

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

DATE: 4 May 2015

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

- Action Points:**
- Organisations requested to send in Service Request Forms (SRF) in a timely manner ahead of their international air cargo ETA and ahead of local air ops
 - Organisations to share information regarding road access constraints
 - MoHA to share procedures on the importation of light vehicles

- Agenda:**
1. Introduction
 2. Logistics Operational Update
 - Upstream pipeline updates
 - Customs
 - Staging Areas and Logistics Hubs
 - Air Transportation
 - Road Transportation
 - Fuel
 3. AOB

1. Introduction

- Around 70 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 also in attendance.
- The Logistics Cluster coordinator informed participants that logistics information, contact details, meeting schedule and procedures are available on the Logistics Cluster website: www.logisticscluster.org/ops/nepal.
- To access Logistics Cluster free-to-user transport and storage services, an SRF is available on the Logistics Cluster website: <http://logcluster.org/document/nepal-service-request-srf> Organisations are requested to duly fill it in with correct volume and weight information and send it to Nepal.cargo@logcluster.org.

2. Logistics Operational Update/ International Air Cargo Transportation

Upstream pipeline updates

- A slight improvement has been seen for the air-slot process and in obtaining landing permits. The cargo flow at Kathmandu International Airport (KTM) is benefitting from additional clarity regarding appropriate procedures for cargo handling and customs.
- Improvements are thanks to the DHL Disaster Response Team (DRT) supporting swift cargo movement from the airport apron to the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA), the cargo handling equipment made available by IOM and equipment donated by DFID which is easing de-congestion at the airport and HSA.

- The US military presence at KTM Airport is supporting the efficient management of the ramp and assisting cargo movements.
- With the start of air operations, an issue identified is clarification of procedures regarding cargo going back from the storage locations at the HSA to the tarmac for further uploading on the helicopters.
- Organisations were requested to send in SRFs for air operations at least 24/48 hours in advance. There will be place for some urgent requests, which will be processed and discussed.
- Due to damage to the runway, some type of airplanes including C17s will not receive permits to land in Kathmandu.

Customs

- Out of 70 participants present at the meeting, none reported having issues related to customs.

Staging Areas and Logistics Hubs

- Currently, eight Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been erected at the HSA and the facility is fully operational.
- In order to de-centralize operations, the Logistics Cluster is establishing additional logistics hubs in the Eastern and Western regions:
 - **Deurali** logistics base, 20 km south of Ghorka city is operational with four erected MSUs. The hub is used as logistics base to rapidly forward relief cargo (via 4x4 trucks and tractors) to the Western region and to support local air operations. A cluster coordinator has been deployed.
 - A logistics base in **Sindipalchock** (location to be confirmed) will be used as logistics base to rapidly forward relief to the Eastern region and to support local air operations. An engineering team is currently assessing two potential sites to find a suitable location. A cluster coordinator has been deployed.
 - Another hub is being established near Kathmandu in **Dhulikhel**. A flat hard ground has been identified and will be commissioned quickly.
- Many organisations reported to have been looking into importing and procuring goods from India. The expected increase of relief supplies coming into or transiting to India will be supported with the establishment of a Staging Area in **Bharatpur** to handle inbound road movements from India. It will serve as strategic storage capacity for cargo received from Nepalgunj, Belaihya and Birganj for further dispatch to affected areas.
- Contacts of custom officials present at the border crossing points have been shared through the website.

Road Transportation

- WFP has contracted a fleet of trucks to support the transport of cargo from staging areas and hubs to districts in the region. The fleet can be de-centralised if required WFP is also looking into contracting a larger quantity of 4x4 trucks.
- Although discussions took place with the transporter association, no progress about the setting of transport rates can be reported.
- A potential donation of road transport assets from the Indian Government is in process.
- Participants were reminded that air operations should be requested only for locations not accessible by road.

- An organisation enquired about the importation of light vehicles into Nepal. The MoHA will follow up and share procedures.
- Another organisation is exploring importation of goods by road on the China/Tibet/Nepal corridor. The organisation will share further details once available.
- A participant enquired about road safety issues. These are discussed at the Civil Military Coordination (CMCOORD) meeting held every morning. Schedules of meetings are available on the humanitarianresponse.info website.

Air Transportation

- UNHAS briefed organisations about the current assets available in country that can be tasked following identification of needs:
 - Two UNHAS MI8 helicopter are in country and can be tasked with cargo (2-2.5MT cargo capacity)
 - One AS 350 UNHAS helicopter is available for assessment missions (max 4 passengers).
 - Four additional air assets have been ear-marked 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>)
- American Military Air Forces assets are in country to support the humanitarian response. They can currently operate only in certain areas. Assets include four Ospreys and 1 Huey.
- UK Military Forces have one C130 aircraft, currently in Delhi awaiting clearance, and two Chinook helicopters are being assembled in India.
- UK and USA assets to support the humanitarian response will be tasked through the Logistics Cluster.

Fuel

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

3. AOB

- The Shelter Cluster Coordinator advised that a robust pipeline of incoming shelter deliveries is incoming in the following days. Organisations requesting shelter items for distribution should attend the Shelter Cluster coordination meeting (info on humanitarianresponse.info).
- The Logistics Cluster Flash Appeal has been submitted, organisations participating in the appeal include IOM and Handicap International. No road clearance project was received for this Flash Appeal, although such a project should be envisaged particularly considering the upcoming monsoon season. A revision is scheduled in a months' time.
- An updated ConOps document and map and revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be shared in the coming days.

Next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will be held in Kathmandu, HSA on 7 May 2015 at 11 am

For the Gorkha district, a meeting will take place on 5 May, 4pm at the Deurali Logistics Base

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