LOCATION: Conference room, WFP compound, Blantyre

DATE: 5 March 2015

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: IFRC, GOAL Malawi, MSF Belgium, UNICEF

AGENDA:
1 Helicopter operations
2 Cluster vehicle to Makhanga Island
3 Storage
4 A.O.B.

1. Helicopter Operations

- The Logistics Cluster shared information on the current Pipeline of 840MT of cargo across the country. However, not all of it needs to be transported by helicopter. In addition the Logistic Cluster estimates about 100MT of cargo in Nsanje district for helicopter airlift. It is foreseen finalize the movement of this cargo until 7 March 2015.

- The Logistics Cluster informed participants that due to missing pipeline information from agencies, no further funding could be secured. Hence, the two Bell 205 cargo helicopters end operations by Friday the 6th.

- Participants were updated on the fact that the MI-8 passenger/cargo helicopter, with the capacity of 15MT per day, continues providing services potentially until 10 March 2015.

- IFRC also explained that a previously discussed donation/funding from Airbus of a helicopter had stalled, due to missing facts on pipeline of participants.

2. Cluster vehicle to Makhanga Island

- The Logistics Cluster shared information from the Logistics Coordination Meeting in Nsanje, that participants agreed on the dispatch of a twin-cabin pick-up truck to Makhanga Island in order to support the humanitarian community.

- This vehicle would be operated by IFRC supporting Malawi Red Cross, and use, movements and consumption would be reported daily by IFRC and tracked by the Logistics Cluster for transparency to all partners.

- IFRC confirmed it is initially funded for a three month period.

- Service requests for the use of this vehicle should be managed on a local level, as agreed in the Logistics Coordination Meeting Nsanje the 4 March 2015. If further management of service requests is needed, a booking mechanism, managed by the Logistics Cluster, might be established.
3. Storage

- The Logistics Cluster shared that the partners in Nsanje district no longer needed MSUs for assisting in the Cholera response. MSF confirmed this and shared that they have established 5x 20 bed Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) on the Malawian side.

- The Logistics Cluster reminded participants that three MSUs are on stand-by in Blantyre for immediate deployment upon request.

- Participants were informed that even if the helicopter operations are dwindling, the Bangula warehouse is still available for short term transit storage.

- The Logistics cluster reminded them to fill out a service request form and share pipeline the sooner the better.

- The Logistics Cluster explained that based on experience over the last few weeks in the delivery of cargo directly to the helicopter landing zones, the Logistics Cluster has introduced a new procedure: all cargo for airlifts must be delivered first to Logistics Cluster warehouse to streamline the planning and consolidation. The Logistics Cluster will shunt all cargo to the Airstrip for airlift accordingly.

4. A.O.B.

- The partners discussed the potential of using boats in the light of downscaling of helicopter operations

- MSF Belgium confirmed that they have a boat operational for their own needs. This boat can ferry 6 passengers and limited cargo.

- MSF Belgium asked for support from the Logistics Cluster to liaise with authorities, due to border crossings into Mozambique in the framework of the response to the Cholera outbreak, particularly because the Mozambican side was only reachable by train once a week from Mozambique. In addition MSF asked if the Logistics Cluster could potentially facilitate the coordination of a humanitarian convoy to ease the movement of cargo cross border.

IFRC said they were also facing problems regionally when cargo for flood relief was crossing borders en route from Kenya. And they would like to be in the same consideration.

- The Logistics Cluster kindly asked participants to share the information of existing weekly Logistics Coordination Meetings in Bangula (every Wednesday) within their organisation. Next week’s Logistics Coordination Meeting in Blantyre will be held Thursday 12 March 2015 at 11 AM

Contacts:

Soren Gronvald  Logistics Cluster officer  soren.gronvald@wfp.org

www.logcluster.org