Meeting Minutes, 9 March 2021
Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Online/held remotely

DATE
9 March 2021

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
- The Logistics Cluster to inform partners of any updates regarding further tightened restrictions of the current lockdown of Mogadishu Airport (AAIA).
- The Logistics Cluster to keep partners updated on the next port of call for the WFP time-chartered vessel after Berbera (tentatively Mombasa depending on the level of requirements).
- The Logistics Cluster to inform partners developments regarding ease of access on the main road between Mogadishu and Jowhar.
- The Logistics Cluster to communicate to partners once CERF allocation has been confirmed.
- Partners to reach out to the Logistics Cluster with any feedback on the proposed Strategy process and any information on challenges / existing capacities/locations for response operations.
- Partners to reach out to the Logistics Cluster if they had any issues regarding joining today’s meeting via Teams.

AGENDA
1. Action points review
2. Logistics Cluster Situation Update
3. Prepositioning Strategy Discussion
4. Cargo Transport Requirements
5. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 23 February were reviewed:

- The Logistics Cluster to share the UNHAS March schedule as soon as available - completed. The schedule was shared via the Logistics Cluster’s mailing list and also on Logistics Cluster’s Somalia webpage.
- The Logistics Cluster to keep partners updated on progress regarding advocacy for Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) funds for the 2021 first round allocation for free-to-user services - ongoing.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
Partners to reach out to the Logistics Cluster with any feedback on the proposed Prepositioning Strategy process – ongoing – limited feedback received so far.

The Logistics Cluster to reach out to partners bilaterally to kickstart the information gathering exercise for the Prepositioning Strategy – ongoing – discussion with Shelter Cluster last week; more discussions to commence over the next two weeks.

The Logistics Cluster to keep partners updated on progress of securing SHF funding for free-to-user cargo movements – ongoing.

The Logistics Cluster to inform partners once Jalalaqsi airstrip is accessible – The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the airstrip is now accessible again.

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. It has been reported that the current lockdown may become more restrictive – the Logistics Cluster will keep partners updated on any developments.

- The latest UNHAS schedule up to 31 March is available on the Logistics Cluster Somalia webpage. Partners were reminded that UNHAS operations were moved to Terminal 2 due to renovation works.

- All seaports remain operational. The new WFP time-chartered vessel MV Spiekeroog is currently in Djibouti – next port of call: Bossaso – 10 March; Berbera – TBC (end of Voyage 1). Based on demand, the next port of call after Berbera is tentatively to be Mombasa. The Logistics Cluster will keep partners updated – and noted that the current schedule is published on the Somalia webpage.

- The Logistics Overview map, created to complement the OCHA-led preparedness exercise, is available on the Somalia Logistics Cluster webpage - https://logcluster.org/map/somalia-logistics-overview-2-february-2021

- All key roads remain dry - the latest Flood-Affected Roads Map is also available on the Somalia webpage (as of 25 January).

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners of access issues reported on the road from Mogadishu to Jowhar as well as road closures around Mogadishu due to election planning. Partners were encouraged to share additional updates on potential access constraints in the area.

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners of upcoming funding opportunities:
  a. The Emergency Response Committee (ERC) has agreed to activate the Somalia Anticipatory Action Framework for drought and is ready to release up to $ 20 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on account of the poor outlook for the gu season.
  b. In addition, the ERC has agreed to a $ 7 million CERF rapid response allocation to meet the immediate needs of those impacted by the drought. OCHA reported that the total allocation for each sector is not completed, but partners will be updated on the development.
  c. As the Logistics Cluster continue to advocate for CERF funding, it emphasized the advantages of preparedness efforts, including the prepositioning cargo. For example, the estimated cost to store

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and handle goods in one full Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) is 10% of the cost of an average aircraft rotation and it demonstrates the cost benefits of anticipating cargo movements before the closure of key roads due to floods.

3. Prepositioning Strategy Discussion

- The Logistics Cluster continues to undertake an information-gathering exercise to pinpoint existing logistics gaps as part of the 2021 ERP Plan. It was emphasised that this would be a joint effort and inputs from partners which will inform the next steps and eventual compilation of the Prepositioning Strategy document.
- The Logistics Cluster emphasised the need for co-loading and prepositioning as part of the wider logistics strategy in order to pool resources and minimise cost.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator noted that previous discussions with partners had focused on challenges organisations had experienced due to funding cycles which consequently had an impact on timely procurement. The Logistics Cluster consulted with the Shelter Cluster last week and this afternoon a meeting will be held with OCHA to continue expanding the logistics preparedness strategy.
- The Logistics Cluster noted that implementing partners who are expected to receive cargo and organize distribution/last-mile deliveries also can contribute with their planned responses even if these partners don’t have stocks at present. This information would help the Logistics Cluster to consolidate areas of demand that can further support preparedness discussions.
- Requests for storage of 2,000 shelter kits and transport of 50 tents were raised by partners and the Logistics Cluster informed the requestors would be contacted bilaterally. Based on these cases, the Logistics Cluster stressed the importance to receive the overall preposition and pipeline plans from organizations in support of the ERP discussion.
- A partner noted that it may be helpful to contact the WASH Cluster to gain a deeper understanding of their regional supply hubs – this may help inform further information for inclusion in the Prepositioning Strategy. The Logistics Cluster informed that a discussion with the WASH and CCCM clusters are also planned.

4. Cargo Transport Requirements

- Access challenges were discussed for a number of airstrips (Berdale, Qansadhere, El Wak, and Jalalaqsi).
- Qansadhere is now accessible thanks to OCHA’s coordination with United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS) and WFP delivered supplies with fixed wings to this destination.
- Jalalaqsi is also accessible – although careful coordination is needed to access it. It was also noted that the airstrip is only open on Friday, Sunday and Monday and any change on the operation window will be shared by the Logistics Cluster.
- Regarding Berdale, the Logistics Cluster confirmed that an assurance letter is being worked on by OCHA which is to be issued by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).
- El Wak is still inaccessible due to a lack of airfield clearance. The Logistics Cluster is coordinating with OCHA to obtain updates that will be shared with partners.

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• Partners were encouraged to share any additional information regarding locations with access challenges with the Logistics Cluster for its monitoring (contact addresses provided below). It was also noted that there have been reports of additional taxation of trucks – which has increased commodity costs on the market.

• It was noted that there were no updates on the tax exemption advocacy efforts, however, the Logistics Cluster will continue to monitor the situation and update partners accordingly as long delays are still being faced in Mogadishu.

• The Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to contact somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org for communication/inquiries regarding possible movements, and then use WFP Service Marketplace to formalise requests. Organisations were reminded to contact WFP to prepare a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for 2021.

• It was emphasised that temperature-controlled cargo needs to have its temperature maintained by the organization (e.g. using appropriate packaging) as the transport assets cannot sustain it.

• A transport overview regarding achievements so far in 2021 was given by the Logistics Cluster. Since the beginning of the year, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transportation of around 100 MT per month. Currently, most requests are for Huddur, Baidoa and Galkyo, which differs from last year when most requests were for Beletweyne. Moreover, the expected destinations for the next ten days are Kismayo, Garowe, Huddur, Galkayo and Dollow. Currently, the Cluster is looking into flights to these five locations – partners with demands to these locations were encouraged to contact the Logistics Cluster via somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.

5. AOB

• The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 23 March February 11:00 am EAT.

• The Logistics Cluster confirmed that the main focus of the next meeting would continue to be the discussions around the next steps and progress of the Prepositioning Strategy. Partners were also encouraged to put forward any suggestions for other topics they would like to discuss.

• During the last meeting, it was inquired as to whether Teams may be a better platform than Zoom – today was the first meeting held via Teams, and partners were asked to reach out to the Logistics Cluster if they had any issues regarding joining via Teams.

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