
LOCATION	KABUL, online
DATE	01 February 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Working Group
PARTICIPANTS	Organization for Migration (IOM), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Emergency, Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Caritas, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Rescue, Medair, Médecine sans Frontières (MSF), Save the Children, Handicap International (HI), World Vision Afghanistan (WVI), Mercy Corps, World Health Organization (WHO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Afiat, Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & development (ACBAR)
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Review of the Previous Action Points (previous LWG on 04 Jan)2. Presentation on Medical Quality Control Exemption Letter3. Border Status Update and Customs Issues4. HI (ATLAS) Presentation5. Presentation on UNHRD6. Aviation Updates7. Shared Resources8. Discussion on the Logistic Impact of the Ban on National women NGO and INGO workers9. AOB

1. Previous Action Points:

- Partners expressed concerns over administrative delays with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MOFA) issuance of tax exemption certificates needed to import commodities. Partners communicated that different organizations are resorting to different engagement strategies with various ministries to shorten the lead times.
- Ongoing. The UN OMT has taken up Customs standardization and streamlining, and initial drafts are being prepared. Member UN organizations have been asked to share internal SOPs for sector-specific customs procedures for review and consolidation. Any partners interested in sharing information on customs procedures for joint discussion and consolidation should contact LWG.

2. Presentation on Medical Quality Control Exemption Letter

The following points were updated:

- The exemption is acquired and shared with NGOs.
- Efforts are made to shorten the process.
- NGOs can release the import by a guaranty letter.

3. Border Status Update and Custom Issue

- Border Status Update: the following are the border statuses as of 03 January 2023:

Border Point	Country	Status
Chaman Border (Spinboldak)	Pakistan/Afghanistan	Open for cargo and passenger
Torkham Border (Jalalabad)	Pakistan/Afghanistan	Limited
Hairaton Border (Mazar)	Uzbekistan/Afghanistan	Open for cargo
Torghundi Border (Hirat)	Turkmenistan/Afghanistan	Open for cargo movements only.
Islam Qala (Hirat)	Iran/Afghanistan	Open for both cargo and passengers
Sher Khan Bandar	Tajikistan/Afghanistan	Open for cargo
Aqina Border	Turkmenistan/Afghanistan	Open for cargo only
Darwaz	Tajikistan/ Afghanistan	Open for cargo only

- **Call for additional Border Crossing Points (BCPs):** Partners are encouraged to share with the LWG additional BCPs of concern if relevant to their operations. The LWG will investigate ways to monitor these BCPs and add them to the weekly monitoring table.

4. HI (ATLAS) Presentation

HI (ATLAS) presented their services on transportation and storage in the west region of the country, to the partners as follows:

- HI (ATLAS) provides Humanitarian Logistics Services for NGOs/INGOs free of charge.

- HI (ATLAS) storage hub in Herat has 600 m2 capacity; of which 200 m2 is temperature controlled and 400 m2 is normal storage. Storage services are provided for ten weeks at maximum.
- HI (ATLAS) Humanitarian Transportation covers four provinces: Herat, Badghis, Ghor, and Farah.
- On 11 January 2023, Atlas launched a survey to understand the main challenges in the storage and transportation of humanitarian goods and to assess the need for logistic support in other regions. 19 respondents participated in the survey: 7 from NNGOs and 12 from INGOs.
- **Some key results from the survey:**
 - 93% (13 out of 14 responses) responded on lack of storage as the main challenge.
 - 94% (15 out of 16 responses) responded that poor road conditions as the main challenge for Transportation
 - 50% of the participants voted for Need for Storage Facility in Bamiyan Province, and 50% voted for Need for Storage Facility in Kunduz Province.
 - 68% (13 out of 19 responses) voted for the need for Warehouse at Kabul Airport.
 - 63% (12 out of 19 responses) voted yes for the last-mile Transport.
- **Action Points for HI (ATLAS):**
 - Study the feasibility of set-up a storage platform in Bamiyan or Kunduz and the Kabul Airport.
 - HI ATLAS has already approached the airport authority and the customs department to understand all the required formalities and procedures to open a warehouse.
 - If all the conditions are positive, HI ATLAS will develop a proposal.
- **HI ATLAS Presentation** can be found here: <https://logcluster.org/document/afghanistan-logistics-working-group-hi-atlas-presentation1-february-2023>

5. Presentation on UNHRD

Walid Ibrahim from UNHRD presented the following points/information on UNHRD services:

- UNHRD provides storage and cargo consolidation services in Dubai for partners in Afghanistan. (UNHRD has been providing such services for over a decade now).
- Besides normal storage, the facility has temperature-controlled storage.
- Storage will be provided for “Passthrough” cargo only, and long-term storage is not provided.
- The typical procedure would be:
 - partner will request such service by e-providing information on the cargo through UNHRD online site.
 - partner will put the UNHRD storage location as their delivery point for their purchased goods.
 - UNHRD will provide storage and look at various options – commercial or chartered flights – to deliver the cargo to Afghanistan by consolidating various cargo from different partners.

- UNHRD does not process custom clearance on behalf of the partner.
- The storage facility is free of charge, but outbound operation costs plus 7% cost recovery will be charged to the partner.

Action Points:

- Partners who wish to receive such services should sign up on the UNHRD website.
- LWG should conduct a survey to measure the demand for UNHRD services.

6. Aviation Updates

UNHAS Domestic (Passenger and light cargo service)

- Passenger and cargo to all domestic destinations operational.
- For more information, please visit the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#), the LWG Website, the UNHAS User List, or contact UNHAS Customer Service at unhas-afg.customerservice@wfp.org and khalilullah.kakar@wfp.org

UNHAS International (Passenger and light cargo service)

- Islamabad airbridge operational
- Dushanbe airbridge operational
- Doha airbridge operational
- Dubai airbridge operational

UNHAS Airbridge User Survey Results

- Based on the UNHAS recent online survey conducted between 15 December 2022 to 10 January 2023, LWG, on behalf of UNHAS, requested all UNHAS users to share feedback about the continuation and preference of the Doha or Dubai flights beyond January 2023. The feedback was that the Doha and Dubai flights were popular and preferred.
- Based on the users' demand, **UNHAS will continue the flights to and from Doha and Dubai between February and March 2023 until further notice.**
- Please note that to save costs, UNHAS is working on a new schedule and the date of implementation, to be shared as soon as it is confirmed.
- UNHAS strongly advises ***passengers to and from Doha to book inward commercial flights arriving in Doha not later than 6:00 AM local time and onward commercial flights not earlier than 10:00 PM local time.***

UNAMA (Passenger service only)

- Almaty airbridge is operational.

Commercial Airlines (Passenger and cargo service)

- Mahan: Kabul — Teheran and Mashhad
- Taban: Kabul-Tehran and Mashhad, Kandahar-Mashhad
- Kish Air: Operated to Kandahar
- Ariana: Kabul — Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah, and Islamabad, AL Ain ANN UAE.
- KamAir: Kabul – Islamabad, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, Ankara

Freight Forwarders and Courier Services

- DHL: Not operating.
- FedEx: Not operating.
- UPS services: (**Operational (Move One authorized UPS services)**). For more information, please contact Move One Country Director, Richard Tagg at richard.tagg@moveoneinc.com or visit <https://www.moveoneinc.com/>

ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB)

- ECHO 2023 Humanitarian Air Bridge planning is currently ongoing.
- For more information, please reach out to thibault.larose@echofield.eu and alexandre.veron@rlh.coop

PACTEC:

- Operational. For more details regarding PACTEC services and flight schedules, kindly reach out to Sayed Hamid Hashimi Booking/ Flight following Manager bookingkbl@pactec.net, John Woodberry PACTEC Country Director jwoodberry@pactec.net

7. Shared Resources Forum

- IRC is looking for information on RUTFs suppliers: Muhammad Ziad Muhammad.Ziad@rescue.org
- Intersos is looking for cold chain storage for duration of one month: Damien Chateau logistics.afghanistan@intersos.org.
- ICF is looking for information on packaging waste recycling: Samantha Brangeon: Samantha.brangeon@icf.com
- Save the Children is looking for RCW50 refrigerator, cool boxes and information on vehicle rental rates in different provinces: Khairuddin Khaikhwa khairuddin.khairkhwa@savethechildren.org, Allan Tuazon Allan.Tuazon@savethechildren.org
- DRC is looking for suppliers of mining explosive material: Hamidullah Sediqi hamidullah.sediqi@drc.ngo
- Medair is looking for old and used electronic equipment recycling company: Jorg Kunz jorg.kunz@medair.org

- **IMC** is looking for pre-qualified medical/pharma vendors: Faisal Bariyaly mbariyaly@InternationalMedicalCorps.org
- **Medair** is looking into warehouse options for its projects in Uruzgan: Jorg Kunz jorg.kunz@medair.org
- **International Medical Corps** is looking for vehicle rental vendors in Central, Eastern and Northern regions of Afghanistan: Sohail Ahmad sohailahmed@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

8. Discussion on the Logistic Impacts of the Ban on National women NGO and INGO workers

Action points from the Ad Hoc HCT/UNCT Meeting on 31 December 2022 and Ad Hoc ICCT were shared and discussed including: OCHA and ACBAR key advocacy messages to the DFA; ICCT and RHT actions on humanitarian organization's internal review and impact monitoring; clarification on the three-week Operational Pause; and the continuation of salaries & benefits for female staff.

The LWG assessed the impact of the DFA decree banning female aid staff from working for NGOs on partner logistic operations. Discussions were held on partner reliance on the commercial logistics sector; dependence on humanitarian logistics support organizations; partner internal organizational logistics staffing across procurement, warehousing, transportation, contracting and partner contingency planning.

Partners raised no major concerns; however, it was agreed that the LWG would continue to monitor closely for unanticipated gaps and secondary effects of reduced commercial or humanitarian logistics capacity resultant of potential widening of decree enforcement, stronger restrictions on female staffing, or larger changes to humanitarian response programming.

The reporting of any logistics impediments due to the decree was emphasized and all partners were encouraged to report any potential issues to the LWG, OCHA, and the Humanitarian Access Group.

9. AOB

- Any partners who would like to request dedicated time to present their specific logistics challenges in next LWG Coordination Meeting can please contact the LWG Team.
- The next Logistic Working Group coordination meeting – *March 2023, date to be confirmed and announced by LWG.*

Meeting Minutes, 01 February 2023

Kabul, Afghanistan



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