LOCATION: National Ebola Command Centre (NECC), Monrovia, Liberia

DATE: 05 February 2015

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator


ACTION POINT:

- Participants to use the new integrated flight schedule for domestic and international flights
- Participants who received a Maersk container donation to follow up with the Logistics Cluster to complete a transfer letter of ownership
- The Logistics Cluster to follow up with any updates on expected donations
- Participants advised to move cargo to the five Forward Logistics Bases where practical

AGENDA:

1. Announcements
2. Logistics Cluster Response Structure
3. Donations
4. Stock & Dispatches
5. Release Process
6. Air Operations
7. A.O.B

1. Announcements

- An update was shared regarding the general Ebola situation in Liberia; it was advised that last week there was an increase in confirmed cases in all three Ebola Affected Countries. It was further advised by UNMIL that the Lofa and Nimba border counties should be monitored closely. The outbreak at St Paul’s Bridge (just outside of Monrovia) last week had 12-15 confirmed cases, and clinic and health care workers were infected; some Ebola suspected and confirmed cases also fled to Margibi County.

2. Logistics Cluster response structure

- The Logistics Cluster’s services were outlined and it was highlighted the Logistics Cluster does not clear customs on behalf of partners’ cargo, but can only facilitate this process by consolidating requests and working with the Government of Liberia. The core Logistics Cluster services were mentioned in the following order: information management and coordination, storage services and cargo movement by sea, road and air.
- The Logistics Cluster Response Structure was highlighted by the Logistics Cluster Coordinator; the Logistics Cluster is mainly supporting the Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs), the Community Care Centres (CCCs) and the Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) missions.
- The Logistics Cluster is also supporting the Government of Liberia through the transport of essential Ebola relief items to the national health facilities countrywide; The Logistics Cluster is also supporting the UNICEF back – to - school dispatch of WASH and Ebola prevention equipment, and is supporting the WHO teams’ deployment to the five Forward Logistics Bases.
• For the UNICEF back-to-school support, the Logistics Cluster is providing UNICEF with road, air and sea transport. The Logistics Cluster has dedicated ten of its trucks for overland transport and is coordinating with UNHAS for air support and with UNMIL for shipment to coastal locations.

• For the national health facilities, the Logistics Cluster is supporting the Government of Liberia’s partner John Snow Incorporated (JSI), in their last mile transport of vital supplies to 83 national health facilities.

• UNICEF advised the attendees of their urgent need for 16 litre back spray equipment, as the UNICEF dispatch plan for the back-to-school programme is dependent on the sprayers, which have not yet arrived. UNICEF hopes to borrow 16 litre back spray equipment from any organization who can provide this, until the UNICEF shipment arrives in Monrovia on the 20th of February. At this time, UNICEF can then replace the sprayers to the loaning organisation. A UNICEF logistician’s contact details were shared with the attendees.

3. Donations

• New updates regarding the Swiss donation of generators were shared with the attendees: the generators will be transported by sea and the new expected time of arrival is the end of March. It was also advised that no training would be provided with this donation. However, the Swiss government is looking to include in the donation spare parts in the form of filters, as well as English language manuals. All organizations concerned have re-confirmed, both prior to and during the meeting, their interest in receiving this donation.

• The dispatch of the Maersk containers is completed; attendees were informed that the Information Management Officer of the Logistics Cluster will follow up with the organizations concerned regarding signing of the transfer letters of ownership.

4. Stock & Dispatches

• There is 10% storage space available at the SKD Main Logistics Hub in Monrovia. The Logistics Cluster is expecting some of the occupied space to become available after the completion of the dispatch plan of supplies destined for 83 health facilities.

• An update on dispatches since the last meeting was shared; 169 m³ of supplies were dispatched on behalf of the Ministry of Health and it was advised that UNDP requested Logistics Cluster support in the transport of 128 m³. The Logistics Cluster also dispatched supplies for ICRC, MSF, WFP and Save The Children.

5. Release process

• An overview of the current release process for partners requiring Ebola relief items was shared with the attendees.

• WHO to act as the focal point for organisations working in Liberia who do not know the owner of the items they require. These organisations are requested to contact WHO in Liberia, in order to:
  o Identify suitable stocks
  o Verify quantity/location and owner

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- Send the relevant form for the release of the goods
- Copy the Logistics Cluster if transport or storage is needed

- The new decentralized approach was explained, emphasizing the growing role of the five Forward Logistics Bases in the downstream supply chain procedures.
- The Forward Logistics Bases are currently being resupplied, to ensure they are able to deliver all necessary goods requested by any organization.

6. Air operations

- A new integrated humanitarian flight schedule will be effective as of the 9th of February. The Logistics Cluster will use the next two weeks to await feedback from organizations to ensure that all required locations are well served. It was advised that any questions about the schedule or bookings should be directed to UNHAS via UNHAS.WAC@wfp.org.
- For any cargo movement requests by air, attendees were advised to follow the same process as road movement and send Service Request Forms (SRF) to liberia.cargo@logcluster.org.

6. Any Other Business

- A question was raised whether there were any known problems regarding customs procedures; the Logistics Cluster advised that there had been some delays, and that it would look into the cause of this, and share any information with partners accordingly.
- The Logistics Cluster completed a ramp inventory at the Robert’s International Airport. Partners who recognized any of the cargo listed at the meeting were advised to take the necessary measures to clear this cargo from the airport as soon as possible.

Contacts:

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