Meeting Minutes, 3 March 2021

Yemen

LOCATION  
Teleconference

DATE  
3 March 2021

CHAIR  
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS  
ACF, Concern For Women and Children, FAO, FCDO, FHI360, INTERSOS, IOM, IRC, MSF France, MSF Spain, MSF Switzerland, NYC Medics, OHCHR, OXFAM, PU-AMI, Save the Children, Solidarités International, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ZOA.

ACTION POINTS  
- The Logistics Cluster to present key results of the 2020 user feedback surveys.
- The Logistics Cluster to share the revised ConOps for partner feedback.
- WFP BSP to provide feedback regarding fuel provision in Mokha.

AGENDA  
1. Logistics Cluster Update
2. Logistics Gaps and Constraints
3. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Update

- The Logistics Cluster is in the process of reviewing the Concept of Operations (ConOps) for 2021 and overall activities and service facilitation structure were presented.
- The Logistics Cluster will circulate the ConOps draft and a timeframe for partners to feedback.
- Once finalised, the ConOps will be published on the Yemen Operation webpage, and the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for partners to access common services will be updated.

Common Storage
- The focus in 2021 will remain on common storage services.
- Temporary common storage capacity will continue to be made available to the humanitarian community across Aden, Bajil and Sana’a districts.
- The Logistics Cluster has secured a new warehouse facility in Bajil, with a total capacity of 5,000 m². It is open to humanitarian partners’ cargo for common storage. Partners who require this service may send a Service Request Form (SRF) to yemen.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Common storage capacity may be increased, reduced, or established in new locations, based on humanitarian organisations’ clearly identified common gaps and needs.
Temperature-controlled storage capacity will be increased during 2021 across key locations, if and where required.

Mobile Storage Units (MSU) continue to be made available to humanitarian organisations for temporary loan, for increased storage capacity, when and where needed.

Partners are kindly reminded to review their storage consignments as cargo may be held in common storage facilities for a maximum of three months, to allow for fair access to all partners. The Logistics Cluster will bilaterally contact partners who have exceeded or are reaching the three-month timeframe, to invite them to kindly submit a Release Order Form (ROF) to yemen.clustercargo@wfp.org.

Longer-term storage requests tailored to partners’ individual needs may be addressed to WFP through the Bilateral Service Provision (BSP) Team at yemen.bsp@wfp.org.

Air Cargo Transport

The main route for ad hoc air cargo transport will continue to depart from Dubai with destinations Sana’a and Aden according to need. This service will only be activated in case of a rapid onset emergency, backed by multiple partners’ service requests.

Ad hoc airlift service facilitation to Yemen is strictly intended for the transport of urgent life-saving items and commodities in accordance with the priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team. This is to ensure the best use of available common resources.

Sea Cargo Transport

Northern Yemen will continue to be served through Al Hodeidah seaport through the WFP Port of Origin – Al Hodeidah Seaport transport service, details of which may be found in the WFP Guidance Note.

The transport journey is managed end-to-end by WFP Shipping, and the costs of the two legs are applied as follows:

- From Port of Origin to Jeddah Port: this leg is rendered on a full cost recovery basis.
- From Jeddah Port to Al Hodeidah Port: the Logistics Cluster will continue to cover the costs of container transport on behalf of humanitarian organisations, in recognition of the existing gap in containerized commercial sea transport options serving Al Hodeidah seaport.

As part of the Port of Origin to Al Hodeidah Seaport transport service, Jeddah Port is strictly a transit hub. Therefore, partners should not send cargo to Jeddah, as the consignment will only be accepted from Port of Origin. This is to ensure transit of containers can be completed as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Partners who need to access this service may send an SRF to both yemen.clustercargo@wfp.org and yemen.bsp@wfp.org.

The Logistics Cluster reminded partners to ensure their upstream supply chain routes are adapted depending on the final destination inside Yemen.
For cargo that has final destination south Yemen, cargo should enter through Aden seaport. This should be arranged autonomously by organisations, as Aden is served by commercial shipping liners and therefore there is no identified gap that calls for common logistics services to be provided by WFP through the Logistics Cluster.

Following the ConOps revision in 2020, the Logistics Cluster no longer facilitates access to sea cargo transport for Djibouti. Partners are encouraged to no longer send their cargo through Djibouti if wanting to make use of Logistics Cluster common services.

The Logistics Cluster in 2021 will continue to coordinate WFP-chartered sea asset(s) for standby capacity for the humanitarian community, in accordance with requests of the Yemen Security Management Team (SMT).

Inland Road Transport

Recent discussions with the authorities have been very positive and should lead to the resumption of Logistics Cluster inland road transport service facilitation in the north of Yemen very soon.

Road movement of humanitarian cargo in the south of Yemen has experienced increasing constraints since late 2020. The Logistics Cluster facilitated road transport service continues to be active and available.

Sea Passenger Transport

The primary role of the two WFP-chartered vessels has gradually shifted away from sea passenger transport service. The sea passenger numbers have drastically decreased over time, to very low figures during 2019. This is primarily due to the existing UNHAS air routes that provide stable connections through a regular schedule.

The Sea Passenger Transport Service is therefore to be considered concluded. Organisations that had in the past utilised this service will be contacted bilaterally by the Logistics Cluster in order to complete the service administration close down.

2. Logistics Gaps and Constraints

Fuel

The WFP Bilateral Service Provision (BSP) provided a briefing in relation to the ongoing fuel crisis:

The fuel crisis is reaching a critical point. Between January and February 2021, BSP received requests that amounted to 150 thousand litres of fuel, of which it was able to fulfil 35 percent.

Close coordination with the main local suppliers is ongoing. The situation is critical, as the Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC) has not yet received fuel tanker deliveries in 2021. YPC confirmed that one vessel (MV Patriot with 30,000 mt of diesel) has received approval for the
importation and should dock this week in Al Hodeidah seaport. The status of the tanker is to be confirmed.

- BSP is looking at requesting the importation of one fuel tanker for both the south and north of Yemen. The largest bulk of the fuel is intended for WHO and UNICEF to allow for continuity of fuel support to health facilities and WASH structures. However, discussions are ongoing with the authorities to assess the possibility of reserving a quantity for other humanitarian agencies and organisations.
- BSP will provide feedback to the enquiry regarding the possibility of fuel provision in Mokha.

- No additional logistics gaps and constraints were raised by partners.

3. AOB

- The Logistics Cluster will present the key results of the 2020 User Feedback Surveys during the next coordination meeting.
- Outside the regular bi-annual User Feedback Surveys, the Logistics Cluster encourages partners to continue actively sharing suggestions and feedback.
- The Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will be held once a month.

The date of the next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting is to be confirmed.

Contacts

Cargo Storage and Transport Requests

Mamadou Thiam  
*Logistics Cluster Deputy Coordinator*  
mamadou.thiam@wfp.org

Sarah Reggianini  
*Coordination Officer*  
sarah.reggianini@wfp.org

Sami Thabit  
*Logistics Officer*  
sami.thabit@wfp.org

https://logcluster.org/ops/yem10a