LOCATION  
Cox’s Bazar - WFP Meeting Room and Online

DATE  
30 March 2020

CHAIR  
Logistics Sector

PARTICIPANTS  

ACTION POINTS  
- Partners to contact the Logistics Sector to include them in the Logistics Sector mailing list and WhatsApp group.
- The Logistics Sector to work with WHO to determine a preferred approach for management of the collective short term supply, and elevate the long-term supply constraint - through the ISCG - to involve the government.
- The Logistics Sector to share local supplier information for the installation of temperature-controlled storage units.
- Partners to share supplier information on COVID-19 related materials. The Logistics Sector will then circulate a one-time compiled list to assist sourcing.
- The Logistics Sector to obtain and share updates on the airport and seaport restrictions.
- Partners with long-standing items in Logistics Sector common storage are asked to remove them.
- The Logistics Sector to follow up on new government requirements for trucks entering the camps.
- WFP to work with Atlas Logistique as is implementing partner on identifying options to extend the essential local transport service.

AGENDA  
1. Clarification of the role of the Logistics Sector in an emergency
2. Isolation Centres: Supply Issues
3. Market: Local, National and International
4. Supply Chain and Storage Constraints
5. Log IE Mapping System
6. AOB

https://logcluster.org/sector/bangl17
1. Clarification of the role of the Logistics Sector in an emergency

- With the sudden onset of the COVID-19 emergency response, the chair explained the scope and purpose of the Logistics Sector. The Logistics Sector aims to improve coordination amongst humanitarian partners through facilitation of a coordination forum, sharing humanitarian logistics related information through a dedicated webpage and the provision of other platforms for information exchange amongst partners, to improve the time of response through collaboration and reduce duplication of effort.

- The Logistics Sector is not meant to lead but aims to provide a mechanism for coordination through a collaborative approach. The mechanism allows identification of common gaps and constraints, encourages cooperation between partners for the same objectives as well as encourages partnerships and resource sharing to optimise the humanitarian response.

- The Logistics Sector differs from the Health Logistics Inter Sector forum where the audience includes Health Sector staff and focuses on specific health constraints in support of the Health Sector.

- This Logistics Sector meeting will focus specifically on the COVID-19 response in Cox’s Bazar; the previous meeting’s topics/agenda of discussion have been put on hold.

- The Logistics Sector approach can only succeed through partner support and contribution.

- It is important to understand all the organisations’ needs, from large UN agencies, international NGOs, and national partners. Larger partners are urged to support smaller partners where possible, particularly in terms of procurement assistance and support.

- Communication with sector partners will be conducted primarily through the existing mailing list and WhatsApp group. Coordination meetings will be held on a weekly basis with limited seating for presenters and focal points at the WFP meeting room, and online via Microsoft teams. Please contact the Logistics Sector to be added to the group.

Current Logistics Priorities

- The Logistics Sector partners are currently in a scale-up phase, with the immediate priority being the supply of materials and support functions required for rapid set up of COVID-19 isolation and treatment centres. Partners agreed that in this phase it is important to actively seek partnerships in procurement, share market sources, information and coordination to avoid duplication.

- Anticipated needs and gaps in the early stages of the response:
  - Customs clearance for COVID-19 related items which are not on the new government exemption list.
  - Long-term large-scale oxygen supply.
  - Cold storage solutions.
  - Lack of storage space during the supply surge.
  - Government approved local truck transport entering the camps.
  - Road access constraints for incoming deliveries from Chittagong and Dhaka.
  - Overwhelmed national and international market for COVID-19 response items.
2. Isolation Centres: Supply Issues

Supply highlights and constraints

- Six COVID-19 Isolation and treatment centre sites have been identified by WHO and the Interagency Sector Coordination Group (ISCG). UNHCR and UNICEF have committed to run a centre each, and additional partners are expected to be confirmed in the coming days.
- UNHCR has commenced the procurement process both globally and nationally, for the 130 core personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical equipment items required for the COVID-19 Isolation and treatment centre at the Malaysian Field Hospital.
- The deadline for submission of offers by suppliers (Local & Overseas) is 31 March 2020. UNHCR will summarise the total findings and will share these with the partners as soon as possible. Based on the initial feedback received from suppliers, most items can be sourced nationally. However, the lead time is a bit longer than previously due to the current situation and restrictions on inland transportations.
- For overseas/ international sourcing items, some of the suppliers insist on the delivery term CIF (Cost, insurance, and freight covered by the supplier) Dhaka due to unavailability of direct flights to Chittagong Airport. However, challenges are to be anticipated linked to the procedure for releasing relief items from Dhaka Airport, as not all items are on the COVID-19 item exemption list. This issue will need to be addressed with the government as soon as possible to allow for customs clearance.
- The Health Sector has highlighted that administration of oxygen is considered vital for the treatment of COVID-19. A short-term oxygen supply is available nationally through the main plant located in Chittagong producing 15,000 m³/day and through several distributors from this plant. In the short term, the constraints are the availability of bottles. A bottle is produced within an eight weeks lead time.
- WHO reported that - following a sourcing exercise - no viable long-term national oxygen supply sources exist. An international solution is urgently required. Options proposed include: contracting available companies from India (which may be able to construct a production plant in Cox’s Bazar, though this may be complex and time-consuming), or bringing-in mobile oxygen generation plants and operators from abroad. The Logistics Sector will work with WHO to identify solutions for longer-term oxygen supply, with an elevation of the issue - through the ISCG - to involve the government, and follow sourcing efforts ongoing through various sectors.
- Cold storage requirements for each centre have been clarified by the Health Sector as approximately 2 x 20 feet container unit under 25 degrees, and a large chest fridge 2 – 8 degrees. These units are available locally.
- WHO is seeking a partner to construct a COVID-19 isolation and treatment centre on the rooftop of Sadar Hospital in Cox’s Bazar town. The bill of quantities (BOQ) and plan are attached to the minutes and interested partners can communicate with WHO for further details.
3. Market: Local, National and International

- The advice from all levels of the humanitarian community is to minimise procurement of COVID-19 response items from the local Cox’s Bazar market, to allow access to these items for the local community, and to reduce the impact on market price increases.
- The general feedback received from partners engaged in procurement from the national level market is that most COVID-19 core PPE health and WASH items and materials should be available from the national market. However, delivery delays could be expected due to high demand and in-country travel restrictions. This summary will be reviewed and updated weekly.

4. Supply Chain and Storage Constraints

- Partners are seeking updated supplier information for the procurement of COVID-19 core PPE, medical material and consumables and request sharing of supplier information. Partners are seeking updates on port and airport conditions and restrictions.
- A shortage of storage in and around the camps is anticipated during the expected supply surge of COVID-19 related commodities.
- Common storage space currently available in Madhu Chara Logistics Hub: 670 m³; in Balukhali Logistics Hub: 140 m³; and in Teknaf Logistics Hub 300 m³.
- Partners with long-standing items in the Logistics Sector warehouse are asked to remove these items to make way for COVID-19 response material.

5. Log IE Mapping System

- The logistics information exchange platform (log:ie) presents baseline infrastructure information alongside data curated by the various sectoral groups and published through the ISCG. Its purpose is to allow you to explore, update and print relevant information.
- It can be accessed through this link and the Logistics Sector Bangladesh website.
- The system contains existing infrastructure data collected through the ISCG and WFP and will be gradually populated with COVID-19 related information upon request.

https://logcluster.org/sector/bangl17
6. AOB

- Atlas Logistique will close their service of common local cargo transport in two weeks. Options for the extension of the programme are being explored.

The next Logistics Sector Coordination meeting will be held on Monday, 6 March 2020 at 11:00 in the WFP Meeting Room, Cox’s Bazar for focal points and presenters, and online through Microsoft teams invite.

Contacts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameron Kiss</td>
<td>Logistics Sector Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cameron.kiss@wfp.org">cameron.kiss@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priya Pradhanang</td>
<td>Information Management Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:priya.pradhanang@wfp.org">priya.pradhanang@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashim Shrestha</td>
<td>Logistics Officer - Operations Support</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ashim.shrestha@wfp.org">ashim.shrestha@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sahand Tahir</td>
<td>Information Management Officer (GIS and Assessment)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sahand.tahir@wfp.org">sahand.tahir@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srabasti Sarker</td>
<td>Information Management Associate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:srabasti.sarker@wfp.org">srabasti.sarker@wfp.org</a></td>
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