LOCATION: WFP Office, main meeting room, Freetown

DATE: 11 October 2014

CHAIR: Logistics Pillar

PARTICIPANTS: USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), USAID-Disaster Assistance Response Team, US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), UK Department for International Development Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE) (DFID/CHASE), UN Mission Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), World Food Programme (WFP)

ACTION POINTS:
- Partners have been asked to provide information on cargo flights to Lungi airport, to allow coordination and avoid congestion,
- The participating agencies have been asked to review the Logistics Pillar strategy and provide feedback by 16 October,
- The Logistics Pillar will recommend customs procedure to the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) in accordance with the provisions of the UNMEER Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA)
- The Logistics Pillar agreed to compile information on the activities and locations of partners

AGENDA:
1. Overview of WFP and UNMEER structure and operation
2. Update from participants operations and identified gaps
3. Draft Logistics Pillar strategy
4. AoB

1. Overview of WFP and UNMEER structure and operation

- The UNMEER and WFP structures were presented to participants. WFP is responding to the Ebola outbreak in response to a request to provide support to the UNMEER mission. The goal of the WFP operation is to augment the capacity of the humanitarian response under the United Nations System umbrella, and to support UNMEER efforts to stop the spread of Ebola. The Special Operation has been published on the WFP website at: http://www.wfp.org/content/logistics-common-services-humanitarian-community%E2%80%99s-response-ebola-virus-disease-outbreak-wes.
- The priorities of WFP in Sierra Leone are to:
  - Establish Logistics Forwarding Bases (FLBs) in Port Loko, Kenema and Makeni, with a fourth location to be determined,
  - Provide strategic airlifts of humanitarian personnel, supporting materials and equipment,
  - Provide inter-agency logistics coordination in Freetown and at the FLBs,
  - Provide logistics and transport services for partners.
- On 13 October, WFP will share when the FLBs are expected to be operational and their capacity. Port Loko and Makeni/Magburaka FLB will have storage space available during the week of 13 October.
Participants were informed that the UNMEER representative in Sierra Leone will be Amadou Kamara and Bintou Keita the Director of Operations. UNMEER will provide the operational framework and unity of purpose, including logistics.

2. Update from participants operations and identified gaps

- DFID/CHASE and the British MoD are establishing a 100-bed Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC) in Kerry Town, which is scheduled to receive patients after 27 October. Once operational it will be handed over to Save the Children at the end of December.

- Partners were advised that five additional 100-bed ETCs are planned to be completed by the end of November in the following locations: Port Loko (land is cleared), Makeni, Moyamba, Hastings/Freetown, Freetown/location to be confirmed. For the ETCs it was noted that DFID/CHASE will procure 200 8-bed Ebola Care Units (ECU), starting with 20 ECU’s in Port Loko by the end of November. DFID/CHASE will supply the Kerry Town ETC with PPE/medical supplies for 6 months, while the other ETC’s and ETU’s will be supplied with these materials for 3 months.

- Participants were informed that DFID/CHASE will donate three forklifts, telehandler(s) and two cargo dollies to WFP in order to increase cargo handling capacity at Lungi Airport. On 4 October delays were experienced as the company at the airport had only one forklift operational.

- DFID is supporting WHO with the setup of a training academy for medical staff and it is supporting efforts to improve the safety of burials.

- UNMEER has imported 20 4x4 light vehicles and expects 50 more from Sudan, with an arrival date to be confirmed. UNMEER has received two requests, from the African Union (AU) and WFP for vehicles that will be allocated the week of 13 October. The African Union (AU) military will deploy on 22 October. Five Mi8 helicopters will be stationed at Lungi as from 12 Oct.

- It was noted that ODFA-DART will complement DFID’s efforts and will fund the International Medical Corps (IMC) to establish a 50-bed ETC in Lunsar, Port Loko. IMC works with CDC that is providing quality assurance for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in 7 out of 14 districts.

3. Draft Logistics Pillar strategy

- On 8 October the EOC requested the Logistics Pillar to submit a strategy as part of the National Ebola Response Plan (NERP). The draft strategy was written with input of UNICEF, UNMEER and WFP, submitted and approved by the EOC on 9 October.

- The Logistics Pillar partners were asked to provide feedback to the strategy by 16 October 2014.

AOB (Other gaps or issues)

- The Logistics Pillar advised that the customs procedure was updated but not yet endorsed by GoSL. DFID/CHASE noted that the fast-track process requires too much time per shipment and requested for the fast-track process
to be made more efficient by implementing blanket waivers for humanitarian organisations. The procedure must be updated to reflect the provisions in the UNMEER Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) with the GoSL.

- The Logistics pillar will provide input to update the customs procedure to reflect the SOMA provisions of UNMEER and recommend it to the GoSL.
- To improve coordination, the Logistics Pillar has agreed to compile information on partner’s activities and their locations.
- The Logistics Pillar advised partners on the importance of sharing the expected number of flights and the quantity of cargo, to enable accurate forecasting of the required handling capacity at the airport as well as to enable a resolution of the cargo congestion at the airport.

*Next meeting, Monday 13 Oct 2014, 2:30pm at UNICEF Office, Freetown*

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