## Meeting Minutes, 12 January 2021

**Somalia Logistics Cluster**

### Location
Online/held remotely

### Date
12 January 2021

### Chair
Logistics Cluster

### Participants

### Action Points
- Partners to submit transport needs to Logistics Cluster for the flood response free-to-user services.
- Partners to submit any cargo requirements for Qansadhere and to inform the Logistics Cluster of any other locations that have been a challenge to access.
- Partners to contact the Logistics Cluster regarding interest in a storage capacity mapping exercise.
- Partners to share any additional detailed feedback on how the Logistics Cluster can improve the quality of its services bilaterally.
- Partners to register on the [Service Marketplace](https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a), as having an account already established will speed up the processing time for any future cargo movement requests.
- Partners with a need to renew their WFP Service Level Agreements for 2021 to reach out to the Logistics Cluster who can facilitate the process.
- Partners to inform OCHA of any issues with obtaining visas for Somalia.

### Agenda
1. Action points review
2. Logistics Cluster Situation Update - Flood Response & COVID-19
3. Cargo Transport Requirements
4. AOB

### 1. Action Points Review

- The Logistics Cluster to share the User Feedback Survey Results with partners – **completed** – the results were shared with partners along with the Meeting Minutes from the last cluster meeting on 22 December.
• Partners to share any additional detailed feedback on how the Logistics Cluster can improve the quality of its services bilaterally – ongoing – no feedback received so far - partners were encouraged to send any additional feedback to help the Logistics Cluster improve its services.

• Partners to reach out to the Logistics Cluster with any updates on road access challenges – ongoing – as road conditions have remained the same, partners were referred to the latest Flood-Affected Roads Map as of 7 December.

• Partners to reach out to the Logistics Cluster with any final cargo movement requests for 2020 – completed.

• The Logistics Cluster to share inputs on tax exemptions with OCHA - completed end-December. The Logistics Cluster Coordinator emphasised that a small number of partners contributed to this analysis and it showed there are still many open cases – tax exemption approvals are currently taking at least 25 days to secure. OCHA is following up on this issue.

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator also asked if any partners had experienced delays regarding tax exemption approvals for humanitarian cargo during any steps of the process. Partners reported there were some delays in processing submissions by relevant authorities. It was noted that local authority approvals for arrivals at Bossaso Port for the Cyclone Gati response were reportedly fast-tracked.

2. Logistics Cluster Situation Update – Flood Response & COVID-19

A situation update was given on the following:

• All airports are open for passenger flights. The full basecamp lockdown of Mogadishu Airport (AAIA) continues - however the airport remains fully operational and no impact has been reported on partners’ activities so far.

• The latest UNHAS flight schedule (up to 31 January) is available on the Logistics Cluster Somalia webpage.

• Due to renovation works at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi, UNHAS operations will be moved to Terminal 2 effective Thursday 14 January 2021. As congestion is expected at Terminal 2, it was noted that all UNHAS passengers must refer to terminal information on their tickets and arrive early for check-in.

• All sea ports remain operational. The new WFP time-chartered vessel MV Spiekeroog is currently in Mogadishu loading cargo and is scheduled to depart for Mombasa. The latest schedule has been posted on the Logistics Cluster Somalia page.

• Border status updates: the border between Belethawa and Dobley (Somalia) and Mandera (Kenya) remains closed. The border between El Wak-Somalia and El Wak-Kenya remains closed for cargo vehicles however trade and movement of people reportedly continues. The borders between Ethiopia and Somalia remain closed at Dolo Ado but there is a shared agreement for border crossing of commercial cargo between local authorities. Tog Waajale crossing is reportedly permitting the movement of cargo trucks. Borders between Somaliland and Ethiopia, and Somaliland and Djibouti remain open for cross border trade.

• An update was given on road access which had been affected by flooding from both Deyr rains and Cyclone Gati. Currently the road ex-Afgoye to Wanla Weyn is accessible. The road ex-Balad to Jowhar is still accessible for smaller multimode transport. Additionally, the bypass route via Afgoye to Jowhar is open and

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accessible by road, and improvements are expected in 2-3 weeks. The roads Bossaso-Xaafuun and Bossaso-Hurdia remain currently accessible by 4x4 trucks carrying less than 12 mt of cargo.

- The latest Logistics Cluster Flood-Affected Roads Map summarises this info. Partners were encouraged to share any updates on road status and the Logistics Cluster confirmed it would continue to monitor the situation and share any new information as available.
- The Cluster Coordinator further presented some key points from the weekly COVID-19 Task-Force:
  - GAVI has accepted the application from Somalia to be part of COVAX and the Somalia vaccination campaign tentatively planned for June 2021;
  - 20% of the population will be targeted (3.1 million).
  - The Ministry of Health is conducting a readiness/preparedness assessment for the vaccine with the support of WHO/UNICEF.
- Partners were asked if there was still an interest for the Logistics Cluster to conduct a storage capacity mapping exercise which could include an element on temperature-controlled storage capacity in-country.
- It was noted that as per its Concept of Operations, the Logistics Cluster’s mandate is to respond to logistics gaps identified in Somalia – partners were encouraged to alert the cluster to any gaps so that the cluster can best meet their needs.
- Access challenges were discussed for a number of airstrips (Berdale, Qansadhore, El Wak, and Jalalaqsi). Both Qansadhere and Berdale have been inaccessible due to a security incident in May; however, the Logistics Cluster noted that thanks to OCHA’s coordination with UNSOS, a couple of rotations of cargo were able to be made in December on behalf of partners to Qansadhere. Similar support is being sought for January requirements.
- Partners were asked if they had any cargo requirements for Qansadhere and if they had identified any other locations that had access challenges.
- The Logistics Cluster asked partners if any challenges had been faced regarding COVID-19 regulations or new visa requirements on cargo/passenger movements within Somalia. One partner confirmed that no issues had been faced so far. One partner raised concerns on travel from Kenya to Somalia in terms of obtaining a visa for Somalia within Kenya. OCHA had not received any reports of issues, however partners were encouraged to inform OCHA of any challenges faced.

### 3. Cargo Transport Requirements

- The Logistics Cluster is contacting organisations bilaterally on consolidating cargo for free-to-user cargo movements. It was noted that funding is still available for the Flood Response and partners are invited to submit transport needs to the Logistics Cluster for free-to-user services.
- Current potential requirements for airlifts are to Baidoa and Galkayo and it was noted that additional cargo can be co-loaded with other consignments. The Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to reach out with any immediate requests for these locations. The Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to contact somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org for communication/inquiries of possible movements, and then use WFP Service Marketplace to formalise requests.
The Logistics Cluster encouraged all partners to register on the WFP Service Marketplace, as having an account already established will speed up the processing time for any future cargo movement requests. The Logistics Cluster encouraged all partners to inform the team of any issues that may be encountered when using the WFP Service Marketplace.

Organisations who do not already have a WFP Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place for 2021 were encouraged to reach out to the Logistics Cluster as soon as possible to facilitate the creation or renewal of this process.

The Logistics Cluster noted that it currently does not facilitate free-to-user services for temperature-controlled storage or transport, and so any regulations in terms of ensuring the temperature of cargo is maintained for its transportation must be secured by the user. For any temperature-sensitive cargo deliveries, the Logistics Cluster will coordinate closely with the partner to organise and streamline cargo receipt so delivery and offloading may be conducted in a timely manner.

4. AOB

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 26 January 11:00 am EAT. The Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to share their ideas on what they would like to discuss at the next meeting.
- OCHA gave a summary of access in 2020 from its Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework that is conducted weekly – the major access constraint identified was the movement of personnel and goods, as a result of a combination of administrative delays and checkpoints.

Contacts

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