Libya Logistics Working Group

Libya – Coordination Meeting Minutes

25 September 2023

LOCATION	Benghazi, Libya (Online)
DATE	25 September 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Working Group with WFP
PARTICIPANTS	Action Contre la Faim (ACF); Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED); Airlink; CARE International; Danish Refugee Council (DRC); ECHO; Global Logistics Cluster (GLC); HI (Atlas); humedica International Aid; Impact Initiatives; INGO Forum; International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (ICRC); International Organization for Migration (IOM); International Rescue Committee (IRC); Jordan Health Aid Society (JHAS) International; OCHA; Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI); UNHCR; UNICEF; U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA); WeWorld GVC; World Food Programme (WFP)
AGENDA	1. Situation Update 2. Logistics Update 3. Partner Updates 4. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Updates 5. AOB
ACTION POINTS	• Partners are asked to fill out the Partner Warehouse Capacity Assessment by 27 September. • Logistics Working Group to continue to identify road access constraints of interest to update the LogIE tool.

1. Situation Update

- Affected areas: Benghazi, Tobruk, Toukra, Talmeitha, Almarj, Taknes, Al Owailia, Bayada, Albayda, Shahhat, Sousa and Derna.
- Reports that access to Derna is limited primarily to search and rescue teams. Search and rescue teams are slowly demobilizing.
- United Nations (UN) Flash Appeal was submitted on 14 September for $71.4 million required to assist 250,000 people for three months.
- From the UN Flash Appeal, most sources note casualties between 5,000 and 10,000. This number is expected to increase.

- The UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team is working to consolidate assessments being made by all organisations to better understand current status of the situation and the number and needs of beneficiaries.

2. Logistics Update

- Reports have been received of transport and food prices increasing, but the rate at which they are increasing is slowing down.
- WFP is receiving two trucks in the next three days that will be crossing into Libya from Egypt. They can provide an update of the border crossing status once the trucks have arrived.
- A route from Benghazi to Derna (5-6 hours) continues to be passable, only southern entrance to city of Derna is open.
- Access is still a challenge, but some roads have been cleared by the local authority. Awaiting more information on the location of these routes.
- Escorts are required to access the affected areas for UN organisations.
- Approval from local authority is required to access affected areas.
- International aid flights are arriving in Benghazi and the cargo is being dispatched directly to the affected areas. Reportedly this requirement will be changing but this has not yet been confirmed.

CHALLENGES

Challenges reported by responding humanitarian organisations include:

- Significant delay in the issuance of visas – organisations should refer to the Access Working Group for more information.
    - Reports that people arriving without visas are being sent back.
- Limited commercial flights to Benghazi.
- Medical items are currently being approved by the Benghazi medical center.
- Access to Al-Marj, Derna, Shahhat, Sousa, and other affected areas requires clearance.
- Accommodation is a challenge for UN agencies. The approved accommodations are all full.
- New regulations are being put in place by local authorities.

SUPPORT

- Two Global Logistics Cluster officers are still planning to be deployed to the field. Visas are pending.
    - Goal is to assess main gaps and needs in the affected area.
    - Will continue supporting coordination efforts via coordination meetings and WhatsApp group.
    - Provide information to LogIE for updated physical access constraints.
- Coordination for the response will be via working groups rather than cluster activation.

- Partners are asked to fill out the Partner Warehouse Capacity Assessment survey to help map out the current logistics capacity and gaps in the response effort.

4. Partner Updates

QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OR WHATSAPP GROUP

- Is it now possible to access Derna via the coastal road?
    - Roads are being cleared but currently it does not appear that the coastal road is fully passable.
- Is there available warehouse capacity near Derna?
    - ACTED has identified a possible warehouse space near Derna, more information should be available soon.

WAREHOUSES

- WFP is experiencing challenges finding other warehouses to rent.
- UNICEF is looking for a warehouse space near Benghazi.
- IOM has a warehouse next to the airport in Benghazi that is 2,500 m2. They are willing to share this space with other organisations. If interested reach out to ayack.montalvan@wfp.org.
- IOM has a second warehouse in Albayda that is 600 m2 and is too small to share with other organisations.

ROAD TRANSPORT

- IOM is using rental vehicles and commercial trucks for transport. They have a local transporter they can recommend and organisations can reach out if interested.
- Local private sector vendors area available with 1-40 ton trucks but prices are rising quickly due to increased demand.
- WFP has contracts with transporters and can support partners by signing Service Level Agreements (SLAs) as part of their On-Demand Services (ODS)

CARGO FLIGHTS

- UNICEF had four shuttle flights land on Friday, 22 September, and are planning medical supply flights this week.

CUSTOMS AND IMPORTATION

- PUI had a meeting to discuss waivers for medicine. Medicine is able to be imported through Benghazi and they have heard that medicine originating from the European Union (EU) can enter without testing. Medicine originating from other locations, even if they pass through the EU, will have to undergo the

normal process of testing before approval and release. They do not yet have an official letter or document outlining this testing waiver.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

- IRC is working with local partners to visit more areas and have identified some smaller cities/areas in need of assistance. They are planning to begin distribution of donation received from USAID within the next three days.
- IOM is distributing items on a daily basis.

5. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Updates

- Telecommunications is currently under the Logistics Working Group but it is under discussion to separate these groups as they feel there is value and having a separate ETC meeting.
- ETC is looking to deploy staff and perform assessments in the affected areas.
- They already have an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Working Group established.

6. AOB

- NSTR

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held on 28 September 2023.

Contacts

Ayack Montalvan	*Logistics Cluster Coordinator*	ayack.montalvan@wfp.org
Amine Mesrati	*Logistics Cluster Officer*	amine@mesrati@wfp.org
Gillian Doby	*Information Management Officer*	gillian.doby@wfp.org