorities and the Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) centre suggest Sahela will reopen but with restricted access (not for humanitarian operations). There is a planned mission to the Makmour area to identify an alternative route to cross. The Logistics Cluster to share any updates on the re-opening of these checkpoints.

Issues are being faced at some checkpoints within Mosul, with Federal Police asking for an additional letter from their headquarters. OCHA CMCoord is working on this to avoid an additional layer of approval, any updates will be shared.

Iraqi NGO staff (non-Kurdish) with a valid Erbil residency need an additional approval from Asayesh office at the main checkpoint to enter Sulaymaniyah.

**Importations to Baghdad**

The Logistics Cluster has compiled further details on the ‘Green Light’ process for importing medical items into the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP):

- Submit eight copies of the below documents to the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Baghdad:
  - Official request letter to MoH
  - Certificate of Origin
  - Certificate of Analysis
  - Packing List
  - Invoice
- The letter must include the names of several focal points within the organisation who will follow the process.
- The MoH will forward these documents to the other relevant ministries.

http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a
IRAQ – Meeting Minutes

- Once all ministries have signed off, the requesting organisation will have the ‘green light’ to ship the consignment by air to BIAP, with an exemption on taxes. The process takes an average of 3 – 6 weeks, so organisations are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.
- Once the shipment has arrived at BIAP, the medical items can be released to the organisation’s (or the MoH’s) warehouse, where they will be quarantined while samples are collected and analysed in order to issue an Iraqi Certificate of Analysis.
- The process to obtain the Iraqi Certificate of Analysis varies widely, as it can depend on the availability of testing kits.

- An updated guidance will be shared and feedback is welcomed from organisations involved in the process.

4. Logistics Cluster Updates and Common Services

- Between 17 October 2016 and 17 December 2017, a total of 78,364 m³ of humanitarian cargo, equivalent to 21,638 mt, has been received for storage, and 7,336 m³ (1,692 mt) transported on behalf of 48 humanitarian organisations across the different Logistics Cluster hubs.

- Arrangements are being finalised to deploy one mobile storage unit (MSU) to Mercy Corps in Ramadi (Anbar); another one is likely to be mobilised in Ana (western Anbar) as requested by Terre des Hommes (TdH) and a third one in Shirqat area (Salah al-Din) for People in Need (PIN).

- The Logistics Cluster and the JCC are extending the One Stop Shop (OSS) for customs clearance for a further six months. As of 31 October, the OSS had processed 933 requests, representing 10,433 mt of humanitarian cargo worth over US$ 133 million.

- The Logistics Cluster is working with a number of cooperating partners on exit strategies from the majority of the in-camp common storage facilities by the end of 2017.

- The following facilities will be closed on 31 December and any MSUs returned to stock:
  - Bardarash: 1,200 m²
  - Debaga camp: 240 m²
  - Gogali: 1,200 m²
  - Hasansham camp: 240 m²
  - Khazer camp: 920 m²
  - As Salamiyah – UNHCR camp: 960 m² (TBC)

- The following facilities will be converted from common storage to MSU loans to individual organisations from 1 January 2018:
  - Hajj Ali camp: 640 m² (TBC)
  - Qayyarah Airstrip camp: 1,280 m²
  - Qayyarah Jad’ah camp: 320 m²

http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a
IRAQ – Meeting Minutes

- Zummar: 420 m²

- From 1 January 2018, a total of 16,680 m² across 6 locations:
  - Baghdad: 2,000 m²
  - Dahuk: 2,760 m²
  - Erbil: 5,400 m²
  - Hamam al ‘Alil (MODM): 1,040 m²
  - Hamam al ‘Alil (UNHCR): 2,080 m²
  - Tikrit: 3,400 m²

- The Logistics Cluster currently has 24 MSUs in stock (in Baghdad, Dahuk and Erbil) available for loan and specific partner needs.

- HRP 2018 - The cluster defences took place on 12 December; the Logistics Cluster project was well received and endorsed. The Logistics Cluster HRP 2018 requirement has been adjusted to US$ 2.5 million.

- Logistics Cluster activities in 2018 will focus on:
  - Coordination and information management – Maintain presence in three hubs, with a full IM capacity/web platform and GIS capacity, and more field-level coordination meetings, as required.
  - Service provision - Provide common humanitarian storage with a focus on pre-positioning and consolidation of stock in central locations; promote MSUs loan; expand the facilitation, guidance and advocacy role on customs and clearances (Erbil and Baghdad).
  - Partnerships and capacity building – Strengthen the technical capacity of the Government, national and international actors through relevant logistics trainings.

6. AOB

- One organisation is bulk buying fuel but experiencing loss through evaporation during storage. If any other organisations are experiencing a similar problem, please get in touch with georgia.farley@wfp.org.

- The Logistics Cluster to share the latest updates on the access process from Dahuk via Mosul Dam.

- The Logistics Cluster to ensure the participants are included in the mailing list and skype groups.

- The following documents and assessment reports are newly available:
  - Road Security Assessment (Dibagah, Qaraj, Makhmur, Qayyara) – COOPI, 11-Dec-17
  - Mosul and Tel Afar Context Analysis (Dec. 2017) - Rise Foundation
  - Priority Winter Needs and Gaps (Dec. 2017) - Shelter Cluster
  - Integrated Location Assessment II - IOM, 10-Dec-17
  - RPA Crisis Information Report: Karamba IDP Camp, Tikrit (29 Nov.) - Protection Cluster
  - October Factsheet: Joint Price Monitoring Initiative - REACH, 29-Nov-17
  - Rapid Needs Assessment: Anbar - Human Appeal, 28-Nov-17
  - Mosul Response: Explosive Hazards – UNMAS, 27-Nov-17

http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a
IRAQ – Meeting Minutes

- Winterization Strategy DRAFT - ICCG, 22-Nov-17
- Anbar Implementing Partners map – OCHA, 14-Nov-17
- Road Security Assessment (Dibagh, Qaraj, Makhmur, Qayyara) – COOPI, 11-Dec-17

To request a copy of any of these reports, please contact georgia.farley@wfp.org.

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