Meeting Minutes, 14 September 2020
Bangladesh, Cox’s Bazar

LOCATION
Cox’s Bazar - Online

DATE
14 September 2020

CHAIR
Logistics Sector

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
- Logistics Sector to share the Road Assessment Map with the partners once it is validated and finalised.
- Logistics Sector to share the Warehouse Capacity Assessment report and map with the partners.

AGENDA
1. Logistics Sector Updates
2. Warehouse Capacity Assessment
3. Global services updates: Supply portal/transport
4. AOB

1. Logistics Sector Updates

- Dr Kai von Harbou, Head of the World Health Organization (WHO) Cox’s Bazar Emergency Sub-Office, visited the Cox’s Bazar COVID-19 special hub along with his team.
- Marsha Michel (USAID/BHA) conducted a monitoring mission for WFP. She visited the Cox’s Bazar COVID-19 special hub with her team along with our new emergency coordinator Shelia.
- Logistics Sector received six solar direct drive vaccine refrigerators from UNICEF, Copenhagen for vaccines and medicines requiring cold storage in the Cox’s Bazar COVID-19 special hub. They will be placed in the Logistics Sector hubs in Madhu Chara and Cox’s Bazar for common storage services and can be loaned out to the SARI ITCs upon request.
  - Logistics Sector to seek technical support from UNICEF to operate the solar refrigerators as they have experience in using the same model.
  - Provided maintenance services to the generators that were loaned out by the Logistics Sector through WFP. Servicing included changing spare parts (gas, fuel & air filter) and regular maintenance of the generators. WFP/Logistics Sector electrician also trained the partners on changing oil, filter, regular maintenance and record-keeping.
- Loaned out pallets to Medecins Sans Frontriere to support their operation.
- The Logistics Sector in partnership with Atlas Logistique/Handicap International transported 3218 m³ (1140 MT) of relief items for 15 organisations including UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs, where 356 trucks were used. Please contact s.ul-karin@hi.org, s.rahman@hi.org and Bangladesh.clustercargo@wfp.org for transportation and storage services.

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2. Warehouse Capacity Assessment Results

- According to the 25 submissions made by the partner organisation, there are 66 warehouses in total with a total capacity of 79,716 m² with an average capacity of 1307 m² per warehouse. The minimum capacity is 25 m² and maximum capacity is 6,683 m² which indicates that a majority of warehouses are in the smaller size range.
- Total space capacity has increased by approximately 12% and 98% since 2019 and 2018 respectively. Average utilization has increased by approximately 3% and 5% since 2019 and 2018 respectively. Majority of the warehouses reported are in Ukhiya and Cox’s Bazar Sadar.
- The report shows that there is higher utilisation of smaller storages which means that those storages have little flexibility in case of higher demand.
- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 response, temperature-controlled storage has increased (the reported temperature-controlled storages are now 4% of the total reported storage). 90% of the storage are reportedly indoor space followed by 6% outdoor storage and 4% temperature-controlled storage.

3. Global services updates: Supply portal/ Transport

WHO supply portal COVID-19 Supply Chain System (CSCS)
- A global cost recovery system has been established for the procurement of COVID-19 response PPE, biomedical and diagnostics equipment.
- Commodity tracking data was compiled from seven UN agencies to determine the overall contribution of COVID-19 response materials to the Government of Bangladesh country response plan.
- Currently, five requestors are using the supply portal making a total of 14 requests.
- Requests are in the final stages of the procurement process, deliveries are taking place, or being transferred to WFP transport system.
- Delivery of initial requests is expected in around two weeks.

WFP COVID-19 Global Common Service Provision (i.e.: International transport requested through the Emergency Service Marketplace – ESM)
- Partners’ COVID-19 item deliveries are continuing through the WFP emergency global ‘free-to-user’ transport services. This service is available to transport partner COVID-19 response materials globally, either through the WHO supply portal, or procured by the partners outside of the portal.
- To date for Bangladesh:
  o Total volume requested: 482mt/3393m³ (ie: 10 x A300 cargo planes)
  o Total delivered: (shipped/completed/arrived): 227mt, 1,547m3 (5 cargo planes)
  o Organisations: IFRC, IOM, WFP, Malteser, UNICEF, WHO
  o Arriving last week: 58mt, 319m³ (2 cargo flights) SIA/ Temasek flight in-kind donation.
  o PPE and medical equipment information can be found here: https://emergency.servicemarketplace.wfp.org.

4. AOB

- In the next meeting, the Logistics Sector will begin the review process of needs and gaps determined by partners in March at the onset of the COVID 19 outbreak. This review will contribute to planning logistics sector activities for 2021. We request partners to review existing needs and gaps to provide feedback on how the situation has evolved and stabilised, as well as the needs for 2021.

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The need for coordination, centralisation and sharing of logistics-related information to identify and resolve constraints through a collaborative effort, and to avoid duplication.

- The lack of and need for storage space to support the COVID-19 response (anticipated surge).
- The need to mitigate difficulties faced delivering cargo under government movement restrictions (Local cargo transportation) and limited access to the camps.
- The need to enhance understanding and specifically facilitate guidance and updates on importation and customs clearance procedures.

The next Logistics Sector Coordination meeting will be held online on Monday 5 October 2020 at 11:00 through Microsoft Teams invite.

Contacts

Cameron Kiss  
Logistics Sector Coordinator  
cameron.kiss@wfp.org

Ashim Shrestha  
Logistics Officer- Operations Support  
ashim.shrestha@wfp.org

Priya Pradhanang  
Information Management Officer  
priya.pradhanang@wfp.org

Sahand Tahir  
Information Management Officer (GIS and Assessment)  
sahand.tahir@wfp.org

Srabasti Sarker  
Information Management Associate  
srabasti.sarker@wfp.org

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