Meeting Minutes, 10 October 2023

Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION	Mogadishu, Online
DATE	10 October 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Care International, Concern Worldwide, Finland's Church Aid (FCA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Save the Children, Service Civil International (SCI), Somali Lifeline Organization, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	• The Logistics Cluster, in cooperation with IMPACCT, to facilitate a workshop on import and custom clearance in Mogadishu. • The Logistics Cluster to finalize the infrastructure mapping for areas that may be susceptible to flash floods in the Juba region. • The Logistics Cluster to share updates on the Mogadishu airport fee. • Partners to preposition their supplies closer to areas expected to be affected by flash floods.
AGENDA	1. Action Points Review 2. Situation Update 3. Coordination 4. Common Logistics Services 5. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 26 September were reviewed:

- The Logistics Cluster to facilitate a two day 'Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course' in Dollow in November. **[not started]**
- The Logistics Cluster to complete the infrastructure mapping for areas anticipated to be effected by flash floods. **[ongoing]**
- The Logistics Cluster in cooperation with IMPACCT to facilitate the workshop on import and customs clearance in Mogadishu. **[ongoing]**
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster to reach out to the airport authorities and airport management to obtain updates on the current situation regarding imposed airport fees in Mogadishu **[ongoing]**

2. Situation Update

Physical Transport Network Updates:

- Physical access across Somalia remains unchanged. The following roads remain closed or inaccessible: (1) Kismayo – Dobley (2) Kismayo – Jilip (3) Jilip – Saakow – Bardera – Afmadow – Baidoa (4) Jilip – Barawa (5) Wanlaweyn – Buurhakaba – Baidoa – Luuq (6) Hobyo – Bacaadweyne (7) Balcad – Jalalaqsi and (8) Burao – Las Anod.
- Due to insecurity, standard trucking routes from Burco to Laascanood town are still disrupted.
- Partners are encouraged to prepare for potential floods in different areas of Somalia, some of which may lack road access due to ongoing riverine and flash floods.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently in the process of securing additional funding to support partners in transporting goods via helicopter.
- Simultaneously, partners are advised to preposition their supplies in areas that may be affected by potential floods.

Air Transport Updates:

- The airstrip in El Wak is temporarily inaccessible due to ongoing maintenance work.
- The airstrips in Garbahare and Wajid are temporarily inaccessible due to insecurity.
- The Somalia Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) has informed the line ministries that they are not aware of the new levy charges. Despite these efforts, normal operations at the airport have not yet been restored, and the situation remains unresolved.

Sea Transport Updates:

- All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo and Garacad.
- The WFP time-chartered vessel is at sea heading to Bossaso, with an anticipated arrival at the seaport of Bossaso on 12 October 2023. The vessel will make its way to Berbera on 15 October2023 with an anticipated arrival on 16 October 2023.
- The updated sea transport schedule has been shared on the Logistics Cluster website.
- Partners with cargo for transport from northern location in Somalia are kindly requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster team at somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Partners who have cargo to transport from Berbera to Bossaso are encouraged to reach out to the Logistics Cluster. From Bosasso, the Logistics Cluster can support partners with road transport to Beletweyne in preparation of the flood response.

Flood Preparedness:

- Flood risk has been identified as a paramount concern for Somalia in the fourth quarter of 2023. In response to the flood risk due to the arrival of El Nino, the Somalia Logistics Cluster support team is contributing to the OCHA-led Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to address the likely operational requirements and logistics challenges induced by the floods.

- The Somalia Logistics Cluster is currently in the process of mobilizing funding to enable the Logistics Cluster to efficiently and effectively support the humanitarian community in responding to the impending flood season in Somalia.
- Helicopters will be an important means of transport, as some airstrips and roads are expected to be flooded, and certain locations will only be accessible by helicopters.
- In 2020, 2021 and 2022, different instances of flood response occurred in Somalia and the Shabelle River area is particularly vulnerable to disruption. The following locations, in particular, have been affected by floods in the past: Beletwene, Jowhar, Bula Burte, Jalalaqsi, and Barawe.

Warehouse Capacity and Location:

- The Logistics Cluster updated the warehouse capacity map in September 2023, showing the available warehouse capacity in various locations across Somalia and their utilization rates.
- Based on the analysis, there is no need for additional storage capacity in flood-affected areas.
- With a focus on the Shabelle region, the following storage capacity has been identified:
    - Mogadishu has the highest warehouse capacity, with a utilization rate of under 70 percent.
    - Jowhar and Balcad have almost half of their warehouse capacity in use.
    - Beletweyne boasts the highest utilization rate, at around 90 percent.
    - Marka and Afgoye have the smallest warehouse capacity and are underutilized.

Road Connectivity Capacity:

- The transportation of commodities relies on specific road routes, primarily from Mogadishu to Balcad, Warshiikh, Cadale, and Jowhar.
- The main road from Mogadishu to Jowhar is often impassable during flood events, as is the road from Jowhar to Beletweyne. Alternatively, Mogadishu to Jowhar via Balcad is a more resilient route than direct transport or through Afgoye.
- Beletweyne typically relies on road connections from Dhusamareb or Galkayo, while locations between Jowhar and Beletweyne are serviced by air transport.

Boat:

- Partners can access small boats alongside the river, particularly in Belet Weyne and Jowhar.
- Partners have reported the use of these types of boats to connect airstrips to affected areas and this was particularly the case in Jowhar in 2021.
- For example, WFP has three available boats, with two stationed in Jowar and one in Beletweyne for the movement of personnel and it may be used for the movement of small amounts of cargo if required

Relief Materials Pipeline and Sourcing:

For further reference and information, below is a summary of WFP's weekly market analysis:

- **Commodity Prices:** Weekly comparisons indicate that prices of most food and non-food items exhibited mixed trends, with the exception of Mogadishu, Somaliland, and Jubaland, where prices remained relatively stable compared to a week ago.

- **Availability**: Overall, sufficient supplies to sustain the demand of households noted. Some levels of scarcity of certain essential commodities such as white and red sorghum, maize, spinach, pumpkin, and cowpeas were observed in isolated marketplaces of Qansax Dheere, Dhusamarreeb, Taleex, Xarardheere, and Jowhar. Furthermore, in some Somaliland markets onions scarcity was noted.
- **Assortment**: Markets remained robust with a variety of commodity brands and quantities and reported to be resilient in nearly all marketplaces. However, there was a gradual scarcity noted for some brands in Dhusamarreeb (cereals, eggs domestics, spinach & okra), Teleex (spinach, okra, pumpkin and eggs imported), Qansax Dheere (pumpkin, spinach and okra) and Jowhar (cowpea and sorghum).
- **Quality**: Commodity quality was generally high in the country, with the exception of concerns for some commodities such as sorghum, cowpea, pumpkin, sugar, maize in certain markets in Jowhar and Bandarbeyla.
- **Market Resilience:** The flow of commodity flow remains steady, with no major impediments reported in the country's distribution channels. With El-Niño rains forecasted, some routes are expected to be impassable, affecting supply flow in the coming weeks.
- **Logistics:** Major roads and movement corridors are passable. Some exceptions were observed in corridors Zeylac - Borama - Lughaye, Borama - Lawya Caddo, and Kismaayo - Afmadow - Dhobley where access was limited due to security reasons.

3. Coordination

Import and Customs Clearance Technical Working Group

- The Logistics Cluster, in cooperation with IMPACCT, is planning to facilitate a workshop on Import and Customs Clearance in Mogadishu from 15 to 18 October 2023.
- Invitations have been sent out and the following government entities and humanitarian organisations have confirmed their attendance:
    - Ministry of Finance
    - Airport Authorities
    - Seaport Authorities
    - Bureau of Standards
    - SODMA
    - Ministry of Trade
    - Ministry of Health
    - Chamber of Commerce
- During the workshop, the following objectives will be addressed:
    - Emphasize the necessity for collaborative interagency efforts and underscore the advantages of a well-coordinated approach to streamline customs clearance processes for humanitarian aid and emergency shipments.

- Engage in discussion about the primary challenges recognized by the humanitarian community, particularly those that act as bottlenecks in the process.
- Facilitate the identification of potential solutions that can be put into action, taking into consideration the distinctions between humanitarian aid and trade-related imports.
- Oversee the implementation of recommendations within the framework of the national mechanism designed for the coordination and facilitation of humanitarian aid imports.

- The expected outcomes of this workshop include:
  - Gaining a better understanding of the roles fulfilled by various government entities engaged in the importation of humanitarian aid into Somalia.
  - Acquiring a better understanding of the procedures and regulations set forth by cross-border agencies.
  - Strengthening comprehension of the challenges confronted by both humanitarian organisations and government entities in import and customs clearance processes.
  - Formulating a clear roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations and potential solutions identified during the workshop.

4. Common Logistics Services

- Since 2020, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport of over 7,015 mt of cargo (excluding shunting) on a Free-to-User basis on behalf of 28 organisations.
- In 2023, 2,973 mt of supplies (excluding shunting) were transported to 27 locations on behalf of 22 organisations.
- The Logistics Cluster has currently 438 mt in the pipeline to 13 locations on behalf of six organisations.
- Presently, there is no movement at the Mogadishu airport due to the new fees which have been introduced.
- The Logistics Cluster will keep partners better informed of the ongoing situation at the airport.

5. AOB

- Discussion topics for the next Logistics Cluster Meeting can be shared with **otavio.costa@wfp.org and annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org**

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 24 October at 11:00 am EAT, online

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