NEPAL Kathmandu – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA), Tribhuvan International Airport (KTM), Kathmandu
DATE: 29 March 2016
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

ACTION POINTS:
• Organisations to share their logistics pipeline projects and their needs for Logistics Cluster services;
• Organisations to share their weekly plans for fuel requests;
• Organisations to report on any problems related to movement around the border region and impact of fuel shortages on their activities;
• Organisations that are interested in sharing assets of the new Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA), including long term storage facilities and office space, to provide information on where they are working, what logistics infrastructure they possess and what type of items they are pre-positioning or holding for future response;

AGENDA:
1. Logistics Information Updates
2. Logistics Cluster Services
3. Emergency Preparedness and Response project (EPR)

1. Logistics Information Updates
• The latest Logistics Cluster Situation Update can be accessed at http://www.logcluster.org/document/nepal-situation-update-26-february-2016. Organisations are requested to continue to share information on customs, Logistics Cluster procedures and useful links in order to keep the document updated.
• Anticipating the upcoming closure of the Logistics Cluster operations on 30 April, the Logistics Cluster Coordinator announced that this is the final Kathmandu Logistics Cluster Meeting.
• Participants were invited to introduce themselves and to briefly state the major challenges facing their organisations through a tour de table.
• Organisations were requested to share their pipelines and pending requests for Logistics Cluster services and were reminded that transport and storage facilities can continue to be provided after the de-activation of the cluster under a WFP Services Provision Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), on full cost-recovery basis plus 4.5% management fees.

Entry points
• All Nepal-India entry points are currently operational, however the country is still affected by the negative impact of the blockade and the fuel crisis; i.e. the supply of fuel has not fully normalized and long queues of vehicles were seen in front of fuel stations during the past week.
• If organisations encounter problems with entering the country, they can contact the Logistics Cluster for guidance.
Fuel provision

- Fuel provision for the humanitarian distribution of relief items will continue to be facilitated until closure of operations on 30 April. Procedures for requesting fuel remain the same.
- The provision of fuel to support organisations’ operational needs, managed by the Association of International NGOs (AIN) in collaboration with the Logistics Cluster, has proven effective after the two-week trial period that was completed on 18 March.
- Organisations have shown an interest in continuing this fuel service in the event of potential fuel shortages in the next few weeks. In the event of another fuel crisis, procedures are in place for fuel transfer between AIN and WFP.

2. Logistics Cluster Services

- Organisations were reminded to provide information on their needs in order to help the Logistics Cluster to plan its services accordingly. Services will be facilitated by the Logistics Cluster until the end of April.

Road Transport

- Road transport with both origin and destination is provided on a free-to-user basis from Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) to Ramechap and Okhaldunga and from the hubs of other three priority districts, Gorkha, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha to the final destinations.

Remote Access Operation (RAO)

- The Remote Access Operation (RAO) will continue to facilitate transport services until the end of July.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator encouraged organisations to use the services if needed and to keep sending their requests.

Air Transport

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) will continue to serve organisations until 21 April.

Warehousing

- Anticipating the upgrade of the Humanitarian Staging Area in Kathmandu as part of the Emergency Preparedness and Response project (EPR), WFP will be able to offer from mid-July long term storage facilities on a cost-recovery basis. Deurali and Chautara offer storage space from May on cost-recovery (plus 4.5% administrative fees).

GIS

3. Emergency Preparedness and Response project (EPR)

- Organisations were reminded that the Humanitarian Staging Area will be upgraded as part of the Emergency Preparedness and Response project (EPR). The new structure will include a logistics operation centre, a workshop, a fuel station, a prefab village designed to withstand earthquakes, toilets and showers, among other assets.

- Objectives:
  - To further strengthen the emergency preparedness and response capacity of the HSA;
  - To cater for pre-positioning and storage needs to respond quickly to future potential disasters (ready to be operational within 24 hours’ time for any potential emergency);
  - To co-locate key partners, including the Government of Nepal
  - To provide opportunities for an integrated logistics approach to any response.

- On completion of the EPR project and construction in June 2016, WFP will implement a sustainability plan for the full cost-recovery of the facilities, including potential cost-sharing of:
  - Long term storage of fast moving response items;
  - Office space; and
  - Training facility space and services.

- Organisations were informed that a three-hours workshop will be held in two to three weeks, to engage logistics entities on emergency preparedness and response to future potential disasters in Nepal. The purpose of this workshop will be to review the scenario, based on a detailed study from Durham University, for the next possible earthquake in west Nepal and to work together on developing the best strategies for partnering for efficient cost investments, planning and pre-positioning.

- Organisations were reminded of the benefits that follow a potential collaboration with WFP in sharing the assets of the new HSA, including reinforcing emergency preparedness, saving costs, utilizing fully functional office spaces, among others. The return on investment of using the HSA for pre-positioning is reportedly seven times higher versus starting independently from scratch.

- A letter has been shared among organisations’ Country Directors and Representatives in order to identify if any organisation wants to partner with WFP on the project.

- Organisations that are interested should provide information on where they are working, what logistics infrastructure they possess and what type of items they are pre-positioning or holding for future response. They can contact the project Focal Point, Dorothy Hector, at dorothy.hector@wfp.org.
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