Meeting Minutes, 1 August 2023

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

LOCATION	Addis Ababa, in-person
DATE	1 August 2023
CHAIR	• Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) Adviser • Andrea Rosales, Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	African Humanitarian aid and Development Agency (AHADA), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Concern Worldwide (CWW), Danish Red Cross (DRC), ECMDC, Hingo Forum, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), GOAL Ethiopia, NRC, Plan International, Save the Children International, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Officer for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF0, Wearealight, World Vision International (WVI)
ACTION POINTS	• Partners to share regular reports with the Logistics Cluster about the confirmation of the arrival of their cargo at the destination in Tigray by writing to ethiopia.humanitarianconvoys@wfp.org
AGENDA	• OCHA AWG Updates • WASH Cluster Updates • Partners Updates - AIRD • Situation Updates • Logistics Cluster Updates • AOB

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LOGISTICS CLUSTER

1. OCHA Access Working Group Updates

- **Tigray**: Most of the areas in the region remain accessible. Some areas bordering Eritrea (Tahtay Adiyabo, Egela and Erob Woredas) however remain hard-to-reach areas.
- Access to Western and Southern Zones (contested areas) from the other part of the Tigray region is still not possible. The insecurity in the Kobo area temporarily impacted movement to southern Tigray.
- It was reported that access to Western and Southern Zones from the other part of the Tigray region is challenging. The security situation in Kobo also affected the movement to Tigray through Alamata.
- **Amhara**: OCHA mentioned that apart from the two woredas in Waghemra (Abergele and Tsegebaji) most of the areas remain accessible.
- The number of road closures being reported have increased in the past weeks, in 5 zones of the region according to OCHA.
- The areas include the North Wollo (Woldia and Kobo), South Wollo, North Shewa Zones (Shoa Robit), East and West Gojam (Adete Town and Yilmana dense), and Central Gondar.
- Partners were highly recommended to take extra precautions and receive updates from their security focal points, UNDSS or OCHA before moving to these areas.
- **Benishangul Gumuz**: The security and access status has improved in most locations of the region.
- Access to Kamashi Zone from Assosa is not possible currently due to the rainy season and the absence of bridges on most rivers that are on the road between Assosa and Kamashi towns (physical constraint).
- As of July 14, the challenges in accessing Guba Woreda from Gilgel Beles town side have been successfully resolved.
- Additionally, the Mao Komo Special Woreda remains accessible as of the third week of July.
- For further updates on access partners can reach out to christopher.orina@un.org

2. WASH Cluster Updates

- The WASH Cluster shared there are 20 million people in need of emergency WASH services which is a big increase from the past two years. So far, 11.9 million people have been targeted for assistance, and four million people have been reached.
- The WASH Cluster works with 70 partners, including government counterparts, INGOs, NGOs, and international organizations.
- The WASH Cluster faces several main challenges. The scope of needs is substantial, but the response capacity is constrained. While the number of WASH partners has increased, there remains a deficiency in partners for some critical areas. Additionally, the hygiene and NFI response falls under the response for water-related needs.
- The WASH Cluster is calling for an "all-hands-on-deck" approach to the Cholera response, prioritizing the use of water treatment chemicals and working with humanitarian partners to reduce water trucking and increase durable solutions.
- The WASH Cluster urged partners to share their experiences and challenges related to WASH operations. For further information, partners can contact the WASH Cluster Coordinator at lanquez@unicef.org

3. Partner Updates - AIRD

- African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD) is an international NGO with a long history of providing humanitarian assistance in Africa. AIRD has a strong focus on logistics and WASH and has implemented a number of successful projects in these areas.
- In Ethiopia, AIRD is currently implementing two WASH and NFI projects in the Afar Region. These projects are funded by BHA and USAID targeting 37,500 people. The projects aim to improve access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, and to provide essential non-food items (NFIs) to vulnerable people.
- For further information, partners can contact Ethiopia.Program@airdinternational.org or for further information, partners can contact Ethiopia.Program@airdinternational.org or billy.m@airdinternational.org

4. Situation Updates

Flood Updates

- Partners were informed that 480,000 people across nine regions are likely to be displaced by Kiremt (June–September) floods. A contingency plan has been finalized to guide flood preparedness and response.
- Partners were also informed that on August 2, 2023, OCHA will debrief humanitarian partners on the 2023 Belg season assessment results. The debriefing will focus on the recent multiagency 2023 'Belg'/'Gu' season assessment findings and recommendations.
- For further information partners can contact letyibelu@un.org.

Cholera Updates

- The Logistics Cluster shared that a cholera outbreak has been identified in the Amhara region, according to WHO reports. In Quara district, West Gondar Zone, most cases (>90%) have been documented.
- Due to the substantial number of IDPs, refugees, and returnees from Sudan, there is an increased danger of cholera. There are currently three isolation centres: Bahir Dar, Gondar, and Gendawuha (near Metema).

5. Logistics Cluster Updates

Cargo Movement to Tigray Updates

- The Logistics Cluster informed that it continued to keep track of the cargo arriving at Tigray.
- In July, 37 trucks reported arrival into Tigray on behalf of 8 partners containing Nutrition (400 MT), Mixed cargo (212 MT), ES/NFI (160 MT), Health (29 MT), Agriculture (20 MT), and General operations items (5 MT).
- Partners were informed that 32 Trucks arrived via Semera – Mekelle corridor,3 Trucks via Gondar – Shire corridor, and 2 Trucks via Kombolcha – Mekelle corridor.
- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that the Information Network Security Agency (INSA) Support Letters are still required for IT equipment transportation.
- Logistics Cluster informed that the Semera-Mekelle corridor remains open. In the past week 22 trucks of a partner arrived in Mekelle with a total of 476 MT of assorted items.
- The Logistics Cluster also shared that there were some security constraints reported in North Gondar and Central Gondar (Gedebay Kebele) along the Gondar-Mekelle corridor.
- Additionally, there are significant security concerns being reported that made it difficult to move along the Kombolcha-Mekelle corridor.

Ethiopia – Sudan Border Updates

- Partners were informed that no trucks have been reported to cross the Metema-Galabat border since two ICRC trucks crossed.
- As of July 27th, 69,817 people have crossed the Metema border from Sudan to Ethiopia, including 36,137 migrants from 73 different countries and 33,690 Ethiopians.
- An isolation centre has been established in Gendawuha (close to Metema) in response to the cholera epidemic outbreak.
- Partners were informed that there are WFP trucks waiting for clearance from the Sudan side to cross the border from Ethiopia.
- Partners were also informed that health items cannot be imported to Sudan via Metema.

Storage Capacity Updates

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that it has decreased storage capacity in Gondar to 1,150 M2, in Kombolcha to 320 M2, and in Semera to 1,080 M2. The total reduced space amounts to 6,250 M2, with Gondar experiencing a reduction of 52%, Kombolcha 68%, and Semera 80%.

Training Updates

- The Logistics Cluster shared the survey results from the questionnaire that was shared in the past week. 35 preferences expressed for the Warehouse Management training, 9 for Mobile Storage Unit, and 5 for Cargo Transport Planning.
- The survey was closed on 31 July 2023.

6. AOB

- A partner mentioned that there are challenges to transporting fertilizer items from Djibouti to Adama and Addis Ababa. Partner was advised to share the details of the status of the cargo regarding clearance. The Logistics Cluster will follow up on the latest updates from the relevant government information sources as part of its information management function.

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The next coordination meeting is on 15 August 2023 at 11:00 EAT in person.

Contacts

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