IRAQ – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Erbil

DATE: 2 September 2015

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Information Management Officer

PARTICIPANTS: Action Contre la Faim (ACF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Médecins Sans Frontières-France (MSF-F), OXFAM GB, Save the Children, Triangle Génération Humanitaire, UN OCHA, UN WFP, and World Vision International (WVI).

ACTION POINTS:

- Organisations to share information on their pipeline for the coming months with the Logistics Cluster, so to better plan adequate storage space and respond to needs.
- Organisations to inform the Logistics Cluster of any staff interested in attending the Warehouse and Commodity Management training to be held in Erbil in October.
- Organisations that have a presence in Kirkuk, to share contact details with the Logistics Cluster to facilitate coordination mechanisms at inter-cluster level.

AGENDA:

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

1. Operational Updates

The Logistics Cluster informed organisations that it has expanded its presence in Baghdad to respond to increased needs related to central and southern operations. This includes a new logistics hub offering 2,500 m² (15,000 m³) storage space to the humanitarian community, regular presence of the Logistics Cluster Coordinator and the convening of regular Logistics Cluster Coordination Meetings, with the first one for 2015 having taken place on 19 August (outside the green zone to facilitate NGOs presence) and attended by a total of seven organisations. If necessary, the relocation of further Logistics Cluster staff to Baghdad will be examined.

Organisations were advised that the planned interagency convoy of humanitarian items from Baghdad to the city of Haditha, consisting of 445 mt (877 m³) of relief items, is currently on stand-by due to the volatile operational environment. OCHA recently conducted a needs assessment mission in the area which was joined by WFP security. A report is expected to be released soon and, once released, organisations will be updated.

A shortage of fuel and storage commonly reported as a bottleneck was discussed among organisations. In Dohuk, fuel shortages are reported more frequently with only the Government supplying the area. No organisation is currently storing fuel/gasoline for vehicles, with the exception of Save the Children on an ad-hoc basis. WV informed that they reached an agreement with a fuel station to secure pre-paid stocks.

ACF raised the issue of contractors/drivers refusing to travel and conduct assessments in Kirkuk due to the current security situation. Organisations suggested to use rental vehicles as a solution, and discussed several commercial options available.
Several organisations are planning to expand their presence and start operating in Kirkuk. Save the Children informed that they secured a 1,000 m² warehouse in the area and that they can provide accommodation for staff on mission from other organisations if needed. The Logistics Cluster reminded organisations present in Kirkuk to share contacts of their focal points to facilitate coordination and follow up on possible inter-cluster mechanisms being set up.

Organisations discussed accountability of suppliers and the need to report within the group on experiences. They were advised to share information on a bilateral level or during the Coordination Meetings, rather than via the Skype group.

2. Common Storage Services

The Logistics Cluster gave an update on the storage capacity at the different hubs in the country as of end of August:
- Erbil = 900 m² / 5,400 m³
- Baghdad = 2,500 m² / 15,000 m³
- Dohuk = 1,320 m² / 7,328 m³ (one warehouse structure + a soon-to-be erected MSU). The capacity currently occupied is 38 m³ (44 mt/380 m³ for three organisations - French Red Cross, MSF Switzerland and NRC).

Ahead of the winterisation campaign, organisations were asked to share pipeline projections with the Logistics Cluster, so that it can plan in advance and augment storage capacity to best accommodate needs.

3. Any Other Business

The Logistics Cluster informed that the items donated by the Qatar Charity Foundation were fully dispatched to organisations (85,967 mt / 360,585 m³ released to Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children, Samaritan’s Purse, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Rise Foundation, Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), ACF, MSF, and UNHCR).

Organisations were informed of the change of the Logistics Cluster service request email to: iraq.clustercargo@wfp.org

An updated version of the Concept of Operations (ConOps) document and map are available online on the Logistics Cluster website http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a to reflect the enhanced presence in the country with the establishment of the coordination/logistics hub in Baghdad.

A two-day training on GPS and Road Assessment was organised in Dohuk (3-4 August) and in Erbil (10-11 August). A total of 29 staff (logistics assistants, field monitors, security officers, data analysts) from 14 organisations and NGOs attended.

A Warehouse and Commodities Management training will be organised in Erbil (tentative dates 12-15 October) in support of organisations’ request since the first session held in Dohuk in May. Organisations are invited to submit their list of participants for this training.
- The re-balancing of the humanitarian operation towards Baghdad was also briefly explained as it is in line with the Operational Peer Review recommendations; both the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) started to be called in Baghdad.

- WVI held a brief for all organisations on the GPS vehicle tracking system in use. The brief included an overview of the online GPS system and its cost, the fleet management purposes and tracking methods, and the types of reports that can be generated.

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Coordinator present at the meeting described the role of the ETC in country and the available services that can be requested by organisations in both Domiz and Arbat camps.

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