Sierra Leone Ebola Response – Meeting Minutes

Location: WFP Conference Room, Freetown
DATE: 22 September 2015
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS: World Food Programme (WFP), Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Medicos Del Mundos (MDM) and National Ebola Response Center (NERC).

ACTION POINTS:
- Commercial warehouse assessment report to be shared with organisations
- Organisations who are yet to contact WFP regarding loaned assets to do so before 31 September

AGENDA:
1. Follow up on last minutes’ meeting action points
2. Operational updates
3. WFP Transport Services
4. NERC Update
5. Information on Commercial Warehouses in Sierra Leone
6. Newsletter
7. Logistics Cluster Meeting Schedule
8. AOB

1. Follow up Action Points from previous meeting
   - The Commercial Warehouse Assessment report was presented in the meeting and will be shared via the mailing list with participants.

2. WFP Transport Services
   - The Logistics Cluster reminded organisations that from 1 of October 2015, the transport services will no longer be made available at no cost to the user. However, the Logistics Cluster will continue to facilitate the provision of storage until 31 October 2015.

3. WFP Loan Agreement Recovery
   - The Logistics Cluster informed participants that some items which were loaned have been returned to WFP. Users who have requested for extension for use of loaned assets have been granted permission to use such assets until 31 October 2015. Assets recovery efforts continues.

4. Operational Updates
   - WFP’s support to the Ebola response in Kambia continues, as the organization continues to provide food for quarantine homes. However, the initial support from WFP has phased out as the items provided for the outbreak in Sella Kafta have been retrieved.
   - The World Health Organization (WHO) has conducted a risk assessment in Sella Kafta, Kambia. Assessment results show that the chances of new Ebola case(s) being recorded, especially from Quarantined Homes are minimal.
   - WFP continues to provide support to the Bombali Ebola response.
   - WFP has provided humanitarian response support to the flood victims, through the Government of Sierra Leone. Specifically, WFP has provided storage capacity, transport and construction of the kitchen.
• DFID has been supporting three initiatives in Sierra Leone: the Free Health Care Initiatives (FHCI), Rapid Deployable Infectious Treatment Facility (RDITF) and flood assistance.

• MdM informed participants that it will take over activities from IMC in Freetown’s national stadium for one month, including management of EVD Isolation area and mother’s clinic. The Ministry of Health will provide additional staff where required, with stock provision from the Central Medical Stores (CMS).

• UNICEF is providing a range of water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition, social mobilization, protection, education, and logistical support services to flood victims at the national and Attouga stadiums respectively.

• One UNHAS helicopter will be available to shuttle staff to Ebola case areas, on request, and dependent on the weather conditions.

• Difficulties in registering flood victims is impeding the humanitarian response in assessing who is eligible for assistance at the national stadium.

• Positive acknowledgement was made to the ONS and organisations in response to the flood victims. However, concern was made over the initial coordination of the response and the safety of equipment required to support response efforts at the national stadium.

5. Information on Commercial Warehouse in Sierra Leone

• Several warehouses have been assessed in the country for organisations’ attention. In terms of storage capacity, most of the assessed warehouses are adequate for different storage needs. However, there are key challenges for most of the warehouses: (i) annual rents are preferred by owners, though monthly rents are negotiable; (ii) the government supplied electricity remains the key source of electricity, which in most cases is not constant over a 24 hours period; (iii) users are required to provide security for stored goods; (iv) office space for most warehouses are lacking, etc.

• As a result, users are required to upgrade warehouses to required standards.

6. WFP Newsletter

• The WFP Common Services Newsletter in Sierra Leone aims at ensuring visibility for WFP and organisation operations, as well as helping to bridge communication gap existing among organisations. The first edition expected at the end of September 2015.

7. Logistics Cluster Meeting Schedule

• The next bi-weekly Logistics Coordination meeting will be on the 6 October 2015 at 11am in the WFP Office Conference Room, Freetown.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

• Participants were encouraged to attend the logistics cluster coordination meeting in order to: (i) benefit from coordinated planning; (ii) harmonized efforts in humanitarian response; (iii) avoid duplication of efforts; (iv) get value for resources.

• Participants were reminded of the UNHAS flight Schedule for 1 – 30 September 2015. Also, organisations were encouraged to expect a revised schedule for October. Key changes will be relayed to organisations. The current

- Following request for extension, UNICEF will continue to use WFP’s forklift up to the 31 October 2015.

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