Operation Overview, March 2023

Somalia

Background

- Several areas of Somalia received moderate rains in the week starting 12 March, with the heaviest rainfall recorded in Gedo and Bay regions, particularly in Baardheere, Wanle Wayne, Luuq and Doolow districts.
- Partners have raised concerns over a likely deterioration of the living conditions, particularly for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in overcrowded settlements with inadequate shelter.
- The rains also come at a time when partners are struggling with a surge in disease outbreaks, including acute watery diarrhoea/cholera, and measles cases, which are likely to increase due to the risk of people consuming contaminated water and lack of adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities and services.

Flooded street in Dhuusamarreeb after heavy rains on 22 March. Photo: OCHA

- To support the humanitarian community to reach the affected population in Somalia, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, the Logistics Cluster will continue its common services and operational support to address the growing needs, fill gaps and ensure effective and timely delivery of assistance in Somalia.

Operational Highlights

Coordination

- In March, the Logistics Cluster held two coordination meetings on 14 and 28 March 2023. In addition, the Logistics Cluster facilitated its seventh, eight and ninth technical working group meeting in cooperation with IMPACCT on 1, 15 and 31 of March. The meetings attained eleven participating organisations: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Importation and Customs Clearance Together (IMPACCT), Logistics Cluster, Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Medical Corps, World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision, and the World Food Programme (WFP). During the meetings, the technical working group started drafting recommendations on the Compliance and Submission of Certificate of Safety of the COTECNA Company issued for Somaliland.
- Furthermore, the Logistics Cluster continues to advocate, with the support of OCHA, donors and other key stakeholders, for the reopening of the Kenya-Somalia border as a key enabling factor to enable cost-effective delivery of life-saving food and non-food items (NFIs) to key areas affected by the drought, such as Balet Hawa, Ceel Waak, Dhobley and Dollow. The Kenyan Government approved the border crossing by road from Kenya to Somalia from 13 March to 31 March 2023. While some 700mt of cargo could be transported across the border, heavy rainfall in Kenya delayed the cross-border movement from Kenya to Somalia by road. The Logistics Cluster through WFP is currently waiting for authorization from the Kenyan authorities to use the border for an additional two weeks.
- Finally, the Logistics Cluster seeks to utilize its experience, expertise and wide network of partners to strengthen national logistics capacity and promote a shared methodology towards logistics preparedness in 2023. Following a meeting with partners on current capacity gaps and needs, the Logistics Cluster shared a survey with all the partners to obtain more detailed information on identified gaps and trainings required. The Logistics Cluster is currently in the process of developing a training plan for 2023 which will be shared between mid and end of April 2023.

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Information Management

- Throughout March 2023, the Logistics Cluster published eleven information management products, including meeting minutes, maps and situation updates on the operational website. The key products were:
    - Meeting minutes from the Logistics Cluster National Coordination meetings, which were held on 28 of February and 14 of March.
    - In addition, the Logistics Cluster has published the monthly operations overview for February 2023 on the Logistics Cluster operational website, providing an overview of key Logistics Cluster highlights under Coordination, Information Management and Common Services.
    - Furthermore, the Logistics Cluster published an infographic summarizing key achievements of the Logistics Cluster in January and February 2023 (metric tonnes transported, number of Information Management published, number of locations reached etc.).
    - Moreover, the Logistics Cluster published the updated sea transport schedule for the month of March 2023 detailing planned departure and arrival dates of the vessel across Somalia.
    - In addition, the Logistics Cluster published the weekly joint market and supply chain update covering the weeks from 25 February-04 March, 5-11 March, 12-18 March and 19-25 March.
    - Finally, the Logistics Cluster has published the monthly fuel report for February 2023 on the Logistics Cluster operational website, analyzing the trends in fuel prices across the various regions and also providing an overview of the evolution of jet fuel prices.

Common Services

- In March 2023, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 1023 mt (679mt by sea and 345mt by air) of humanitarian cargo (Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Protection, SNFI and Wash) to 17 destinations (Adado, Afmadow, Baidoa, Balet Hawa, Baardhere, Beletweyne, Bosasso, Dollow, El-Wak, El-Berde, Galkayo, Garowe, Guriel, Hobyo, Huddur, Jowhar and Qansaxdhere), supporting a total of 13 organizations during the month (ACF, Concern, FAO, Danish Red Cross, GREDO, IMC, IOM, KAAH, Save the Somali Women and Children, SODMA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO).
- For the use of the humanitarian community in Somalia, WFP, UNHAS and the Logistics Cluster mobilized a helicopter to help deliver assistance in hard-to-reach areas. From September 2022 to February 2023, this air asset was used to transport over 252 mt to six hard-to-reach locations: El-Buur, Haradheere, Buurhakaba, Jalalaqsi, Mahas and Qansaxdhere.

Contacts

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