Meeting Minutes, 04 August 2020
Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Online/held remotely

DATE
04 August 2020

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Formal Education Network for Private Schools (FENPS), International Medical Corps (IMC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Polska Akcja Humanitarian (PAH), Relief Innovation Bay Organization (RIBO), Somali Cash Consortium, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision.

ACTION POINTS
• The Logistics Cluster to share Cash-based Transfers (CBT) presentations and contacts of CBT focal points.
• Registration details of the Logistics Cluster Induction Training to be sent out via the mailing list.
• The Logistics Cluster to reach out to partners bilaterally on flood preparedness and cargo consolidation needs.
• United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to share updated flight schedule for dissemination via the mailing list once available.

AGENDA
1. Update from Cash Working Group - Kaitlyn Scott, Somali Cash Consortium
2. Update from WFP CBT Logistics – Bernard Omondi, WFP
3. Action points review
4. Situation Update - Flood & COVID-19 Response
   • Access update
   • Preparedness Planning
   • Cargo movement needs / cargo consolidation
5. Update from UNHAS/ WFP Aviation – Bernard de Wouters, WFP
6. Update on Logistics Cluster Induction Trainings
7. AOB

1. Update from Cash Working Group – Kaitlyn Scott, Somali Cash Consortium

   • Kaitlyn Scott from the Somali Cash Consortium gave an update on the range of tools, resources and guidance of the Cash-Working Group (CWG) such as the CVA & COVID-19 Guidance Note; the Cash &

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Markets Quarterly Dashboard (Price Monitoring): Market Feasibility Studies and the List of contacts for Sub-National CWGs and CWG Workstreams (Market Analysis, M&E, Financial Service Providers, Cash for Work, Cash & Protection). It was noted that all these key documents may be found on their webpage: [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/somalia/cash-activities](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/somalia/cash-activities)

- An overview was also given of the 3Ws Dashboard which captures monthly reported cash transfers for multipurpose, safety nets, and sectoral cash, with data visualisations by location, type, agency, etc. all the HDX datasets are also downloadable: [https://data.humdata.org/visualization/somalia-cash-programing-v3/](https://data.humdata.org/visualization/somalia-cash-programing-v3/)
- Participants asked whether these documents also captured analysis and supply chain monitoring. It was noted that their main focus are the commodities that are in the minimum expenditure basket and that the majority of the information regarding market fluctuation and its impacts is taken from WFP’s Weekly Supply Chain Update.
- Partners were encouraged to reach out to Kaitlyn Scott ([Kaitlyn.scott@concern.net](mailto:Kaitlyn.scott@concern.net)) with any further questions. Her presentation will also be shared via the mailing list.

2. Update from WFP CBT Logistics – Bernard Omondi, WFP

- The presentation covered the strategy of WFP Logistics Cash-based Transfers (CBT) in terms of its priority to establish a friendly and reliable retail network for retailers and also beneficiaries. Key activities of the WFP CBT Logistics team include Supply chain assessments; Network Establishment and Management, as well as Transformational Logistics.
- Regarding the Supply Chain Assessments – it was noted that between July 2016 to date, WFP has conducted 178 Assessments which are updated every two years.
- WFP conducts Macro Supply Chain Assessments (which support activities such as planning for flood response and prepositioning supplies in the rainy seasons); as well as Micro Retailer Capacity Assessments (which study the retailer capacity and dependency in the target location where WFP plans to carry out CBT activities. The detailed analysis of retailer capacity assessments in Baidoa was given as an example.)
- A question was posed regarding whether the Logistics Cluster could enhance information exchange in terms of sharing information on trade / supply flows. It was noted that all WFP Assessment reports can be shared with partners.
- A brief overview of Weekly Supply Chain / Supply Corridor Monitoring was given. It was questioned whether the Logistics Cluster could enhance coordination during Top Ups/Redemptions to avoid stock-outs such as the one experienced in Baidoa in June 2020. Transformational Logistics was also explained regarding the implementation of soft measures (policy/regulatory/services) and or hard measures (infrastructural improvements) to facilitate trade and strengthen retailers and markets. Potential areas for transformational logistics interventions could include: supporting improvements in infrastructure and ensuring physical access to markets (e.g. building shops in camps, repairing road sections to critical markets) and linking production areas to markets.

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The final part of the presentation focused on WFP Somalia’s e-Shop application. The e-Shop application was launched mid-2018. By leveraging Somalia’s expansive and affordable mobile network, WFP Somalia developed an online food ordering and delivery marketplace available on Android, iOS & USSD. Beneficiaries can now redeem their entitlements by ordering online through the e-Shop app. The home delivery module has been particularly valuable during this COVID-19 period as it helped maintain social distancing measures and facilitated the safety of beneficiaries.

In April 2020, WFP launched a home delivery module. Local retailers receive the orders via the app; WFP-mobilised delivery service providers (such as bikes, tuk-tuk, small pick-ups) then fetch the order from the retailer and directly deliver it to consumer households. WFP pays for home delivery. Payment is based on confirmation of receipt by the beneficiary on their phone. To date, over 20,000 successful home deliveries have been made through e-Shop delivery agents across Somalia with over 120,000 beneficiaries supported. In July alone, 1.3 million in sales and 20,000 home deliveries were made.

A partner asked whether in terms of e-commerce, if WFP provides smart phones and sim cards to beneficiaries. It was noted that WFP only provides sim cards to beneficiaries receiving monthly entitlements through Mobile Money. However, sim cards are only issued to beneficiaries with no sim card registered in their name – e.g. some beneficiaries are using phone numbers belonging to their relations. For the Mobile Money Transfer modality, WFP requires all beneficiaries to use their personal sim cards for accountability purposes.

A partner asked how many markets these WFP assessments cover; it was noted that WFP covers all markets and often conducts micro assessments in locations such as IDP camps, or remote locations (for example in Somaliland).

Partners were encouraged to reach out to Bernard Omondi (Bernard.omondi@wfp.org) with any further questions. His presentation will also be shared via the mailing list.

3. Action Points Review

- The Logistics Cluster to email partners to scope cargo consolidation requirements and to follow up bilaterally with interested organisations – ongoing.
- The Logistics Cluster to organise a dedicated discussion on flood preparedness to facilitate contingency planning – ongoing.
- The Logistics Cluster to share a survey with the mailing list to gauge the level of interest and possible dates for a Logistics Cluster Induction Training – completed. Induction Training tentatively scheduled for 08 September.
- Partners to inform the Logistics Cluster of any road access constraints as a result of the recent flooding - ongoing

4. Situation Update - Flood & COVID-19 Response

- As of 04 August, there are 3,220 cases of COVID-19 in Somalia and a recorded 93 deaths.
Access Update

- All ports remain operational. All airports in Somalia are now open for local, yet remain closed for international, passenger flights; with the exception of Mogadishu and Hargeisa (for Ethiopian Airlines flights to Addis Ababa).
- Baidoa airport still closed on Fridays and Saturdays for maintenance works. Beledweyne airstrip reopened on 01 August after being close for refurbishment works due to an incident on 14 July. Abudwak airport is also still closed for maintenance.
- The lockdown of Mogadishu Airport (AAIA) has been extended until 08 August. WFP trucks continue to have access – access given on approval for WFP staff and contractors. No partners reported any access constraints.
- Despite some rainfall, key roads still accessible although subject to temporary closures - latest Logistics Cluster Flood Affected Roads Map as of 06 July. The below access update was given:
  o Ex-Mogadishu – intermittent flooding has been experienced affecting Marka road temporarily, however all other roads currently accessible.
  o Ex Bossaso - all roads are dry and accessible
  o Ex. Galkayo – all roads are accessible and open including the road linking to Bacaadweyne of south Mudug
  o For Bardhere – Kismayo - all roads are currently accessible
  o Bardhere - Baidoa - all roads are currently accessible
- The Somaliland-Ethiopia (Berbera corridor) and Central Somalia-Ethiopia borders remain open but strictly for commercial trade. The Kenya-Somalia land borders remain closed for commercial entities, however certain points may periodically be opened for trade, subject to bilateral agreements between local authorities of relevant border towns. The Logistics Cluster continues to monitor the situation for any temporary border openings. The below crossing points of Somalia - Kenya border remain closed indefinitely:
  o Somalia – Beledhawa - Closed
  o Kenya – Dobley - Closed
  o Ethiopia – Elbarde - Closed
  o Ethiopia – Beledweine - closed
  o Ethiopia - Dollow – Closed
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator highlighted the main points from the latest OCHA Report - Hagaa Season Floods Update 2 as of 26 July.
  o Since late June, flash and riverine floods have affected approx. 191,800 people in Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland states as well as Banaadir region.
  o About 124,200 people have been displaced and 5,000 people at risk of further displacement in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle.
  o Since May, approx. 149,000 hectares of farmland damaged by floods in 100 villages in Jowhar, Mahaday and Balcad districts, Middle Shabelle region.
Flood Preparedness Planning

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator highlighted that there are a number of activities where support may be facilitated (e.g. convoy planning, cargo consolidation) to reach specific areas (e.g. Beledweyne) as part of a flood preparedness planning initiatives, in order to minimise the need of urgent and expensive airlifts at the onset of a floods response. This would enable the streamlining of the response and maximise cost-efficiency through the preposition of key cargo between flood seasons via road. It was emphasised that airlifts are significantly more costly than road transport.

- It was noted that these plans could be discussed in a dedicated flood preparedness session for interested partners. The Logistics Cluster will follow up bilaterally with partners to assess the level of interest for a dedicated session on flood preparedness planning at a future Cluster meeting.

Cargo movement needs / cargo consolidation

- The Logistics Cluster continues to receive requests to facilitate transportation of Shelter / NFIs and health items. Partners suggested that some organisations may not have sufficient cargo for a full aircraft rotation and that shared flights could be used as an alternative.

- In terms of cargo consolidation, the Logistics Cluster suggested to pilot a strategy for small consignments to high demand locations (e.g. Baidoa, Beledweyne and Jowhar): this would have ceiling of cargo per organization being airlifted to ensure distribution of space and would have a one to two weeks expression of interest period for the Logistics Cluster to be able to consolidate sufficient cargo.

- A partner noted that Nairobi might also be worth assessing as a potential cargo consolidation location for the transportation of key cargo into Somalia. The Logistics Cluster will follow up with partners bilaterally regarding priority areas and locations.

5. Update from UNHAS/ WFP Aviation – Bernard de Wouters, WFP

- An update was given by Bernard de Wouters, Aviation Officer, WFP Somalia:
  - WFP Aviation Global flights continue as usual: Mogadishu - Addis Ababa – on Thursdays and Addis Ababa – Mogadishu on Fridays. There are also weekly global passenger flights on route Nairobi – Addis Ababa - Nairobi. All this information is available on the Humanitarian Booking Hub.
  - It was noted that as international flights have resumed in Somalia (as of 03 August) that WFP Aviation flights in similar routes may be scaled down – it was confirmed that Nairobi-Addis rotation will gradually be scaled down due to lower demand. More information will be available next week.
  - WFP Aviation Global flights continue as usual: Mogadishu - Addis Ababa – on Thursdays and Addis Ababa – Mogadishu on Fridays. There are also weekly global passenger flights on route Nairobi – Addis Ababa – Nairobi; however, the last rotation will be on 08 August. All this information is available on the Humanitarian Booking Hub.
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- It was noted that as international flights have resumed in Somalia (as of 03 August) that WFP Aviation Global Passenger Service flights in similar routes may be scaled down. The Nairobi-Addis rotation will end from 08 August due to lower demand. More information will be available next week on further scale downs.

- UNHAS still flying its July schedule (available on the Logistics Cluster website); the August schedule is being reviewed to incorporate additional passenger flights from Nairobi to Mogadishu – as soon as this is confirmed it will be shared with partners.

- There are still restrictions on travelling into Somalia regarding COVID-19 measures – it is still compulsory to show a COVID-19 negative test on arrival that has been taken at least 72 hours before travel.

6. Update on Logistics Cluster Induction Trainings

- It was noted that the Online Logistics Cluster Induction Training for Somalia Training is on 08 September 2020. The main objective of the Logistics Cluster Induction Training is to achieve a common understanding of the cluster approach and mandate, enabling their efficient and effective contribution to inter-agency logistics response.

- The training is open to Logistics officers who are currently operating in Somalia or directly supporting the operations in Somalia. The registration details will be shared with partners via the mailing list.

7. AOB

- The next Logistics Cluster Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 18 August

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