Meeting Minutes, 9 June 2020

Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Online/held remotely

DATE
9 June 2020

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
American Refugee Committee (ARC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), HALO Trust, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), OCHA, OXFAM, Troicare, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP

ACTION POINTS

• Partners to send cargo and passenger requirements regarding potential humanitarian airbridge from Europe to Mogadishu to ECHO focal point Morten.Petersen@echofield.eu – ECHO is still consolidating information and as yet no decision taken.

• Partners to send requests for locations only accessible by helicopter cargo as soon as possible – the Mi8 helicopter will be demobilised on 17 June.

• Logistics Cluster to share links to Pipeline Planning and Warehouse Capacity Assessment Surveys – partners to complete form and submit within next two weeks.

• Logistics Cluster to follow up on any issues regarding partners being unable to access Service Marketplace.

AGENDA

1. Situation update
2. Action Points Review
3. Flood Response
4. COVID-19 Response
5. AOB

1. Situation Update

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator confirmed that key airports remain open for cargo (but closed for passengers) – it was noted that Abudwak airport is closed until the end of June for refurbishment works. In terms of potential impact on cargo movements, last week a flight scheduled for Abudwak was redirected to Dhushamareb. Cargo was then transported by road to Abudwak.

• Having received authorisation from Somali and Ethiopian Governments, WFP Aviation will be chartering flights within the East Africa region. The provisional schedule for passenger and light cargo flights for Mogadishu-Addis will be on Thursdays from 11 June, and from Addis-Mogadishu on Fridays as of 12 June.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
• The latest flood affected road map as of 1 June has been shared with partners via the mailing list and published on the Logistics Cluster Somalia page. Partners were encouraged to share any access information with the Logistics Cluster to help keep all partners informed.

• Ports remain operational (Mombasa in Kenya, Djibouti, and ports within Somalia: Mogadishu, Kismayo, Berbera, Bossaso), however, some loading delays have been experienced due to social distancing measures in place at Mombasa port. The Logistics Cluster shared details on the latest tentative schedule of the WFP time-chartered vessel (MV Juist) last week via the mailing list. Booking space is available for Djibouti-Berbera voyage ETA tentatively scheduled for 3 July 2020. Second-leg road transport may be made available upon request, subject to availability, from Berbera to Bosasso. Partners to contact lucy.wambundo@wfp.org and otavio.costa@wfp.org for related inquiries. The Logistics Cluster will update partners as and when new information is available.

• The Logistics Cluster has been allocated CERF resources for the Flood Response. The Logistics Cluster will keep partners updated on the planned implementation for these funds.

2. Action Points Review

• Partners to inform Logistics Cluster of any updates on road access to inform the update of the Flood-Affected Roads Map – completed – Map as of 1 June published.

• Partners to send cargo and/or passenger movement details to Logistics Cluster & ECHO for potential humanitarian airbridge flight by COB 28 May – Ongoing - ECHO is still open to receive requests for cargo (weight + volume) and passengers as needs are still being consolidated. Partners are to send requests as soon as possible.

• Partners to share feedback on usability of Service Marketplace and interest in trainings on the platform facilitated by Logistics Cluster – ongoing

• Logistics Cluster to send out a Warehouse Capacity Assessment form for partners to complete - ongoing

• Logistics Cluster to contact partners for specific requirements for future cargo movement needs to inform pipeline planning – ongoing

• Partners to contact UNHAS for passenger bookings on flight Mogadishu-Addis-Mogadishu departing 28 May – completed – UNHAS to update on latest flights scheduled.

3. Flood Response

• The Logistics Cluster’s map on Flood-Affected Roads was updated on 1 June. Partners were encouraged to share any updates on road access and access constraints that they have faced/are facing as a result of the flood response.

• A brief access overview was given on key areas and positively most roads that were inaccessible have opened up:
  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

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- The Logistics Cluster noted the reduced flood risk and river levels, and gave an update on the latest information on the floods from FAO Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) and from OCHA – both of which will be shared with partners with the meeting minutes:

SWALIM:

- A few pockets of Bari, Sanaag and Sool will receive some light to moderate rains until the end of the week. Moderate rains are also expected in the Juba and Shabelle headwaters in Ethiopia during the forecast week.
- The rest of the country will remain dry. With the significant reduction of rains and subsequent decrease of river levels along the two rivers, there is no is foreseen risk of flooding this week and the coming one.

OCHA as of 2 June:

- **Shabelle River:** As of 2 June, river level is at 5.50m. In Bulo Burti the river level remained high with a section of the Indha Ceel village affected by floods. River level at Jowhar slightly decreased and today it is at 5.05m, which is 0.50m below the high flood risk level. River levels started to decrease in the lower reaches - trend is expected to continue before stabilizing in the coming week. No risk of flooding is foreseen this week.
- **Juba River:** Drastic reduction of river levels along the entire channel. Flooding that was recently reported has reduced in middle and lower reaches. River level Bardheere on 2 June was at 5.32m - about 3.0m below the high-risk flood level. With no foreseen rains, the river levels will continue to drop this week and stabilize in the coming week. No risk of flooding is foreseen along the entire channel of Juba.
- **In Bay and Bakool regions:** Forecast indicates reduced rainfall prospects in these regions - no flood risk anticipated.
- **Somaliland, Puntland, and Central regions:** One day of heavy storm that lasted less than an hour was observed in Somaliland leading to flash floods. In Puntland - light to moderate rains between 26 and 30 May in a few areas. Light to moderate rains forecast in few areas of Bari, Sanaag and Sool regions. The rest of the area will remain dry.

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the dedicated UNHAS Mi8 helicopter will be decommissioned in the next two weeks (expected last date of operation - 17 June) due to the improvement of the conditions of runways; now there is greater capacity to deploy fixed-wing aircraft, this will be prioritised. Any partners who require helicopter transport for passengers or light cargo for their flood response operations to inform the Logistics Cluster as soon as possible.

- Requests have been received for the movement of non-food items for the flood response – the Logistics Cluster reiterated that where possible, partners should submit details on volume of their cargo especially for non-food items (NFIs). Oversized cargo may need to be rearranged to allow loading in the aircraft such as splitting wrapped pallets and large boxes.

- The Logistics Cluster asked partners to share their projected requirements for cargo movements for the flood response – this data will be captured via a one-minute survey using the online tool Kobo. The Logistics Cluster will share the link to this survey with partners via the mailing list.

- The Logistics Cluster gave a brief overview of the survey’s essential components such as expected destination, expected tonnage and – especially important NFIs - expected volume. Partners were asked to flag any cargo that is for flood response when completing the survey as this will be prioritised over the next two weeks.

- A partner asked if there are locations which the Logistics Cluster will prioritise for flood response operations – The Logistics Cluster confirmed flood-affected areas will be prioritized and should the demand exceed capacity and resources, the ICCG will be engaged regarding the prioritization of sectors and locations. The pipeline tool aims to consolidate the overall demand for cargo movements and once this is mapped, elements like priority locations may be considered.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
• A partner inquired as to the planned destinations for fixed-wing aircraft that are listed in the tool. The Logistics Cluster responded that any additional location not included in this list is subject to security and capacity assessments before confirmation that cargo may be transported there. The Logistics Cluster highlighted that when filling the form, if there are any locations or aspects not covered, partners should fill out the ‘other’ box so that this may be discussed with them bilaterally.

4. COVID-19 Response

• As of 8 June, there are a reported 2,334 cases of Coronavirus in Somalia and have been 83 deaths.

• Ethiopia-Somalia and the Kenya-Somalia borders remain closed for commercial entities; Berbera corridor remains operational for WFP. Internal movement for humanitarian supplies continued not to be restricted across Somalia – no reports from partners of any restrictions either.

• An NGO partner also confirmed that they been successful in transporting cargo to/from Somalia through Ethiopia.

• Logistics Cluster facilitating airlifts on behalf of Ministry of Health, Office of PM, WHO and other key health partners.

• The Logistics Cluster is advocating for Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) resources for COVID-19 transport support and will update partners accordingly.

UNHAS Updates

• An update was given by Bernard de Wouters, Aviation Officer, WFP Somalia:
  o As highlighted, the last operational day of the UNHAS Mi8 helicopter will be 17 June. Any organisation needing to access a location unreachable by fixed-wing to inform UNHAS as soon as possible.
  o To minimise waiting time in Addis, WFP Global Aviation is assessing the possibility of chartering the Mogadishu-Addis flight on Wednesdays (instead of Thursdays) from week commencing 22 June. This will be based on partners’ needs and requirements – official communication on this potential reschedule will be communicated in the coming days and the Logistics Cluster will share it with partners via the mailing list.
  o The regular UNHAS passenger service from Kenya to Somalia has not yet resumed, however WFP Aviation Global Passenger and Light Cargo Air Service flights continue to depart twice a week between Nairobi and Addis (on Thursdays and Saturdays). All organisations wishing to travel on this flight are responsible for obtaining their own authorisation.
  o A partner inquired on the immigration requirements when arriving in Mogadishu. All this information – as well as information on movement inside Somalia - is available on the Humanitarian Booking Hub under the tab ‘COVID-19 Measures’. This information will also be disseminated via the mailing list with the next flight announcement.

Warehouse Capacity Assessment Survey

• The Logistics Cluster aims to identify partners’ capacity in-country and any gaps in warehousing as this will enable greater support to the needs of partners in terms of facilitating cargo movement and storage.

• A brief presentation was given on the warehouse capacity assessment tool - partners were encouraged to share their warehousing capacity so that the Logistics Cluster can map these facilities via a Kobo survey which will take under two minutes to complete. Location information may be added in three ways: Searching for address, Pinning in the map, Describing the address. Once a warehouse is located, the information required is slightly more specific e.g. type of structure, indoor capacity and outdoor capacity; and this leads to further details on handling capacity, access type etc.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
• The survey will be shared with the mailing list – partners were asked to submit this information over the next two weeks. Should any partner have any technical issues in terms of accessing these forms, or any additional inquiries, please contact otavio.costa@wfp.org.

5. AOB

• Partners were asked if they have experienced any issues in terms of transporting cargo from Nairobi to Mogadishu. No partners reported any access constraints.
• One partner flagged that issues had been experienced in terms of accessing Service Marketplace. The Logistics Cluster will follow up with the partner bilaterally on this matter.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 23 June at 11:00 EAT.

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