Meeting Minutes, 5 September 2023

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

LOCATION	Addis Ababa, in-person
DATE	5 September 2023
CHAIR	• Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) Adviser • Andrea Rosales, Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), Danish Red Cross (DRC), European Commission Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), Ethiopian Field Support Services Project (FSSP), GOAL, HINGO Forum, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), Save the Children International (SCI), United Nations Officer for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
AGENDA	• OCHA AWG Updates • Logistics Cluster Updates • AOB
ACTION POINTS	• Partners to share regular reports with the Logistics Cluster about confirmation of the arrival of their cargo at the destination in Tigray by writing to ethiopia.humanitarianconvoys@wfp.org • Partners to send their pipeline information for the Amhara region by writing to sarah.alameri@wfp.org or Eyerusalem.amha@wfp.org

1. OCHA AWG Updates

- OCHA provided access updates of different regions in the country, Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali, Tigray and Afar.
- **Amhara**: OCHA informed that there is an improvement in the security situation in the region relative to the beginning of August 2023. The areas of East Gojam and West Gojam however remain challenging for movement.
- Partners were informed that the main road from Addis Ababa to the Bahir Dar route is not safe for humanitarian movement as several incidents and conflicts were reported.
- There are partners who attempted to send humanitarian cargo along the Bichena route using commercial rented trucks which took six days to reach Bahir Dar due to on-and-off security situations instead of normally 1 day.
- It is recommended to use the Debre Birhan- Dessie- Komoblcha- Woldia-Debretabor route to reach Bahir Dar according to
- OCHA also mentioned that the access and security situation in the northern part of the region is improved in some areas including the Gondar and Waghemera zones.
- **Somali**: Except for some areas bordering Somalia, most parts of the region remain accessible. There are some occasional security incidents reported in the Afder zone.
- **Oromia**: Due to security concerns, the areas Guji and Borena zone remain partially accessible areas.
- Humanitarian operations are ongoing; however, partners are advised to move with caution in these areas.
- The western part of the region including East Wollega and Horoguduru zone remain hard to reach areas.
- Some areas bordering the Amhara region also remain hard to reach areas due to the conflict in the Amhara region.
- **Gambella**: The security situation in the region has improved since the month of July 2023.
- Rural areas in the region are accessible, however, movement should be with high caution.
- The areas of Gog Woreda and Pugnido Refugee camps remain hard-to-reach areas. Partners are advised to move in convoy.
- **Benishangul Gumuz**: Only the Assosa zone in the region is accessible. Metekel and Kamashi zones are partially accessible areas.

- The security situation in Metekel zone, Kamashi zone, and Guba woreda is unpredictable.
- The situation in the Amhara region has affected the humanitarian activity in Benishangul Gumuz as most of the areas can be accessed by armed escort convoys.
- **Afar**: Except for some occasional conflict in zone 5, most of the areas remain accessible.
- **Tigray**: Most of the areas in the region are accessible. The areas of Humera and Wolkait are challenging to access both from the Amhara and Tigray side.
- For further updates on access partners can reach out to anuwar.nur@un.org

2. Logistics Cluster Updates

Cargo Movement to Tigray Updates

- Partners were informed that the Logistics Cluster kept tracking the cargo arriving at Tigray.
- Logistics Cluster shared that in August, 19 trucks reported arrival into Tigray on behalf of nine partners containing Protection (160 MT), Health (134MT), Nutrition (17MT), Agriculture (15 MT), Mixed cargo (15MT), Food Security (0.3MT), and General operations items (15 MT).
- 14 trucks arrived via the Semera – Mekelle corridor and five trucks via the Kombolcha – Mekelle corridor.
- Logistics Cluster reminded partners that the Information Network Security Agency (INSA) support letters are still required for IT equipment.
- Due to the ongoing security situation in the Amhara region the Semera corridor has been the main corridor to move cargo in the past two weeks.

Ethiopia – Sudan Border Updates

- Logistics Cluster shared that the World Food Programme (WFP) successfully moved50 trucks through the border. The second tranche is awaiting clearance in Gondar, Ethiopia waiting to cross.
- Partners were also informed that further updates in Sudan can be found on the Sudan | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)

Amhara Region updates

- Logistics Cluster informed partners that the main roads entering Bahir Dar have remained closed for the past three weeks.
- A time curfew for movement is announced in the region, from 7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

- Partners were informed that a convoy of 12 trucks is expected to move to Amhara from Addis Ababa by tomorrow 6 September at 7:00 a.m. The final meeting for the passenger convoy movement approval is today at 12:00 p.m. at OCHA.
- According to the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS), the suggested route for the passenger convoy is Addis Ababa – Debre Birhan – Dessie.
- Partners were also informed that UNDSS is ready to support the passenger convoy with a security expert (pending final confirmation).
- Additionally, it was mentioned that commercial flights from Addis Ababa to Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa to Gondar are available.

Pipeline information- Amhara region

- The Logistics Cluster requested partners to share updates on their plans for transporting humanitarian cargo to the Amhara region, to improve logistical planning and coordination efforts in the region.
- For the pipeline request that was sent in August responses from 8 partners were received from CARE, IMC, SCI, GOAL, CRS, UNICEF, CARE International, PI, and Creative Association International.
- Partners were informed that approximately 5,010 MT of humanitarian cargo including Food Security, Health, WASH, and Nutrition items were included under the pipelines received.
- Partners can reach out to sarah.alameri@wfp.org and eyerusalem.amha@wfp.org to share pipeline information for the Amhara region.

Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) updates.

- Logistics Cluster shared that the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) interview has started on 4 September 2023. The GNA interview will be carried out in Addis Ababa, Mekelle, and Shire.
- Partners were informed that 12 partners are scheduled in Addis Ababa for the interview this week and 11 partners for the coming week.
- The GNA is a consultation of partners conducted by the Logistics Cluster to examine common coordination gaps for the delivery of humanitarian aid in each country or context.

3. AOB

- A partner enquired about the services for buying fuel exclusively for the Amhara region. The partner was informed that, currently, it is advised to utilize the E-card system to pay for fuel, mostly from Total Energies and NOC Ethiopia.

- A partner enquired as to any changes regarding NGOs' ability to access the internet in the Amhara region. Logistics Cluster responded that VSATs are now the only means by which organisations have access to the internet.

The next coordination meeting is on 19 September 2023 at 11:00 EAT in person.

Contacts

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