LOCATION: St John’s, Antigua
DATE: 20 September 2017
CHAIR: WFP, Logistics Sector lead
PARTICIPANTS: Antigua and Barbuda Humane Society, Antigua and Barbuda Search & Rescue (ABSAR), Barbuda Council, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CISCO TacOps, DFID, Emergency.Lu, Ericsson Mobile, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Shelter Box, UNDAC/OCHA, WAITT Foundation and Institute Barbuda, World Animal Protection

ACTION POINTS:
• Humanitarian organisations to populate the online tracking tool based on planned and actual relief operations and cargo.
• The Logistics sector to monitor the usage of the existing storage facility at the Antigua airport and explore options for a scale up if required.
• The Logistics sector to follow up on the needs for cargo consolidation ex Antigua to Barbuda.

AGENDA:
1. Situation update and humanitarian response
2. Logistics gaps
3. UNHAS air service
4. AOB

1. Situation Update and Humanitarian Response

• The Chair introduced the WFP Logistics team in Antigua present at the meeting and the proposed agenda. Participants briefly presented themselves and their organisations’ mandate in country.

• A cargo tracking tool designed and rolled out in coordination with CDEMA to track planned and actual humanitarian commodities in the different affected areas was presented. The tool is available at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/yaso24ml.

• Organisations are encouraged to use the tracking tool to report incoming cargo and facilitate coordination and prioritization of activities and areas. This will also serve to avoid any storage backlogs at current storage facilities. WFP as Logistics sector can facilitate with cargo consolidation and support in case of logistics constraints to move forward relief stocks in country.

• As confirmed by national authorities, relief activities in Barbuda are not expected to start before cleaning activities are completed. Some organisations are making all necessary preparations to dispatch commodities as per needs prioritized.
Hurricane Irma – Meeting Minutes

- One participant asked about the list of logistics focal points in each hub across the region to facilitate exchange of information. The contact details of WFP logistics staff per hub is available online on a dedicated page and is available here: http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17

- OCHA prepared a list of 3W with staff per organisation and location. The link to access the 3Ws is available at the following link, together with an assessment tracking document and other useful material: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-2twQMarL6W0bzz-Ry2WGc0-FPjr6EZoZigvIDIP/edit.

Hurricane Maria Update

- After the passage of Hurricane Maria between 18 and 19 September, no further damages are reported in Antigua. DFID conducted a rapid assessment on 19 September to St John’s airport as well as in the southern part, the English Harbour, and no constraints were reported.

- Dominica is reported to have suffered heavy damages. Initial assessments are being planned and reports will be shared as they become available. A French military aerial assessment was reportedly conducted on 19 September and confirmed sustainable infrastructural damage across the island. A team of CDEMA is expected to arrive in country with military helicopter in the afternoon of 20 September. No confirmation about further flight and humanitarian staff landed in Dominica so far.

2. Logistics Gaps

- Organisations that require support in cargo storage and movement can approach WFP logistics team. Support can be provided in terms of storage when existing capacity is exhausted, with Mobile Storage Units available in country that can be deployed and erected according to needs.

- A barge is currently available in Antigua to reach Barbuda and was used for people evacuation ahead of Hurricane Irma. Conditions and limitations to accommodate cargo would need to be verified.

- A request was raised from one of the participants about options to support the transport of items from the region (Haiti and Panama) and in general about the costs for cargo shipment and lack of immediate funding. The Chair confirmed that options will be looked at the Regional Bureau level and with the donors regarding funding constraints.
3. UNHAS Air Service

- The UNHAS focal point announced that the 12 seats Cessna Caravan deployed in the region will be available starting from 21 September to fly ex Antigua to several locations as per requests from humanitarian organisations on the ground. Organisations interested in using the service have to submit a registration and booking forms. Template and further information can be provided by WFP team or writing directly to unhas.caribbean@wfp.org.

- As per survey circulated among the humanitarian community across the region, main destinations for the time being will be: Dominica, British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Sint Maarten.

- UNHAS will plan the first flights to Dominica to facilitate rapid assessment and the dispatch of first relief commodities, as soon as the Civil Aviation Authority provides the clearance. WFP will aim at launching the initial flights on 21 September from/to Antigua. Based on booking requests, the flight schedule will be adjusted for the coming days and circulated to partners.

- DFID confirmed the availability of a 7-seater plane in the region that will deploy staff to conduct assessments in Dominica and other locations. The team will be liaising and coordinating with WFP team to maximize available assets.

4. AOB

- Participants welcomed the launch of the Logistics Sector coordination meeting and agreed with the proposed bi-weekly schedule.

- To facilitate the daily exchange of information and dissemination of updates, a dedicated group (WhatsApp) with all focal points will be created and managed by the Logistics Sector.

The next Logistics Sector coordination meeting is planned for Friday 22 September at 11:00 in St John’s.

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