Meeting Minutes, 26 September 2023

Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION	Mogadishu, Online
DATE	26 September 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), Adrasom, Care International, Catholic Relief Service, Concern Worldwide, Danish Red Cross (DRC), Echofield, FENPS, Finland's Church Aid (FCA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), GREDO, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Oxfam, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Save the Children, Service Civil International (SCI), Somali Lifeline Organization, Somaus help Somalia, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Vision.

ACTION POINTS

- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to facilitate 2 days 'Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course' in Dollow at the beginning of November.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to share the final Concept Note for the Import and Customs Workshop.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to complete the infrastructure mapping for areas anticipated to be effected by flash floods during the expected El-Nino phenomenon, as part of logistics preparedness efforts.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to reach out to the selected partners by the end of this week to arrange interview for the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA).
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team has received inputs from six partners on the tax exemption trackingsheet. The Logistics Cluster will present the analysis in the next coordination meeting.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to reach out to the airport authorities and airport management for obtain more up-to-date information regarding the airport fees situation in Mogadishu.

AGENDA

1. Action Points Review
2. Situation Update
3. Coordination
4. Common Logistics Services
5. Information management
6. Training
7. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 12 September were reviewed:

- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to conduct a gaps and needs analysis (GNA) in the 4th quarter of 2023. **[ongoing]**
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to update the import and customs clearance tracking sheet for the period of January to June 2023. **[completed]**
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to facilitate a Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course in Mogadishu. **[completed]**
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to share the updated warehouse capacity map via email and make it accessible on the Logistics Cluster website. **[ongoing]**
- To Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to provide partners with updates regarding the airport fees situation 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) Balcad – Jalalaqsi and (7) Burao – Las Anod.
- Due to insecurity, standard trucking routes from Burco to Laascanood town are still disrupted.

Air Transport Updates:

- The airstrip in El Wak is temporarily inaccessible as it undergoes maintenance work.
- The airstrip in Garbahare and Wajid is temporarily inaccessible due to insecurity.
- The Ministry of Transport has introduced a new fee on 01 September 2023, wherein humanitarian partners are required to pay 1.05 USD per kilogram for cargo transported from Mogadishu airport.
- The Somalia Civil Aviation Authority (SCAA) informed the line Ministries on 19 September 2023, that the authority is not aware of the new levy charges.
- Despite the effort, movement at the airport on humanitarian cargo has not resumed normalcy and the situation is still unchanged.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team to reach out to the airport authorities and airport management for obtain more up-to-date information regarding the airport fees situation in Mogadishu.

Sea Transport Updates:

- All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo and Garacad.
- The WFP time-chartered vessel is presently at Mombasa and is scheduled for departure on 30 September 2023, with an anticipated arrival at the seaport in Mogadishu on 3 October 2023. Following its departure from Mogadishu Sea Port 06 October 2023, the time-chartered vessel will make its way

to Bosasso and Berbera. It is projected to reach Bosasso on 12 October 2023 and Berbera on 28 October 2023, wth a departure from Berbera on 28 October 2023.

- The updated sea transport schedule will be shared via email and on the Logistics Cluster website.
- Partners with cargo for transport from Mogadishu to the northern location in Somalia and vice versa are kindly requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster team at somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Partners are encouraged to take advantage of the vessel service facilitated by the Somalia Logistics Cluster support team, as it is more cost-efficient than moving cargo by air.

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 main affected ares are along the Juba and Shabelle river.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team 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.

Relief Materials Pipeline and Sourcing:

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

- **Commodity Prices:** A weekly comparison indicates that the prices of most food and non-food commodities displayed mixed trends in most states, except for Jubaland and Galmudug, where prices of most food and non-food items remained relatively stable. Local creal prices (white maize and red sorghum) declined in Southwest (1-2%), Hirshabelle (3%), Somaliland (5-7%), and Mogadishu (11-14%), while Puntland saw a small increase (2-5%) in local cereal prices. There was a decline in the prices of imported items in Southwest (1-6% for sugar, wheat flour, and rice), Hirshabelle (2-3% for wheat flour, pasta, sugar, and vegetable oil), and Mogadishu (11% for vegetable oil). This decline in imported prices can be attributed to a modest increase in supply due to new stocks arriving and improved access to the Bay and Bakool regions. In Puntland, imported food items marginally increased by 1%, which resulted from a drop in supply camel milk prices saw a mild increase (1-2%) in Somaliland, Puntland, and Southwest. However, there were mild declines in milk prices in Hirshabelle (1%) and Mogadishu (8%). Diesel prices remained relatively stable in most states, with a slight increase (2-3%) observed in Puntland and Southwest.
- **Availability**: Most retailers had sufficient stocks to meet demand. However, the ongoing summer season, particularly in Northwest, resulted in a shortage of camel milk, leading to a slight price increase. In Dollow, Luuq and Qansax Dhere, some basic commodities such as camel milk, vegetable oil, and milk powder had insufficient inventories. This suggests possible disruptions in transport or border crossings. It is important to note that most other areas did not experience shortages.

- **Market Resilience:** A consistent and stable flow of items has been observed in the monitored markets, particularly within the food supply chains.
- **Logistics:** Movement remained steady both along major and minor corridors, and every port displayed some degree of accessibility. Unfortunately, the eagerly awaited border reopening with Kenya and Ethiopia faced ongoing delays. While most roads were navigable, Las Anod roadway continued to experience constrained traffic flow due to social unrest.

3. Coordination

Import and Customs Clearance Technical Working Group

- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team , in collaboration with IMPACCT, is planning a workshop on Import and Customs Clearance. This in-person workshop is scheduled to take place from 15 to 18 October 2023 in Mogadishu, in collaboration with government entities and humanitarian partners.
- The concept note for the workshop has been shared for comments with the Technical Working Group for Import and Customs clearance. Once feedback from the Technical Working Group has been integrated into the document, it will be presented in the next coordination meeting. 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:
    - Enhanced comprehension of the roles played by government entities involved in the process of importing humanitarian aid into Somalia.
    - Improved knowledge of the procedures and regulations established by cross-border agencies.
    - A deeper understanding of the challenges faced by each participant.
    - The establishment of a roadmap for implementing the recommendations and potential solutions identified during the workshop.
- In addition to the concept note, the Logistics Cluster is updating the tax exemption tracking sheet to support efforts in advocating for expedited tax exemptions for the humanitarian community. Currently,

input has been received from six partners, totaling 89 entries. The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team is awaiting data from partners with pending submissions.

4. Common Logistics Services

- Since 2020, the Somalia Logistics Cluster support team has facilitated the transport of over 7015 mt of cargo (excluding shunting) on a Free-to-User basis on behalf of 28 organizations.
- In 2023, 2973 mt of supplies (excluding shunting) was transported to 27 locations on behalf of 22 organizations.
- The Logistics Cluster has currently 438 mt of humanitarian cargo in the pipeline to 13 locations on behalf of 6 organizations.
- Presently, there is no movement at the Mogadishu airport due to the new fees which have been introduced.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team will keep partners informed of the ongoing situation at the airport.

5. Information Management

Gaps and Need Analysis

- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team has drafted an initial outline for the GNA. The GNA is a comprehensive analysis of Somalia's current context and is based on both quantitative and qualitative data.
- The objective of the GNA is to:
    - Evaluate and provide insights into the existing logistics challenges encountered by the humanitarian community.
    - Determine the support that the Logistics Cluster can provide to the humanitarian community based on the identified gaps.
- Selected partners will be contacted by end of this week to participate in interviews. The interviews will focus on including:
    - Organizations logistics planning horizon
    - General procurement strategy
    - Supply Chain conception and logistics planning capacity
    - Contingency planning and adaptation to volatile content
    - Logistics support performance
    - Reliability of coordination mechanism
    - Common data and information on logistics
    - Logistics infrastructure and services
- In addition, a survey will be sent to all partners to assess the significance of key challenge on a scale of 1-5

6. Training

Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course

- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team successfully completed the Basic Humanitarian Course in Mogadishu.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team is facilitating its next Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course in Dollow beginning of November.
- The 2-day Baisc Humanitarian Logistics Course will cover the following topics:
    - Humanitarian Supply Chain
    - Procurement
    - Unit of Measurement
    - Transport Planning
    - Storage and Warehouse Management
    - Inventory Management
    - Distributions
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster support team encourages all interested partners to take advantage of this training opportunity to strengthen their capacities.
- Moreover, the Logistics Cluster kindly requests partners to extend the invitation for the training to their colleagues in the field. By sharing this opportunity widely, the Logistics Cluster aims to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian efforts across the region.
- For inquiries and to submit your training applications, please contact the Somalia Logistics Cluster support team at joseantonio.carino@wfp.org.

7. 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 10 October at 11:00 am EAT, online

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