

LOCATION: St John's, Antigua and Barbuda

DATE: 12 October 2017

CHAIR: WFP, Logistics Sector lead

PARTICIPANTS: Antigua and Barbuda Search and Rescue, ETC.

ACTION POINTS:

- Organisations requiring cargo dispatch and distribution in Dominica to liaise directly with the Dominica Logistics Sector coordination cell. For cargo arriving in and moving from Antigua, national disaster authorities to continue coordinating relief efforts.

AGENDA:

1. Operational updates and humanitarian response
2. ETC updates
3. AOB

1. Operational Updates and Humanitarian Response

- The Chair provided main updates regarding options for transport of humanitarian commodities across the region. A Tropical Shipping vessel will be in St John's, Antigua, for loading cargo directed to Dominica on 16 October. The same vessel would be able to accommodate items directed to the British Virgin Islands. For further information regarding commercial shipments, the contact details of Antigua Port Authorities were also shared.
- Organisations are reminded to inform the National Office for Disaster Services (NODS) for any cargo arriving in and moving out from Antigua to Dominica and other countries, through submission of all reference documents and packing lists. For transshipping operations, organisations will need to inform relative countries involved to clear cargo.
- On ground handling and transportation fees for humanitarian commodities, national authorities clarified that whilst the state of emergency continues in Antigua and Barbuda, relief efforts are to be coordinated and managed by the NODS, including mobilisation of handling/transport assets.
- For relief supplies directed to Barbuda, it is advised to use the barge, which is operational every second day from Antigua. The NODS can provide support with contacts and more information on the loading capacity. More vessels are expected to resume operations and reach Barbuda, but timeframe is not confirmed.
- Storage space has been made available by WFP in Barbuda, next to the Fishery complex, and handed over to the NODS. Humanitarian organisations will be able to access the facility, in coordination with authorities, which will ensure registration and record of cargo in/out, to store items for relief and rehabilitation activities.

- The Chair informed that air assets made available by DFID over the past weeks will be discontinued starting from 15 October. The UN Humanitarian Air Service will continue to provide air transport out of Antigua towards several affected countries in the region, to bridge the gap in the commercial capacity. Requests for booking can be sent to: UNHAS.Caribbean@wfp.org.

2. ETC Updates

- The ETC team shared main updates regarding connectivity and services for communities:
 - More connectivity hot spots are being secured in several locations in Dominica, especially around the capital Roseau and the northern city of Marigot. Teams continue to be deployed on the ground to expand capacity and reach.
 - Connectivity in Barbuda remains challenging outside the main community and fishery centres. ETC will liaise with implementing partners to ensure the proper mobilisation of resources to fill the gaps.
 - A rapid information needs assessment was conducted in Dominica and revealed that communities in the northern parts of the island are less informed about ongoing relief effort and distribution plans, with no direct communication line with respective government authorities. Community members interviewed also shared concerns about the shelter situation, as some of the schools used for temporary shelters were due to reopen on 16 October and people were not informed about future arrangements.

3. AOB

- As situation and operational needs evolve, the Logistics Sector Coordination hub will continue to be based in Dominica, while the cell in Antigua is to be discontinued. All reference information including updates, meeting minutes, maps, and contact details will remain available online at: <http://www.logcluster.org/sector/irma17>.

The next Logistics Sector coordination meeting will be held in Roseau - *invitation to be circulated*.

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