IRAQ – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION:	Erbil, Iraq
DATE:	7 August 2016
CHAIR:	Logistics Cluster Deputy Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS:	ACTED, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Medical Corp (IMC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), INTERSOS, MEDAIR, Medicins du Monde (MdM), Medicins Sans Frontieres Switzerland (MSF-CH), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Premiere Urgence-Aide Medical International (PU-AMI), Qatar Red Crescent (QRC), Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children (SC), German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), Triangle Generational Humanitaire (TGH), UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision (WV)
AGENDA	1. Customs and Clearance procedures 2. One-Stop Shop approach 3. Model agreement

1. Customs and clearance procedures, one-stop shop approach & Model agreement

- The Chair opened the meeting presenting the new Logistics Cluster staff, who recently arrived in country as surge capacity to look at customs and clearance procedures, in the framework of the Mosul offensive preparedness plans. All organisations agreed that the process to obtain customs clearances for humanitarian items entering the country and being transported between different governorates was an issue, as there are no clear regulations in place. Several participants also highlighted that the timeline to receive all necessary documents differs between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and central Iraq, and also depends on the type of commodities transported. The process results to be more complex when importing/transporting medicines.
- Participants shared details of the main issues regarding delays in customs clearance and authorisation from road transport authorities, highlighting the need to synchronise the existing procedures to avoid duplication and complications.
- The Logistics Cluster has been putting together a basic chart based on feedback received during initial discussions with humanitarian actors around the current process and other bottlenecks. These inputs will be shared with all organisations to verify information and add any additional remarks.
- The Logistics Cluster would like to streamline the process and is seeking suggestions and endorsement from organisations on the way forward. The proposed system would potentially consist of a one-stop shop with representatives from relevant authorities and humanitarian organisations to facilitate the fast tracking and release of incoming humanitarian cargo. In such a scenario, all requests for clearance would be sent through and handled by a common team responsible for the follow-up and fast release. It was noted that this system could benefit authorities in avoiding internal backlog in the expected scale-up of humanitarian activity in response to the Mosul operation.
- In the long-term, the Logistics Cluster would also be looking at putting in place a Model agreement on the basis of the agreement already existing at a global level between OCHA and the World Custom Authority. Such agreement, to be endorsed by the Humanitarian Coordinator, would ensure that practical measures, including tax exemption for relief

commodities, are applied to all UN agencies and partner NGOs. In the case of Iraq, two specific agreements would have to be negotiated with the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Government of Iraq.

- The Chair reminded that there is no timeline for implementing these measures yet. The setting up of a one-stop shop as well as the Model agreement would depend on organisations' feedback, also in terms of pipeline information.

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