Meeting Minutes, 11 April 2023

Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION	Mogadishu, Online
DATE	11 April 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), Concern Worldwide, Danish Red Cross (DRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), GREDO, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Islamic Relief Somalia, Medair, Oxfam, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Oxfam, Secours Islamique France (SIF), Save the Children, Somaushelp Somalia, Trocaire, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Vision.
ACTION POINTS	• The Logistics Cluster to continue to share updates on access restrictions. • The Logistics Cluster to continue to share updates on fuel prices. • The Logistics Cluster to continue to share weekly Market Alerts. • The Logistics Cluster to continue to share key messages/action points of other Clusters in the bi-weekly Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings. • The Logistics Cluster, in cooperation with IMPACCT, to continue to organize technical working group meetings on Import and Customs Clearance. • The Logistics Cluster to share a training plan for 2023. • The Logistics Cluster to conduct an assessment to evaluate the average price for storing food and other commodities in different regions across Somalia.
AGENDA	1. Action Points Review 2. Situation Update 3. Coordination 4. Common Logistics Services 5. Information Management 6. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 14 March were reviewed:

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to share updates on access restrictions across Somalia (road and airstrip accessibility). **[Ongoing]**
- The Logistics Cluster will continue to share monthly reports on fuel prices across Somalia via the Logistics Cluster mailing list and the Logistics Cluster Website. **[Ongoing]**

- The Logistics Cluster will start sharing weekly Market Alerts, and Supply Chain Updates via the Logistics Cluster mailing list and on the Logistics Cluster Website. **[Ongoing]**
- The Logistics Cluster to conduct an assessment to evaluate the average price for storing food and other commodities in different regions across Somalia. **[Ongoing]**
- The Logistics Cluster to continue to share key messages/action points of the ICCG in the bi-weekly Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings. **[Ongoing]**
- The Logistics Cluster, in cooperation with IMPACCT, to continue to organize technical working group meetings on Import and Customs Clearance. **[Ongoing]**
- The Logistics Cluster to share a training plan for 2023. **[Ongoing]**
- The Logistics Cluster to organize a subnational coordination meeting in Garowe. **[Completed]**

2. Situation Update

Physical Transport Network Updates:

- Physical access across Somalia remains unchanged. The following roads remain closed or inaccessible: (1) Kismayo-Afmadow-Qoqani-Dobley (2) Kismayo-Bardere-Baidoa (3) Kismayo – Barawe (4) Baidoa-Dollow (5) Mogadishu - Baidoa (6) Mogadishu – Jowhar – Buloburte – Beletweyne (7) Hobyo – Adado – Galkayo and (8) Berbera–Las Anod.
- Currently, there is no warning issued for any other roads.

Air Transport Updates:

- The airstrips in Berdale is temporarily inaccessible due to insecurity.
- Qansaxdhere is open for fixed wing aircraft. However, the airstrip is not in good condition and therefore poses a challenge to landing an aircraft.
- Partners can reach out to the Logistics Cluster via somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org to share their transportation needs, particularly in areas that are hard to reach, including Buurhakaba, Jalalaqsi, Mahas and Qansaxdhere.

Sea Transport Updates:

- All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo and Garacard.
- However, congestion at Berbera and Bosasso seaports continue to be a challenge. Restrictions on road movements from Somaliland means that more items are being shipped to Bosasso instead of Berbera.
- WFP time-chartered vessel MV Zehrah 1 is currently in Mombasa. The upcoming voyage vessel schedule, with arrival and departure dates along with the deadlines for submitting documentation will be shared with all partners via email and published on the Logistics Cluster website.
- Partners are encouraged to take advantage of the vessel service facilitated by the Logistics Cluster, especially to move cargo from the North to the South, as it is more cost-efficient than moving cargo by air.

Relief Materials Pipeline and Sourcing:

For further reference and information, below is a summary of WFP's weekly analysis:

- **Commodity Prices:** Overall prices have remained relatively stable in comparison to the previous week with food and non-food items exhibiting mixed trends in most states except in Jubaland, Southwest, and Galmudug states. In Hirshabelle, the price of most commodities have increased due to additional demand from the populations living in newly accessible areas. Since the supply of items resumed in the villages of Puntland affected by Gu rains, the prices of most commodities experienced a decrease. In Mogadishu due to flash floods damaging the farm produce, a slight (2-5%) increase in local cereal (white maize & red sorghum) prices was recorded.
- Except in Puntland and Southwest, the prices of local cereal has remained stable in most states while the price of white maize experienced an increase in Southwest (by 2%) and Puntland (by 4%) per Kg. These recorded increases in prices are attributable to depletion of cereal stocks owing to consecutive poor harvesting seasons in the southern parts and transportation difficulties plus due to new taxes imposed by the local insurgents followed by the ongoing crisis in Puntland.
- **Availability:** There was sufficient supplies of essential food items in most markets throughout Somalia. However, the ongoing Gu rains damaged a number of roads affecting the availability of stocks in some markets. For example, essential vegetables were reportedly not available at the Harardhere market in Galmudug.
- **Market resilience:** Most parts of Somalia had good supply chain resilience. Most merchants have thus purchased re-stocks to meet expected increase in demand for commodities during the month of Ramadhan.
- **Border and Supply Chain:** Trade and commodity transportation into Somalia was robust with most of the roads being accessible and transportation services running smoothly as most parts of the country have reported receiving light to moderate rains with flooding being reported in some areas. Some roads in Southwest in the Qurajoma area were inaccessible. Also, the route between Luuq and Mogadishu in Jubaland is not accessible as a result of heavy rains.
- The Logistics Cluster is sharing weekly Market Alerts, and Supply Chain Updates via the Logistics Cluster mailing list and publishing the documents on the Logistics Cluster Website. Partners wishing to be added to the Logistics Cluster mailing list can send a request to somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.

3. Coordination

Import and Customs Clearance Technical Working Group Update

- The Logistics Cluster, in cooperation with the IMPACCT, continues to facilitate the Import and Customs Clearance Technical Working group.

Purpose of the Technical Working Group:

- Identify constraints to import humanitarian relief aid

- Develop inter-agency discussion points for the government on proposals to enhance the procedures and mitigate the constraints
- Advocate and convey humanitarian partners feedback and their concerns on behalf of the wider humanitarian community

Current list of members

- Medair, ICRC, UNICEF, Save the Children, UNFPA, WFP, IMC, UNHCR, IOM, WHO, MSF, FAO, World Food Programme and World Vision**.**

Progress Update

- Mapping of the end-to-end process to import humanitarian aid into Somalia (on-going)
- Tax exemption analysis June to December 2022 (finalized and presented)

Four main constraints identified so far:

- Pre-shipment inspection (PSI) certificate
- Quality assurance activities by the Somalia Bureau of Standards (SoBS)
- Tax exemption certificate
- Suspension of the Electronic Cargo Tracking Number (ECTN)

Next steps:

- Flow chart to map out the Import and Customs Clearance Process to be updated (Logistics Cluster)
- Quality assurance activities: Implementation to be clarified (WHO)
- Pre-shipment inspection certificate: Finalization of the inter-agency negotiations points (Technical Working Group)
- Workshop with the government entities involved in the process (date and agenda to defined by the Technical Working Group).
- Training of humanitarian partners on the import and customs clearance (date and agenda to be discussed).
- Next meeting of the technical working group: Mid May-2023.

4. Common Logistics Services

- Since 2020, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport of over 5,333mt of cargo (excluding shunting) for 27 organizations on a free-to-user basis.
- In 2023, 1,371 mt of supplies (excluding shunting) were transportedon behalf of 16 organizations to 14 locations.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to support the humanitarian community in reaching hard-to-reach locations. This is being done in cooperation with UNHAS and other service providers where the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 278 mt between September and December 2022 to 6 hard-to-reach locations: Afmadow, Beletweyne, Buurhakaba, Jalalaqsi, Mahas and Qansaxdhere. Currently, the majority of requests for airlifts are for transport to the southern regions.

- The Logistics Cluster continues to participate in crucial decision-making forums on behalf of the humanitarian community. The Logistics Cluster continuous to attend the weekly Drought Operations and Coordination Centre (DOCC) and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings.
- Access remains a concern due to insecurity: there is a high dependency on airlifts and increased cost of transportation.

5. Information Management

Diesel Prices

- The average price of diesel in March 2023 in Somalia was 1.02USD/l. This is a price decrease of 1 percent between February and March 2023.
- In March 2023, a diesel price increase was recorded in Juba/Afmadow region from 1.30USD/l to 1.31USD/l (+0.8%), Shabelle/Jowhar region from 1.00USD/l to 1.10USD/l (+10%) and in NW/Hargeisa region from 1.05USD/l to 1.06USD/l (+1%). Diesel price decreases were observed in Banaadir/Mogadishu region from 1.00USD/l to 0.96USD/l (-4%), Central/Galkayo region from 1.00USD/l to 0.93USD/l (-7%), Garowe/Nugaal region from 0.90USD/l to 0.88USD/l (-3%) and NE/Bosasso region from 0.82USD/l to 0.80USD/l (-2%).
- The diesel price has remained stable in the Sorghum Belt/Baidoa region (1.13USD/l).

A1 Jet Fuel

- The average price of A1 Jet Fuel in March 2023 was 1.18USD/l. There has been no price increase or decrease recorded between January and March 2023. This means that so far the price has remained stable in 2023.
- For any questions, partners can directly contact annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org

Survey on Fleet Benchmarking

- In cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Logistics Cluster conducted a survey on fleet benchmarking. The aim of the survey was (1) to assess the market rate of rented vehicles per types and contract modalities (2) have a better understanding of the market while agreeing on a benchmarking per vehicle/contract type for future tendering process and (3) supporting organizations with negotiations and awarding both individuals and companies. The results of the survey are summarized below:
    - 100 percent of the partners (11 in total) who responded confirmed that they are currently renting vehicles
    - 45 percent of the partners are mostly renting minivans, 28 percent are renting SUV (e.g Toyota Land Cruiser), and the remaining 27 pecent are renting other vehicles including sedan, double cabin etc.
    - 55 percent of the partners are sourcing vehicles through a negotiated procurement process while 45 percent are sourcing vehicles through an open procurement process.

- According to the results, the average rate paid per type of vehicle per month is: (1) Minivan: 1060 USD (2) Double/Single Cabin Pick: 1125 USD (3) Sedan/Small Car: 833USD and (4) SUV: 1200USD
- 64 percent of the partners declared that their rate does not have distance ceiling.
- Partners make use of different type of contracts to rent vehicles: 27 percent of partners use framework contracts with vehicle companies, another 27 percent use fixed contracts with vehicle companies and 36 percent use single contracts directly with each individual vehicle owner.
- 55 percent of the partners declared have used daily rates, while 45 percent of the partners have contracts in place for monthly rates.
- While 73 percent of the partners are open for pooling vehicles, the remaining 27 percent are not open to pool vehicles with other organizations. This is due to the differences in organizations in terms of their policies and procedures.

6. AOB

All requests (including information management requests) to be directed to somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 25 April at 11:00 am EAT, online

Contacts

Otavio Costa	*Logistics Cluster Coordinator*	otavio.costa@wfp.org
Joseantonio Carino	*Logistics Officer*	joseantonio.carino@wfp.org
Uttam Das	*Logistics Officer*	uttam.das@wfp.org
Anne-Kathrin Landherr	*Information Management Officer*	annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org