NEPAL – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA), Tribhuvan International Airport (KTM), Kathmandu

DATE: 27 October 2015

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: Ministry of Home Affairs (co-chair), OCHA, CARE, UNICEF, IFRC, Save the Children, WHO, IOM, Oxfam, MAF, WFP, UNHAS, Handicap International

ACTION POINTS:

- Organisations to share their winterisation plans and their needs for Logistics Cluster services as soon as possible.
- Logistics Cluster to provide up to a total amount of 180 litres of fuel per organisation.
- Organisations to report on any problems related to movement in the border region and impact of fuel shortage on their activities

AGENDA:

1. Logistics Information Updates
2. Logistics Cluster Services
3. AOB

1. Logistics Information Updates

- The latest Logistics Cluster Situation Update can be accessed at: http://www.logcluster.org/document/nepal-situation-update-24-september-2015. Organisations are requested to continue to share information on customs, Logistics Cluster procedures and useful links in order to keep the document updated.
- The Logistics Cluster reminds organisations to remove their items still stored at the Kathmandu Airport HSA, as soon as possible.

Entry Points

- Birgunj entry point remains closed, the bulk of the trucks held there have been redirected to other entry points.
- Over the past few weeks, a very limited number of fuel trucks have entered Nepal from India.
- OCHA was invited to explore the possibility of opening a humanitarian corridor between India and Nepal dedicated only to humanitarian cargo, and to start tracking the impact that the fuel crisis is having on governmental services and hospitals.

Fuel Provision

- The fuel situation in the country remains critical and it is compounded by a lack of LPG that is also intensifying, resulting in restaurants and business closure.

- Due to the protracted fuel crisis, the window of opportunity for winterisation distributions is now closed.
- The government continues to work on the possibility of importing fuel from China.
- The option of flying fuel from other countries had to be abandoned.
- WFP has succeeded in securing diesel from India. Logistics Cluster organisations can receive up to 180 litres of diesel at a rate of rupees 84.645/litre. Details have been communicated through the cluster mailing list.
- The distribution to Logistics Cluster organisations of WFP-procured fuel started on 21 October. So far, out of the 12,000 litres received, 2,265 litres have been distributed to 16 organisations. 9,735 litres remain in stock. A maximum of 180 litres can be provided to each organisation. Diesel is also being distributed from the Deurali, Chautara and Charikot hubs. Around 8,000 litres of diesel are available in the field hubs.
- The Access Infrastructure Working Group will receive 1,500 litres of diesel in order to start rehabilitation works for the critical Kartike-Banefe road in Sindhupalchok District. This will also shorten RAO routes and provide access to an area so far remained underserved due to access constraints.
- Organisations have been advised to report any problems related to movement in the border region. The Logistics Cluster will share regular updates on the status of the entry points via the mailing list and through the website: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/nepal
- The contact details of the Logistics Cluster Government Liaison and Civ-Mil Coordination are also uploaded on the Logistics Cluster website.

Customs

- FAO was invited to liaise with the Logistics Cluster civ-mil and Government Relation Officer with regards to trucks transporting seeds being held at the Indian side border.

Logistics Cluster Services

- It was communicated to organisations that starting in November the frequency of the Logistics Cluster meetings will be reduced to twice a month.
- Organisations were reminded that their pipeline plans are urgently needed for the Logistics Cluster to be able to plan its services according to needs. Moreover, individual agencies should provide data to their respective Cluster Leads, so that the information can also be captured per cluster.
- Organisations were reminded that long standing cargos need to be moved out of the warehouses as soon as possible.
- Organisations were informed that Service Request Forms (SRFs) to request storage or transport services from one of the regional hubs should be sent to the dedicated email address: nepal.clustercargo@wfp.org

- Organisations were informed that a late submission of Service Request Forms (SRFs) or pipeline plans might result in the impossibility of such service to be provided. Guidelines for the submission of SRFs can be found at the following link: http://www.logcluster.org/document/service-request-form-user-instructions
- The Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) team provided an overview of the services provided so far.

Road Transport

- Free road transport services continue to be provided with origin and destination within the districts of Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha.
- Transport from Kathmandu and other main areas can still be provided on a full cost recovery basis.

Air Transport

- No issues are envisaged with JET A1 fuel that is being procured from India for UNHAS.
- Agencies were invited to submit SRFs as soon as possible, in order to enable UNHAS to plan their activities in an efficient way.
- MAF has also been affected by the fuel crisis and has seen its requests drop as passengers and staff don't have fuel to report to the airport. MAF's operator also communicated concern regarding the availability of JET A1 fuel.
- MAF invited new agencies to register with them.

Remote Access Operation (RAO)

- RAO services continue to be provided free of charge. RAO is moving NFIs for UNICEF and CARE in Dholaka District.
- The Larke Pass in Gorkha District is expected to become impassable due to snowfall within the next two weeks cutting of RAO access to northern Gorkha areas.
- Challenges related to snow are to be expected as of the beginning of November.

Warehousing

- GOAL will take over the management of the Bidur warehouse as of 01 November.

GIS

- The Logistics Cluster informed organisations that it can provide support in printing and producing ad-hoc maps if needed.
- Organisations were reminded to share information on access constraints, including information on landslide's width and height, with the Logistics Cluster, so that the Access Constraints map can be kept up to date.

All of the Logistics Cluster maps for the Nepal Response Operation can be accessed at the following link: http://logcluster.org/search?f[0]=field_raw_op_id:24058&f[1]=field_document_type:27

3. AOB

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination Meetings will be held in Kathmandu - HSA, 03 November at 11:00

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