Sierra Leone Ebola Response – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: WFP Conference Room, Freetown
DATE: 6 October 2015
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS: WFP, Department for International Development (DFID), UNICEF, Medicos Del Mundos (MDM), Handicap International (HI), Adventists Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-SL), International medical Corp (IMC)

ACTION POINTS:
• Logistics Cluster to finalize efforts to recover WFP loaned items to organisations involved in the Ebola emergency response.
• Logistics Cluster to share Concept Note for Port Loko main logistics hub with participants.

AGENDA:
1. Operational updates
2. Storage Service
3. Information on Commercial Warehouses in Sierra Leone
4. Transition Plan and Role of Port Loko / Capacity Building

1. Operational Updates
• Organisations were reminded that the WFP’s Special Operations (SO) is now in a transition period, which is expected to be completed by the 31 October.
• The storage services will no longer be made available at no cost to the user from 31 October 2015. Organisations will take ownership of the management of their assets stored in WFP storage facilities in Port Loko.
• Logistics Cluster continues to facilitate the provision of transport and storage services in support of the Ebola outbreak in Bombali.
• Logistics Cluster will continue to facilitate the provision of transport for the movement of items under loan agreements.
• Logistics Cluster continues to provide support to the flood response. This includes capacity building on the storage of food at the national stadium.
• A status report on the recovery of loaned assets from organisations was presented.
• UNHAS has reduced its flight services and only flights to Guinea and Sierra Leone will be provided (no more flights to Dakar and Liberia). The three times a week route in Sierra Leone will be maintained and routes and timetable for October are available at: http://www.logcluster.org/map/unhas-wac-routes-1-31-october-2015.
• The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to scale down its support services. Three ETCs have already been decommissioned. Nine ETCs will remain operational until December, 2015.

2. Storage Service
• 8,840 m³ of items are currently stored at the Port Loko Main Logistics Hub (MLH), belonging to different organisations. The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide storage until 31 October. From November 2015, organisations will be responsible for storing of their items.
• Due to the phasing out of free to user logistics services and the availability of commercial transport capacity, the Logistics Cluster no longer accepts request for transport of items at no cost to the user.

3. Information on Commercial Warehouses in Sierra Leone
• A report on several warehouses assessed so far by Logistics Cluster in Freetown and Kenema will be shared with
organisations through the mailing list.

- Further assessments of commercial warehouses will continue in the coming weeks and the updated information will be made available through the Sierra Leone Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA).

4. Transition Plan and Role of Port Loko / Capacity Building

- Participants were informed that the Logistics Cluster is currently assessing options to determine how the Port Loko main logistics hub will function after 31 October, when no more storage services will be provided at no cost to user.

- Key issues to be determined include how the transition from a free-to-user service to an Ebola Response Depot will affect supply chain and stock management. A second consideration is to ensure a coordinated response in the event of a new outbreak and how capacity building will be of benefit the on-going management of the site with the withdrawal of logistics Cluster Tracking and warehouse services.

- The Port Loko facility transition will include providing dedicated warehousing capacity of an appropriate type to key stakeholders.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination Meetings will be held on 20 October at 11:00 at the WFP Country Office Conference Room.

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