Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Mosul, Iraq
DATE: 13 August 2018
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS: ACTED, Human Appeal, Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC), MEDAIR, Medecins du Monde (MDM), MSF-Belgium, MSF-France, MSF-Switzerland, Premiere Urgence International (PUI), OXFAM, Save the Children International (SCI), Solidarites, WFP

ACTION POINTS:
- Logistics Cluster to seek clarification with relevant Baghdad authorities on the need to include the distribution areas in the Ministry of Health clearance request for drugs movements into Ninewa.
- The Logistics Cluster will circulate the results of the market surveys being conducted with all organisations.

AGENDA:
1. Access and Clearance Procedures
2. Mosul Suppliers
3. Mosul Warehouse Capacity
4. AOB

1. Access and Clearance Procedures

- The chair welcomed participants to the first coordination meeting in Mosul aimed at sharing information, discussing common issues and possible ways forward, and building the network among organisations that have started operating and opening offices in Mosul city. The representative of JCMC Ninewa, who is also the Deputy Governor for Displaced Population, was present at the meeting to answer questions from participants on access and movement approvals.

- The JCMC stressed the importance of establishing direct links and communication lines with Mosul and Ninewa authorities to facilitate humanitarian activities in the area and welcomed the meeting as an opportunity to enhance coordination among actors.

- Some issues have been raised with the clearance of humanitarian cargo coming from the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI), as organisations require both JCMC and Erbil Joint Crisis Coordination Center (JCC) approvals. There have also been issues experienced for supplies shipped from Baghdad and Central Iraq to Ninewa.

- Organisations should submit a registration form in order to be registered in the JCMC Ninewa database (see attached template). The JCMC clearance can be issued within 24 hours from the submission of the request, directly from the JCMC Ninewa office in Mosul for staff and cargo movements inside the city. Documents required include a letter from the organisation describing the type of activities and targeted areas, and the contact details of a focal point. Once registered in the database, requests can be submitted via email to jcmc.nineveh@gmail.com

- Organisations must be registered in Baghdad and able to show proof of this. Once this proof of registration has been provided, organisations are normally granted a clearance valid for one month that covers all movements within Ninewa Governorate. However, in some areas (e.g. Talafar) security forces have been requesting approval letters to be addressed to them together with other government bodies. Organisations are encouraged to approach the JCMC directly to be issued with an official memo which is in addition to the normal clearance. This memo will be disseminated throughout various command centres to help facilitate access.

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One participant reported issues they faced with movements through the Mosul Dam due to enhanced security measures in the area; JCMC confirmed that a meeting on this matter has been scheduled and will aim at clarifying the required procedures and exchange of information among all actors.

For commodities shipped from Central Iraq into Ninewa, the request needs to be submitted to JCMC Baghdad, and approvals will be granted only after JCMC Ninewa authorities verify the information provided by the organisation.

If an organisation has obtained clearance for staff movement, it will need to inform the JCMC to receive authorisation in the case of transporting items in convoy. There will be no need to resubmit the request.

Approval from the Ministry of Health is required for medicines and medical supplies transported into Ninewa. Participants asked if the request needs to include the route and destination information of the commodities. The Logistics Cluster will seek clarification from the relevant Baghdad authorities and inform partner organisations.

2. Mosul Suppliers

Organisations operating in Mosul and Ninewa have started procuring commodities locally, while Erbil and Baghdad markets are preferred for technical and specialised items; however, they acknowledged difficulties faced due to Mosul market capacity.

A general concern is related to the registration of suppliers as most organisations require proof of registration and tax records as a requirement for donors. A note to the donors stating that local procurement plays an important role in capacity building and localisation efforts should support any proposals in an attempt to alleviate the need for this requirement.

Participants reported that there is also an information and technology gap between humanitarian actors and suppliers as most of them are unaware of or unable to access tenders published online, normally on the NCCI and organisations’ websites.

It was noted that companies that operate in Baghdad or Tikrit can easily work in Mosul, as long as they are cleared by the government.

A joint market survey is being conducted in Mosul by Oxfam, SCI, ACF and NRC; another survey is ongoing in Tikrit and Anbar, conducted by Human Appeal. The Logistics Cluster will circulate the results of these surveys with all organisations once available.

3. Warehouse Capacity

The chair reported that no requests for common storage capacity have been received by partner organisations in Mosul. Organisations are able to secure warehouse space close to their operational areas in both the eastern and western parts of the city.

A good practice can be to cost-share a warehouse facility with other organisations, depending on requirements and preferred neighbourhoods.

The Logistics Cluster warehouse assessment conducted in May can be shared again upon request.

In case of specific areas of intervention, the Logistics Cluster can make Mobile Storage Units available on loan.

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4. AOB

- The chair confirmed that the One Stop Shop project is likely to be closed at the end of September, as initially informed. Discussions with Head of Agencies and JCC are still ongoing to facilitate the transition phase.
- It was agreed that Mosul coordination meetings will be called periodically, and in case of emerging operational issues or logistics bottlenecks.
- Any requests for information can be sent to gabriela.espana@wfp.org

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