Meeting Minutes, 29 March 2023

Kabul, Afghanistan

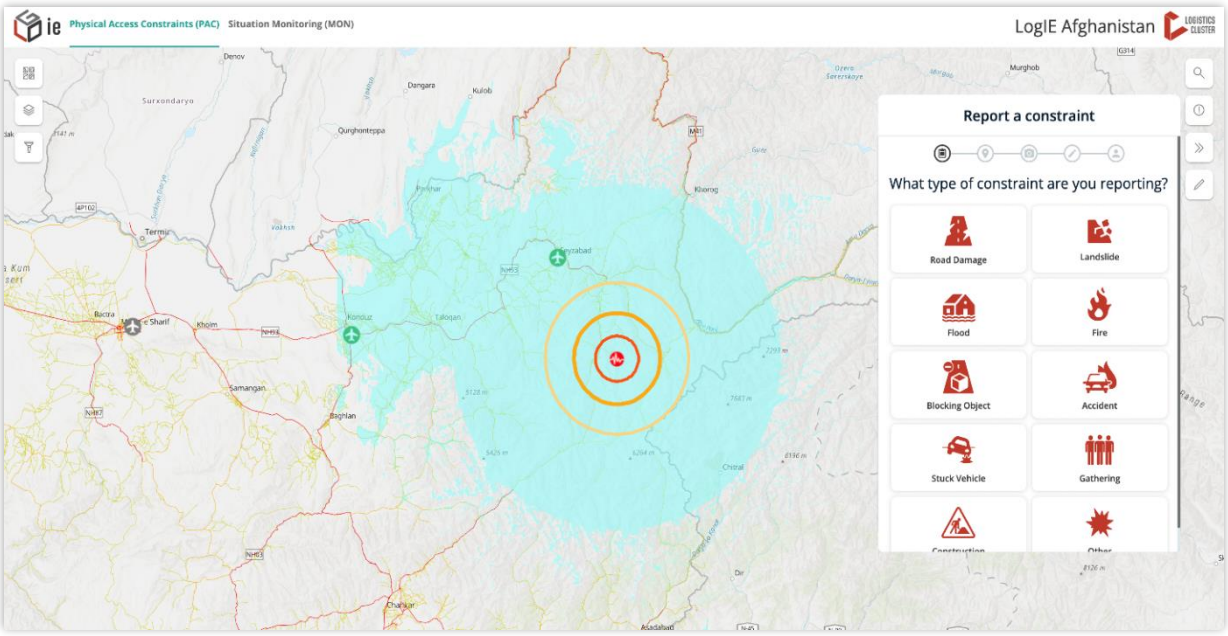
LOCATION	KABUL, online
DATE	29 March 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Working Group
PARTICIPANTS	Organization for Migration (IOM), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Emergency, Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Caritas, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Rescue, Medair, Médicine 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	1. Recap of Previous Action Points (from LWG meeting on Feb 1, 2023) 2. Earthquake updates & Log.IE 3. UNHRD Survey: Logistics Support for the Humanitarian Community 4. Updates on Border Status and Customs Issues 5. Aviation-Related Updates 6. Discussion on Shared Resources 7. PU-AMI: Car Rental Survey 8. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Recap of Previous Action Points:

- Ongoing—Partners expressed concerns over bureaucratic 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 in efforts to shorten the lead times. Partners are requested to report any experienced challenges to the LWG. LWG will continue to engage with key partners and customs authorities on this issue.
- Customs standardization and streamlining have been taken up by the United Nations Operations Management Team (UN OMT). 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.
- UNHRD Survey: Logistics Support for the Humanitarian Community
- PU-AMI Survey: Fleet and vehicle survey

2. Earthquake Updates & Log.IE:

- The U.S. Geological Survey reported a magnitude 6.5 earthquake with epicentre 40km south-southeast of Jurm district in Afghanistan at a depth of 187km hit the region on 21 March 2023.
- No reports of significant road closures or access constraints; further updates will be provided as search and rescue teams reach more affected villages.
- OCHA conducted field assessments in affected areas and is preparing a draft preparedness plan. It requested partner organisations to share their lessons learned during the earthquake emergency. Comments were due by the end of March.
- The Logistics Information Exchange (Log:IE) platform developed by the Global Logistics Cluster will serve as a logistics preparedness tool and be trailed in the coming months with the LWG partners to facilitate near real-time data collection of access constraints that may affect logistics operations in Afghanistan.
- The LWG will provide some training related to Log.IE tool to partners for their better understanding.
- Log:IE is live and accessible for the logistics community on the Afghanistan Country Page here: [LogIE Afghanistan (logcluster.org)]



3. UNHRD Survey: Logistics Support for the Humanitarian Community

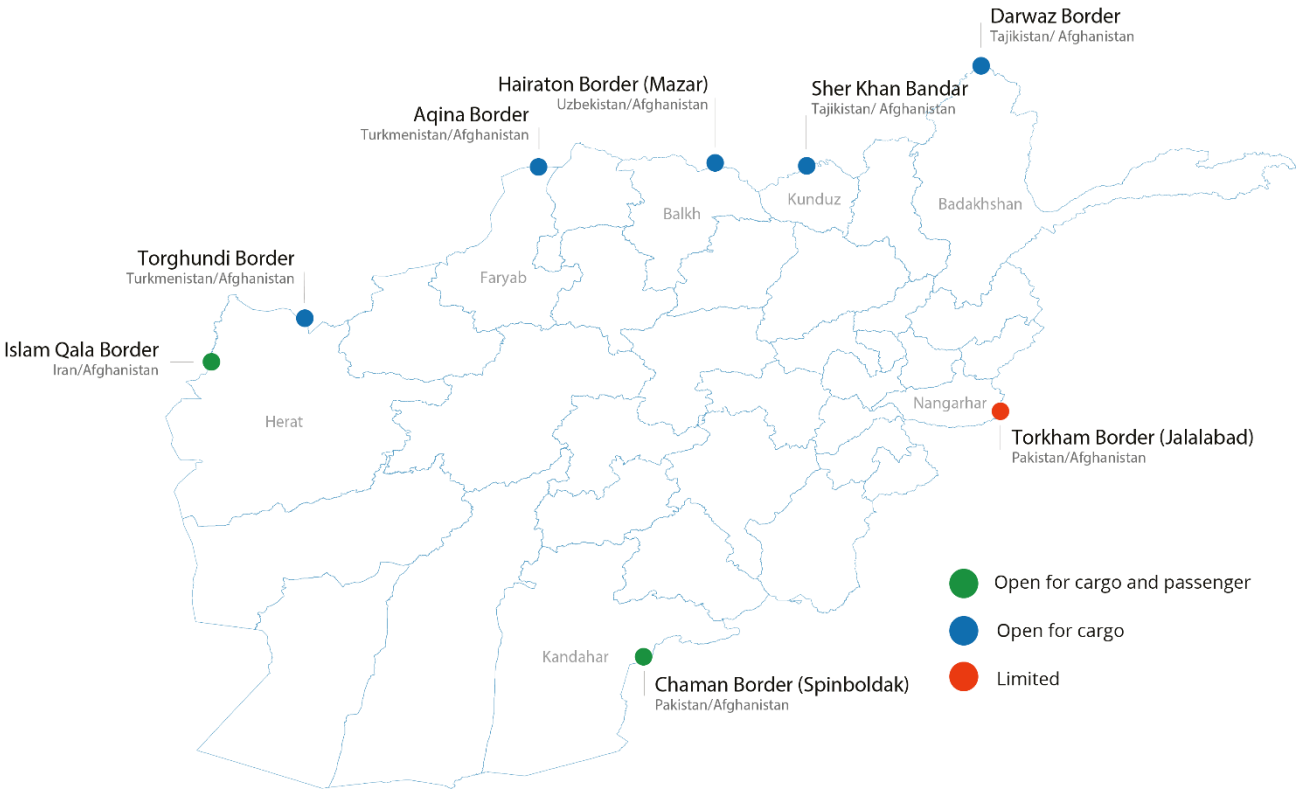
- The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) is a global network of hubs facilitating its partners' emergency preparedness and response efforts. Accessible to all partners, including UN agencies, NGOs, and governments, UNHRD provides logistical support, storage, and transport of relief items to aid

in timely and efficient humanitarian assistance. This survey aims to evaluate the current and potential demand for improving the financial accessibility of WFP air and ocean freight from UNHRD Dubai to Afghanistan through cargo consolidation and cost-sharing between partners.

- Please click the following link to complete the UNHRD Survey Form.
- For more information about UNHRD, please click: Home page | UNHRD

4. Updates on Borders and Customs Issue

- Border Status Update: the following are the border statuses as of 29 March 2023:



- **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.

5. Aviation-Related Updates

Agency	Service	Current Status	Contact
UNHAS Domestic	Passenger and light cargo service	Passenger and cargo to all domestic destinations: **Operational.**	• For more info, please visit the Humanitarian Booking Hub • Afghanistan Country Page; UNHAS User list • UNHAS Customer Service at unhas-afg.customerservice@wfp.org and khalilullah.kakar@wfp.org
UNHAS International	Passenger and light cargo service	Islamabad, Dushanbe , Doha, Dubai airbridges: **Operational.**	
UNAMA	Passenger service only	Almaty airbridge: **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	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 visit https://www.moveoneinc.com/
ECHO Humanitarian			• For more information, please reach out to thibault.larose@echofield.eu and alexandre.veron@rlh.coop

Air Bridge (HAB)			
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

6. 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
    - vehicle rental vendors in Central, Eastern and Northern regions of Afghanistan: sohailahmed@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

7. PU-AMI-PU-AMI Fleet and vehicle Survey

- PU-AMI developed a survey for the fleet and vehicle management. During the meeting Murtaza on behalf of PU-AMI shortly described the survey to the Logistics Working Group (LWG) partners. The survey will help PU-AMI and other NGOs in terms of vehicle maintenance, rent.
- Please click to the following link for accessing the survey: PU-AMI Fleet and vehicle Survey . Kindly contact: Muhanad Mowafq, at log.co@premiere-urgence-afg.org for any technical issue related the survey link.

8. Assessing the Impact of the De-facto Authorities (DFA) Decree Banning Female Aid Staff Working for NGOs on Partner Logistics

Action points from the Ad Hoc Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)/ United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Meeting on 31 December 2022 and Ad Hoc Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) were shared and discussed including: OCHA and ACBAR key advocacy messages to the DFA; ICCT and the Regional Humanitarian Team (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.

No major concerns were raised by partners; 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.
- Next Logistics Working Group Coordination Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 26 April, at 11:00h Kabul time.**

Contacts

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