Meeting Minutes, 26 July 2023

Kabul, Afghanistan

LOCATION	KABUL, online
DATE	26 July 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), AIRLINK, Pactec, Management Science for Health (MSH), iMMAP
AGENDA	1. Recap of Previous Action Points (from LWG meeting on July 05, 2023) • *Update on Contacting HLS Team* 2. Update from Customs Clearance Meeting 3. iMMAP Monthly Earthquake 4. Updates on Border Status • *Khaf-Herat Railway* 5. Aviation-Related Update 6. Shared Resources Updates 7. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Recap of Previous Action Points:

- Ongoing — Customs standardization and streamlining has been taken up by the United Nations Operations Management Team (UN OMT). Member UN organizations have been asked to share internal Standard Operating Procedures (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 the Logistics Working Group (LWG).
- Customs and Importation Challenges: A "sub-group" is created by LWG for customs-related challenges and import restrictions.
- GNA Questionnaire Development: As a next step on GNA, a questionnaire will be shared with partners for their responses. This questionnaire will communicate with partners in the coming weeks.

- Humanitarian Logistics Services (HLS) team email address: Some partners experienced technical issues related to the HLS team email address and they were not able to send an email to the mail. The issue is resolved. Now the partners can easily reach out to the HLS team through the following email address: HLS_AFG@wfp.org

2. Update from Customs Clearance and Importation Challenges meeting:

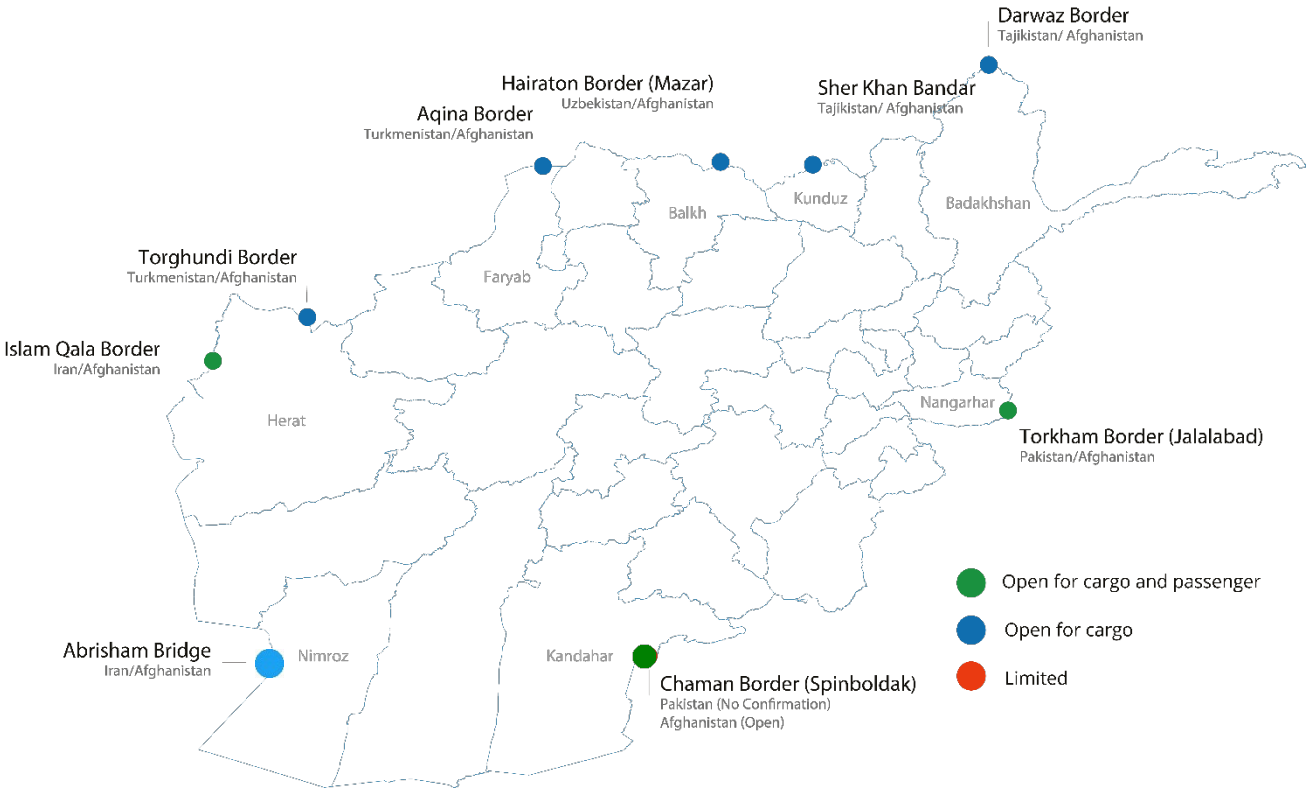
- Some partners shared challenges and constraints related to import and customs with the LWG team, the initial meeting on customs clearance and import challenges took place on 19 July 2023. Based on the discussion and challenges during the meeting a "sub-group" was created by LWG for further discussion on customs-related challenges, import restrictions and impact on the operations.
  All partners are encouraged to contact the LWG team if interested in sharing information and being involved in the customs and import challenges discussion.

3. iMMAP Monthly Earthquake Map:

This map was introduced by iMMAP GIS officer during the LWG coordination meeting. This map provides a detailed overview of earthquakes in Afghanistan and 200km beyond its borders. To assist in understanding the magnitude and distribution of these earthquake events, iMMAP created a comprehensive map for the period of January to June 2023, that highlights their occurrences and provides essential information that can aid in humanitarian planning and preparedness. Please find the earthquake map in the following link: Afghanistan: Earthquake Events Overview (June 2023) – iMMAP.

4. Updates on Borders and Customs Issue

- Border Status Update: the following are the border statuses as of 26 July 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.

Additional information regarding movements at points of entry can also be found from IOM DTMs monthly flow monitoring here.

Khaf-Herat Railway:

- New section of the Khaf-Herat railway project has been launched to link Khaf in north-eastern Iran to Rozanak in Afghanistan's Herat Province. The inauguration ceremony of the strategic railway section took place in a ceremony on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 with officials from both sides in attendance. This railway was mainly implemented by the Islamic Republic of Iran under a tripartite agreement between Iran, Afghanistan, and India, in order to use the capacities of Iran's Chabahar port for expanding trade exchanges with Afghanistan.

Benefits:

- **Transportation Improvement:** This railway will improve passengers and goods transportation. Yearly will transport 1 million passengers and more than 6 million tons of goods.
- **Shipment cost reduction:** Will help in reducing shipment cost.
- **Impact on boarder traffic:** Remove border bottlenecks and reduce border traffic in Islam Qala.
- **International Market opportunity:** It will connect Afghanistan to international market because this railway is running through China, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Turkey to Europe.

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5. Aviation-Related Updates

UNHAS Domestic (Passenger and light cargo service)

- Passenger and cargo to all domestic destinations operational.

UNHAS International (Passenger and light cargo service)

- Islamabad airbridge operational
- Dushanbe airbridge operational
- Doha airbridge operational
- Dubai airbridge is operational through Al Maktoum International Airport

- 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

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

- 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)

- 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

6. Shared Resources Forum

- **IRC** is looking for information on RUTFs suppliers: Muhammad Ziad Muhammad.Ziad@rescue.org
- **DRC** is looking for suppliers of mining supplies: Hamidullah Sediqi hamidullah.sediqi@drc.ngo
- **Save the Children** is looking for information on vehicle rental rates in different provinces: Allan Tuazon Allan.Tuazon@savethechildren.org

- **Logistics Impact of Ban on Female National Staff Workers:**

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.

The LWG continues to monitor closely for unanticipated gaps and secondary effects of reduced commercial or humanitarian logistics capacity resulting in the potential widening of decree enforcement, stronger restrictions on female staffing, or larger changes to humanitarian response programming.

8. AOB

- Any partners who would like to request dedicated time to present their specific logistics challenges and/or topics for the humanitarian community in next LWG Coordination Meeting should contact the LWG Team.
- The next Logistic Working Group coordination meeting will be held on: **Wednesday, 30 August 11:00h Kabul time.**

Quick Links

Logistics Working Group Web Page: Afghanistan | Logistics Cluster Website

WFP Service Market Place (SMP): Service Marketplace | Delivering humanitarian assistance services

UNHRD Partner Portal: Home page | UNHRD

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