

LOCATION: Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) Tribhuvan International Airport (KTM),
Kathmandu

DATE: 2 May 2015

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

- Action Points:**
- Organisations to share upstream pipeline information to better plan transport and storage capacity
 - Organisations requested to send in Service Request Forms (SRF) in a timely manner ahead of their international air cargo ETA
 - Organisations requested to palletise international cargo
 - Organisations to share information regarding road access constraints
 - MoHA to expedite the custom procedures for humanitarian cargo including cargo transported via India

- Agenda:**
1. Introduction
 2. Logistics Operational Update
 - Upstream pipeline updates
 - Customs
 - Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area
 - Additional Logistics Hubs
 - Air Transportation
 - Road Transportation
 - Fuel
 3. AOB

1. Introduction

- Around 90 representatives from more than 50 organisations, including national Government authorities, UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), donor agencies and international military representatives, were welcomed to the meeting.
- The Undersecretary of the Nepal Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) was introduced to attendees.

2. Logistics Operational Update/ International Air Cargo Transportation

Upstream pipeline updates

- The cargo flow at Kathmandu International Airport (KTM) has improved during the last 48 hours, benefitting from additional clarity regarding appropriate procedures for cargo handling and customs.
- The DHL Disaster Response Team (DART) and cargo handlers are working together and supporting swift cargo movement from the airport apron to the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA).
- Although difficulties have been reported in obtaining landing permits, an increasing number of humanitarian charter flights are accessing slots. The Logistics Cluster is liaising closely with the MoHA, the Nepalese Army and Civil Aviation Authorities for the coordination of humanitarian cargo slots.

- IOM has made cargo handling equipment available which includes two tractors and two forklifts to ease de-congestion at the airport and HSA.
- DFID has announced that the donation of airport handling equipment which is due to arrive tonight (2 May) and will be managed by the Logistics Cluster to facilitate the offloading of humanitarian cargo from aircraft arriving. Airport equipment includes one K loader, two 4x4 forklift trucks and one telehandler.
- International cargo needs to be palletised or crated so it can be moved onto cargo dollies quicker, can be stored easier and to pushed out onto trucks. Pallets should not be returned as this slows the offloading process.

Customs

- Out of 90 participants present at the meeting, none reported having issues related to customs.
- The MoHA representative announced that customs offices will be open every day including weekends and that Government to Government, UN, IFRC and Red Cross cargo is exempt from customs duties and procedures. Other humanitarian organisations need to ensure cargo is customs cleared (a customs snapshot and relevant contact information have been shared through the Logistics Cluster website: <http://logcluster.org/document/nepal-customs-snapshot-29-april>). Medical items need inspection.
- The MoHA has assigned designated customs officials at KTM for customs and immigration facilitation.
- Many organisations reported to be investigating importing (and in some cases procuring) relief supplies from India. The MoHA will share details of updated and eased customs clearance procedures.
- Currently, inspection points are present in Nepal on roads leading from India and organisations requested if facilitation could be granted for humanitarian cargo transiting through Birganji and other road entry points.
- To respond to the KTM slots challenges and the natural backlog of cargo, Lucknow Airport in India is being investigated as a potential location for the establishment of an air-bridge into Nepal. Diplomatic channels are being explored.

Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA)

- Currently, six Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been erected at the HSA, facilities are available only for temporary storage.
- Free shunting services are available through the Logistics Cluster, thanks to the DHL DART team, from the KTM apron to the HAS.
- A Service Request Form (SRF) should be submitted ahead of time of estimated arrival of air cargo. It was advised that organisation focal points are required to be present at the airport and make the necessary arrangements for items to be ready for dispatch including necessary supporting documents for customs clearance.
- To access Logistics Cluster transport and storage services, a SRF is available on the Logistics Cluster website: www.logisticscluster.org/ops/nepal. Organisations are requested to duly fill it in with correct volume and weight information and send it to Nepal.cargo@logcluster.org.

Additional Logistics Hubs

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator informed organisations about the establishment of additional logistics hubs in Deurali, Pokhara, Dhulikhel, Bharatpur and Birganji. The facilities will be located closer to and improve access to affected populations:
 - Deurali hub is being established, and four MSUs are being delivered there to increase storage capacity. Additional storage capacity at the site will depend on organisations' storage needs.
 - Pokhara is not yet an international entry-point and customs and immigration will be required before opening up to international shipments.
 - Bharatpur is where most of the commercial road transport capacity of the country is established. Bharatpur hub will be used as forward logistics base for the incoming road-transported cargo from India, to avoid all cargo transiting through Kathmandu before re-dispatching to affected locations.
 - In Dhulikhel, engineering assessments are on-going to identify a suitable location
- The updated Concept of Operation (ConOps) will be shared via the mailing list and published on the Logistics Cluster website.
- WFP is loaning MSUs, through the Logistics Cluster, to requesting organisations, pending replenishment of the stock by the organisations.

Air Transportation

- UNHAS briefed organisations about the current assets available in country that can be tasked following identification of needs:
 - One UNHAS MI8 helicopter with 2-2.5MT cargo capacity which began operations on 29 April.
 - One AS 350 UNHAS helicopter is available for assessment missions (max 4 passengers).
 - Four additional air assets are being made available and will be operational in the coming two weeks.
- Procedures and booking requests for passenger transport will be shared through the Logistics Cluster website (<http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal>)
- UK and American Military Air Forces are looking into deploying assets to support the humanitarian response.
- A UK Military Air Force Representative presented their potential tactical airlift capacity:
 - one C130 is currently in Delhi awaiting clearance
 - two Chinook helicopters are being assembled in India
- Pending clearance, the UK assets will be deployed to support the humanitarian response and cargo will be tasked through the Logistics Cluster, following the confirmation of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) cargo prioritisation list (still currently pending).
- Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) will be complementing UNHAS's air cargo operations by transporting humanitarian passengers to the same locations for a coordinated effort. MAF is currently identifying suitable air assets, which might be available in two-weeks time.
- In general, all air assets will be deployed only to reach remote locations which are currently not viable by road.

Road Transportation

- Six organisations reported to have contracted their own truck fleet.
- A fleet of 25 trucks (10 to 15 MT capacity) has been contracted by WFP for the use of the humanitarian community. The trucks will be used to move cargo out of HSA to various locations in Nepal.

- Discussions are on-going with the transporter association in order to control transport rates, and expand the transport network to the affected areas, where possible.

Fuel

- No issues in the availability of fuel were reported by organisations present at the meeting.

3. AOB

- It was reiterated that although shelter has been identified as the current main need, not to create security incidents and upset local communities, it is critical to combine it with food commodities. To counteract animosity, low visibility on trucks was also advised.
- The Shelter Cluster Coordinator advised that an agreement has been made to deliver WFP High Energy Biscuits together with shelter deliveries.
- Participants were introduced to the Logistics Cluster Flash Appeal and organisations with specific projects that they wish to be included should contact the Logistics Cluster.
- An organisation also enquired whether a road clearance project was envisaged. The Logistics Cluster will investigate and share information once confirmed.
- Organisations were advised that the next Logistics Coordination meeting is scheduled to take place on 4 May 2015 at 11:00 am at KTM Airport HSA.

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