Nepal National Logistics Cluster Meeting Minutes

Date: 28 August 2020, 11:00 – 12:00

Participants (in alphabetical order)

1. Action Against Hunger (ACF)
2. Care Nepal
3. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
4. Christian Aid
5. Department for International Development (DFID)
6. Humanity and Inclusion Nepal
7. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
8. International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)
9. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
10. Islamic Relief
11. Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
12. Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)
13. Mountain Child
14. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)
15. Oxfam Nepal
16. People in Need (PIN)
17. Plan International Nepal
18. Save the Children
20. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
21. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
22. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
23. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
24. Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
25. World Food Programme (WFP)
26. World Health Organization (WHO)

Meeting Chaired by: Mr. Murari Wasti, Chief of NEOC, MOHA

Agendas:
1. Monsoon Preparedness and response
2. Nepal National Logistics Cluster services
3. Health logistics update
4. Gaps or issues and AOB

Action Points:

- WFP to follow up with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to try to clarify the requirement for INGOs staff to enter Nepal on commercial flights, starting September 1st.
- Agencies to provide information about COVID-19 supplies in the pipeline to WHO.
- WFP to follow up with UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO) regarding the Government of Nepal’s restriction of movement of humanitarian staff, especially INGOs outside Kathmandu to the field.
- WFP to share contact details (email and phone number) of focal person to support the National Logistics Cluster common services in the Provinces.
1. **Monsoon Preparedness and response**
   MoHA shared the update below on monsoon preparedness:
   - This year, 52 districts across the country have been affected by landslides and floods. To date, 258 people have died, over 78 people are missing and 127 people have been injured due to floods and landslides incidents in various districts across the country. 70% of injured people have recovered.

   Update by agencies on monsoon preparedness and COVID-19:
   - WHO informed that 48 family tents were handed over to Ministry of Home Affairs for the people affected by landslides in Sindhupalchowk district.
   - IFRC informed that they have been supporting Nepal Red Cross Society with replenishment of NFIs such as blankets (20,000 pcs), tarpaulins (6,000 pcs) and hygiene kits (2,800 sets) for monsoon preparedness. They are also planning to preposition three search and rescue boats in Udaypur, Saptari and Sunsari districts. In addition, IFRC is in the process of procuring 10,000 mosquito nets, out of which 2,500 nets were delivered to Nepal by WFP passenger flight on August 26th. Similarly, procurement of 1,800 dignity kits, 5,000 sleeping mats, 7,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 plastic buckets, 400,000 water purification tablets are in the process.
   - Care Nepal informed that they air lifted read to eat food items for people affected by the August 14th landslide in Sindhupalchowk district.
   - UNOPS informed that they have handed over 70,000 PPE sets to Nepal police.
   - UNICEF is planning to distribute PPE sets to hospitals in Provinces.

2. **Nepal National Logistics Cluster services**
   The following updates were shared regarding the National Logistics Cluster services:
   - The Cabinet decision, which was made public on Friday, August 21st, has decided to resume chartered and regular passenger flights from September 1st. However, only Nepali and representatives of diplomatic missions, the United Nations and development partners will be allowed to fly into Nepal, with restrictions on foreign tourists until further notice.
   - The eighth WFP flight landed in TIA, Kathmandu on Wednesday, August 26th. The flight transported 1.7 MT cargo to KTM for WHO and IFRC and 63 inbound passengers and 47 outbound passengers from humanitarian agencies, boarded the flight to Kuala Lumpur same day. WFP will decide and announce on Sept. 2nd if the humanitarian flights will be halted or not.
   - To date, the National Logistics Cluster has transported 631 MT (3,671 CBM) medical supplies and NFIs for COVID-19 and Monsoon preparedness.

3. **Health Logistics Update**
   USAID on behalf of the External Development Partners, Supply Chain Management group shared the update below on health logistics:
   - Stock of Depo-Provera is running low. Working on delivery of 300,000 vials by air.
   - Reminded again that breast milk substitutes including infant formula and baby foods should not be distributed as it poses a risk to the infant’s health. If seen distributed, it should be reported to the Family Welfare Division.
- Requested members to ensure commodities that their organization have contributed are recorded in the e-LMIS.

4. Gaps or issues and AOB
   - Mountain Child said it’s still a big challenge for I/NGO staff to obtain the necessary approvals to be allowed to enter Nepal. It is not clear what the governments new requirements for I/NGO staff will be as of Sept.1st when commercial flights resume. Many of the airlines listed on the Governments’ flight schedule do not accept bookings yet or are unclear on what procedure/requirements will be applied to decide if passengers are eligible to enter Nepal.
   - ACF said the current movement restrictions due to COVID-19 seriously impact operations for I/NGO humanitarian staff because staff is unable to visit project sites or return. WFP clarified that this issue has been taken up by the Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) and UNRCO to try to resolve with the CCMC.
   - Customs clearance challenges: WFP informed that World Bank is hosting a meeting on August 31, with participation from UNICEF, UNFPA, GIZ and WFP, to discuss about issues agencies have faced to get customs clearance for COVID-19 supplies. Agencies interested to participate were asked to provide their email address to be invited for the meeting.
   - WHO announced they are supporting the Ministry of Health and Population with preparing a forecast for COVID-19 related supplies for the next 4 months. Agencies who have any COVID-19 supplies in the pipeline were asked to share the commodity quantity and related info with WHO.
   - WFP informed that logistics focal persons have been appointed in the Provinces to support partners in transport and storage services.

In case of other gaps, questions or issues, please do not hesitate to contact the Logistics Cluster:

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