LOCATION: Erbil, Iraq
DATE: 16 July 2018
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS: Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB), French Red Cross (FRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), Intersos, Intertek, JCC Customs, Mine Action Group (MAG), MEDAIR, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF-Belgium, MSF-France, MSF-Holland, MSF-Switzerland), New Standard Company, OFDA, Samaritan’s Purse, Tearfund, Terres des Hommes (Tdh), The United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), UNICEF, WHO, WFP, ZOA International

ACTION POINTS:
- Logistics Cluster to investigate the procedures for importing armoured vehicles via Mersin port, Turkey, to Iraq.
- The Logistics Cluster to circulate the results of market surveys conducted in Mosul by some NGOs.

AGENDA:
1. Previous Action Points
2. Customs/import and roundtable discussion
3. Humanitarian updates and operational constraints
4. Logistics Cluster updates and common services
5. AOB

1. Previous Action Points

- Logistics Cluster to share recent WFP experience of importing food commodities from Jordan to Baghdad via Trebil border crossing.
  - All shipping documents should be translated into Arabic and certified by the Iraqi Embassy in Jordan.
  - All quantities should be written in numbers as well as in letters in order to avoid confusion.
  - The required shelf life for rice is 24 months. Iraqi standardisation/specification rules and regulations are applied.
  - Coordination with security forces is required.

- In relation to the issue of identifying registered suppliers in Mosul area, the Logistics Cluster will collect available market surveys from various partners and share them through the mailing list.

2. Customs/import and roundtable discussion

- The General Manager of cargo inspection laboratory operator for the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing, New Standard Company; the General Manager of Intertek; and, a representative of the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) Directorate of Customs were present at the meeting to facilitate the discussion on importation, quality and inspection, and customs procedures.

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The process for importation via the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing and the required documentation has not changed. Some items need to have a Certificate of Conformity (CoC), in addition to the Certificate of Origin from the manufacturer.

Intertek is the only inspection and quality control company authorised to provide CoC for KRI; Tuvalu (TUV) and Bureau Veritas are the two companies issuing CoC for cargo entering Federal Iraq.

The Logistics Cluster will recirculate the lists from Intertek that outline all items needed to obtain a CoC. The cargo not included in the list will still need to go through inspection and testing. It was clarified that medical equipment and consumables require a CoC, while for medicines this is not a requirement.

The inspection labs are operated by New Standard Company at the Ibrahim Khalil border crossing and are operating 24 hours a day. Humanitarian organisations are encouraged to have their clearing agents or supplier representatives present at the border crossing to facilitate questions during the inspection phase.

Between three and six samples of each item can be taken, depending on the type and quantity of commodities (up to 10 percent of the cargo). The results are ready within 24 hours. A sample is always kept by the inspection entity for a period of three months, after which, it will be disposed.

For items not requiring a CoC, a pre-inspection (PI) undertaken at country of origin, even if done by Intertek, will not exempt cargo from being tested at the border.

Inspection rules and fees vary depending on the type of test conducted (IQD 5,000 for a physical test, 15,000 for a chemical test, and IQD 20,000 for a microbiological test) according to government standard procedures. A blank inspection fee that covers 45 tests costs USD 550.

Humanitarian organisations can submit an official request to the Directorate of Customs to be exempted from the inspection fees or CoC requirements for specific items, but not from the inspection. Participants reported that UN agencies are exempted from quality and control procedures when importing supplies through Federal Iraq.

When results are negative, in general a second test is conducted. If an organisation or supplier do not agree with the outcomes of the inspection and testing, it has the right to appeal to a court.

All commodities entering Iraq should have the Certificate of Origin (CoO). Cargo with no CoO or cargo which is not accepted following testing will either be returned or disposed of.

Following reports that large quantities of goods have not being accepted in previous months, organisations are reminded to discuss this aspect with suppliers to ensure accurate documentation and quality requirements. An example provided was in relation to food commodities that may result in damaged or spoiled goods due to poor storage and transport conditions.
• The Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) centre has simplified the procedures for importing humanitarian cargo, reducing the issuing of clearance documents from three weeks to between 24 and 48 hours.

• There are no changes on the procedures to move cargo entering KRI across the country. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are available on the Logistics Cluster website. Commodities entering KRI from central Iraq without a CoC are subject to inspection. Trucks are not held, however items cannot be distributed until the outcomes of the testing are shared with Erbil custom authorities for further clearance. Testing results done in Baghdad must be translated into Kurdish.

3. Humanitarian and operational updates

• Further to some information reported on blocked road access to Baghdad, and heightened security measures in some areas especially around Kirkuk and Baquba, participants reported that no particular issues have been faced.

4. Logistics Cluster updates and common service

• The Logistics Cluster continues to provide common services free of charge to humanitarian organisations. Currently six common storage warehouses are available, with a total of 11,620 m² of storage space. The Hamam al ‘Alil and Tikrit facilities record the highest demand and usage; the Dahuk warehouse capacity has been reduced in line with current needs and requests.
  o Baghdad: 1,000 m²
  o Dahuk: 1,400 m²
  o Erbil: 2,700 m²
  o Hamam al ‘Alil (MODM): 1,040 m²
  o Hamam al ‘Alil (UNHCR): 2,080 m²
  o Tikrit: 3,400 m²

• Organisations in need of storage space in one of these locations can send a Service Request Form to iraq.clustercargo@wfp.org

• Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) continue to be available for loan at no cost to the user for any organisation requiring further storage capacity. The Logistics Cluster provides transportation and erection services.

• The revised Logistics Cluster Concept of Operations document, based on the current situation, needs and the revised common storage capacity has been circulated and posted on the website.

• As a follow-up to the recent Emergency Logistics Induction Training (ELIT) conducted in Baghdad, the Logistics Cluster will be drafting and sharing the following with humanitarian organisations: SOPs for the One Stop Shop

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at main entry points and emergency preparedness ConOps as an emergency logistics coordination mechanism. The prepositioning of assets in strategic locations (Humanitarian Staging Area, MSUs, handling equipment) will also be looked at.

- The Logistics Cluster will assess if there are organisations interested in warehouse, commodities and cold chain management trainings, and in MSU installation training.
- The Logistics Response Training (LRT) will take place in October/November 2018.
- An online User Survey will be circulated among all partners via email in the coming week.

5. AOB

- An organisation requested the process for assets disposal. In KRI the Ministry of Interior should be informed and provide guidance.
- A participant enquired about the process to open an office in Mosul area; approvals are to be obtained through the Governor office.
- Participants are not aware of any change in the import procedure to Iraq via Turkey. The Logistics Cluster will investigate the procedures for importing armoured vehicles via Mersin port.
- Any requests for information can be sent to gabriela.espana@wfp.org

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