LOGISTICS SECTOR

Fiji - Tropical Cyclone Winston – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Suva, Fiji
DATE: 4 March 2016
CHAIR: Logistics Officer, World Food Programme (WFP)
PARTICIPANTS: Australian Military Defence Forces, Australian Department of Foreign and Trade (DFAT), Amicares, UNICEF, IFRC, Oxfam, OCHA, Fiji Financial Procurement Office (FPO), Save the Children, ADRA, World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision, Habitat for Humanity Fiji, United Nations Disaster Assistance and Coordination (UNDAC), Pacific Disability Forum.

AGENDA:
1. Situation Update
2. National Cluster Update
3. Update on Import procedures
4. Update on Requests for Assistance (RFA) System
5. Needs and Gaps
6. AOB

1. Situation Update

- The agenda for the meeting and a general update of the situation was presented to participants.
- It has been reported that the apron parking space and cargo handling capacity at Nadi Airport is limited and the airport can therefore only handle one large aircraft (B747) per day. Storage capacity at the airport is reported to be full.
- Nausori Airport remains busy with military flights but is operating normally.
- A number of offers of transportation have been received by the commercial sector. These include air cargo transportation via scheduled Virgin Australia flights for organisations registered with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and 60 MT cargo space available via sea for humanitarian relief from New Zealand.
- The majority of roads and jetties are re-open and accessible, see the access constraints map as of 2 March http://www.logcluster.org/map/access-constraints-map-2-march-2016

2. Update from the National Cluster

- A forklift has been sourced and will augment the handling capacity at Nadi airport and the National Cluster is still trying to source additional forklifts.
- The DHL Disaster Response Team arrived last night, 3 March. The team, comprised of ten volunteers is expected to be based initially at Nasourri Airport to assist in the receiving and processing of cargo. If required, additional team members can be brought in if needed at other locations, such as Nadi airport.
- Organisations were reminded that they should confirm with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) if arriving consignments dispatched to agencies are to be collected directly at the port of entry or from the NDMO warehouse by the agency. Both options are possible however, the NDMO should be notified in advance.

3. Update on the import procedures

- A more streamlined relief import process was implemented by the NDMO on 3 March, supported by WFP, who is assisting the NDMO with tracking the quantity of humanitarian relief goods that arrive in country by air and sea.

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- See the following links for relief import process guidelines (http://www.ndmo.gov.fj/tc-winston/procedures-and-guidelines) and forms: (http://www.ndmo.gov.fj/tc-winston/forms)
- Participants were given an update on the quantity of relief items that are expected to arrive, following the implementation of a more streamlined relief import process by the NDMO on 3 March, supported by WFP.
- Eight requests of a total of 107 MT (400 m³) of relief cargo have been tracked as of 3 March, through the System used to assist the NDMO with tracking the quantity of humanitarian relief goods that arrive in country by air and sea. Approximately 30% of the cargo has been consigned to NDMO but will go to the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Store warehouse on behalf of the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- The process for applying for VAT and duty exemption through the new system was clarified and once the letter of approval is received, organisations can authorise transport of the shipment to Fiji.
- If the cargo is consigned to NDMO, organisations only need to email the approval and all relevant documentation to NDMO. This step is not required if the cargo is consigned to organisations individually, because organisations would be responsible to process the customs clearance themselves. The process applies for cargo arriving at all ports of entry, by air and sea.

4. Updated on Requests for Assistance (RFA) System

- The Government of Fiji has various maritime assets assisting with response activities. These include the MV Sigavou (Northern Division), MV Vunlagi (Western Division) and MV Cagivou (Eastern Division). In addition, the Fijian Navy have deployed two patrol boats RFNS Kiro in the vicinity of Laukota, western Viti Levu and RFNS Lautoka in the vicinity of Ovalau for the transport of emergency relief supplies.
- The Australian Defence Force HMAS Canberra arrived in Fiji on 1 March transporting a large quantity of logistics supplies, humanitarian aid and 400 personnel. Currently situated west of Koro Island, the vessel has three helicopters and three landing craft capable of accessing remote locations. Four additional helicopters based in Suva continue to transport humanitarian assistance to severely affected areas on the main island of Viti Levu and to the highland areas of the main island.
- The Australian Defence Force (ADF) C130 fixed wing aircraft continues to assist with logistics activities on behalf of the government led response.
- Two helicopters from the New Zealand Defense Forces arrived on 3 March and will be operating in the Eastern Division. The HMNZS Canterbury arrived in Suva Port on 3 March and will proceed to the Lau group of islands with its destination being west of Vanua Balavu. The naval vessel HMNZS Wellington continue to support the Government of Fiji around the Northern Lau Group.
- A Kingair B200 fixed wing aircraft of the Royal New Zealand Airforce is currently based at Nadi and is providing assistance to the government in support of emergency relief operations.
- The French Military Force has deployed one CASA C-212 aircraft to support the emergency response for transport of humanitarian aid in support of government priorities. A French Military Force Patrol Boat La Moqueuse will arrive in Suva on 9 March before travelling to the Lau Group of islands to provide engineering support.
- An update was given on the process and how to access the Request for Assistance (RFA) Form: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/fiji/humanitarian-civil-military-coordination

5. Needs and Gaps
- Organisations gave an update on their planned and expected cargo shipments due to arrive into Fiji. The importance of sharing information on planned shipments was highlighted in order to assist the Fiji National Cluster System with planning and avoid congestion at entry points.

- The current capacity of the warehouses of the National Logistics Cluster in Suva was requested. The three warehouses at Walu Bay are approximately 50% to 70% full. There is currently sufficient warehouse space and it is expected to be sufficient to process cargo arriving by air.

- A large influx of cargo transported by sea may put pressure on the capacity and handling although an additional space for approximately 30 containers is currently empty and there is a high turnover of cargo at the warehouses.

- The Australian Defence Forces have delivered two MSUs, one is planned to be set up in Koro and one in Suva. UNICEF are providing the NDMO with two MSUs and WFP is planning on bringing in approximately four MSUs, so there is additional temporary storage capacity available if required.

- An overview was requested of the current storage capacity for humanitarian relief supplies and an estimate of expected storage capacity needed in 1 to 2 months. This will ensure that the immediate needs for storage can be met now, but also the needs when the volume of shipments arriving by sea could increase.

6. A.O.B

- The next logistics coordination meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March at 11am. Agenda and invitations will be shared in the coming days.

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