Meeting Minutes, 6 April 2020
Bangladesh, Cox’s Bazar

LOCATION
Cox’s Bazar - WFP Meeting Room and Online

DATE
06 April 2020

CHAIR
Logistics Sector

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
• Partners to provide feedback or propose additions to the identified common logistics needs and gaps in preparation for the COVID-19 response Logistics Sector ConOps.
• Partners wishing to share information or updates through the mailing list to contact Priya Pradhanang at priya.pradhanang@wfp.org.
• The Logistics Sector to clarify rules and regulations for the restricted camp entry list with ISCG and relay the information to partners.
• The Logistics Sector to form an email coordination group for partners involved in the procurement of oxygen.
• Partners interested in undertaking procurement for the supply of larger oxygen generation machines, please contact the Logistics Sector for further details.
• Partners experiencing cargo access issues via national incoming routes, or in and around the camp, to share details with the Logistics Sector.
• Partners to share supplier information on COVID-19 related materials. The Logistics Sector will then circulate a one-time compiled list to assist sourcing later this week.
• The Logistics Sector to share link for sea and airport status updates.

AGENDA
1. Logistics Sector Updates
2. COVID-19 Isolation & Treatment Centres: Logs issues and constraints.
3. Market: Local, National and International
4. Log:ie Mapping System
5. AOB

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1. Logistics Sector Updates

- Updated common gaps and needs identified include:
  - Needs for compiling and communicating logistics-related information.
  - Needs for a long-term large-scale oxygen supply.
  - Needs for cold storage solutions.
  - Lack of storage space during the supply surge.
  - Needs for camp access for essential cargo trucks under Government restrictions.
  - Needs for information on road access constraints
  - Overwhelmed national and international markets of COVID-19 response items.
  - Customs/ import updates.

- The Logistics Sector will draft a COVID-19 response concept of operations based on the above points.

- Updates on the situation are shared through the mailing list and the WhatsApp group, providing relevant information. Partners are encouraged to use the WhatsApp group for informal logistics related questions or to share useful updates. The mailing list can be used to share updates or relevant documents.

- The government recently introduced camp entry restrictions enforced by the military at the main checkpoints. To facilitate access for critical humanitarian partners, the Logistics Sector and WFP are working with the ISCG to clarify a reduced list of humanitarian partner vehicles to enter the camps which will be proposed to the government for approval. The approved vehicles will be issued a QR code which will be verified at the camps’ entry points. The list currently consists of approximately 1,400 vehicles. A partner raised the concern that there is no provision for vehicles that are not on the list but need to enter the camp urgently, and that there is a need to further clarify details of this new system. The Logistics Sector will follow-up to clarify rules and regulations for the restricted camp entry list with ISCG and relay the information to partners.

2. COVID-19 Isolation & Treatment Centres: Logs issues and constraints.

- WHO has continued working with ISCG to identify sites for the isolation and treatment centres. The partners who have agreed to undertake full management of COVID-19 isolation and treatment centres are IOM, IRC (two sites), Save the Children and UNHCR. One more partner to be identified. MSF is in the process of implementing some additional centres across the camps.

- UNHCR reported they are in the process of procuring specified medical equipment and materials required for the COVID-19 Isolation and treatment centres for WHO. Offers have been received from suppliers (twenty-two national suppliers and six international suppliers). Points of note: these suppliers (both at the national and international level) are providing substitutes to the specified medical equipment and materials, thus making the technical evaluation process complex. There is a limited supply for ventilators, oxygen concentrators and oxygen pumps, indicating an overwhelmed market due to high global demand for the items.

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- IOM reported they have recently commenced procurement for similar items. Initial findings show a market that might struggle to meet the demand as well as notable potential increase in the prices of various items.

- Oxygen supply continues to be an identified gap. The Logistics Sector has been working with WHO to identify national suppliers and map market capacities for the supply of oxygen according to the Heath Sector’s standard. So far, identified suppliers’ refilling capacity is estimated as insufficient considering the anticipated demand for oxygen. Partners involved in the procurement of oxygen agree that there is a need to coordinate procurement. WHO and donors have identified viable international options to import larger oxygen generation machines. This solution has not been implemented by any partners.

- The storage solution in the form of temperature-controlled containers under 25°C is available locally.

- WHO has available storage space for temperature-controlled storage in Cox’s Bazar for a certain time, partners interested to store temperature-sensitive items can contact asztbskiw@who.int.

- The Logistics Sector anticipates a collective need for additional storage space with the surge of COVID-19 response material supply, expected to start arriving from around May. Partners have reported limited existing available space. Plans should be put in place initially for a 6 months storage increase. Given the nature and unknown effect of camp access restrictions, storage space should be increased both in and outside of the camp checkpoint boundaries, to allow flexibility in the event access becomes complex.

- The Logistics Sector has a contingency stock of MSUs in stock available for loan to partners who have available space to increase their warehouse capacity.

- Partners have reported cargo deliveries coming in from Dhaka and Chittagong by road being inspected at checkpoints. These issues were resolved by the partners through communication with relevant government authorities.

3. Market: Local, National and International

- The Logistics Sector is in the process of gathering partner shared supplier information in a one-off compiled supplier list for COVID-19 core PPE, medical material and consumables. Inputs are requested.

4. 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.
5. AOB

- A discussion took place in the meeting on the value of international air cargo flights from Dhaka to avoid potential constraints faced on road routes. The consensus was that constraints that could be expected for the air route could be as problematic as those faced for road deliveries.
- National partner SIF/Friendship is involved in medical programmes in the camps and can expand for extra activities such as PPE distributions and sanitation activities. Please contact SIF directly for further inquiries.
- The small storm on the weekend was a reminder not to forget about preparations for the upcoming cyclone season.

The next Logistics Sector Coordination meeting will be held on Monday, 13 April 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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