Logistics Sector Working Group - WFP Sudan

Meeting Minutes
Khartoum, Sudan 07 May 2019

Location: WFP Conference Room, Khartoum
Date: 07 May 2019
Chair: WFP Sudan Supply Chain/Logistics
Participants: MEDICINES SANS FRONTIERES (MSF-CH), UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF), UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP), NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID (NCA), CAFOD, USAID, UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS.

Action Points:

- OCHA to share with WFP Inter-Agency telecommunications unit, list of contact for the INGO steering committee.
- All UNHAS users are encouraged to participate on the online survey for essential feedback.
- SOP on fuel management to be shared once approved.

Agenda:

1. Update on LET activities – UNHAS/Inter agency telecommunications
2. Update on WFP fuel access to agencies
3. Operational updates from agencies
4. AOB

1. Update on LET activities

- Participants informed that the sector projects had been submitted to OCHA. This year 2 projects were submitted: UNHAS project for additional funding and IOM project on transportation of relief items to affected populations.

UNHAS

- New weekly schedule effective as of 1st May has been circulated, flights to S/W Kordofan will be available 5 times a-week including connections to Khartoum on Sunday/Tuesday/Thursday;
- Recce flights have been planned for 7th May to El Fula/Muglad and on 8th May to Dilling. Clearances from the authorities was received few days ago. Pilots feedback will enable UNHAS to officially start operations into mentioned locations.
- Passengers Satisfaction Survey has been rolled out a couple of days ago, all users are encouraged take it online and provide feedback which is essential for the way forward.

Inter-Agency telecommunications

- TESS Project for defining a new security telecommunication standard for UN agencies tests were performed and the results have been shared waiting for list of recommendations.
- NGOs are being requested by NTC to submit a yearly radio frequency license since 2015. WFP will only tune the frequencies as per active licenses.
The IAST MoU was cleared and signed by WFP by end of April 2019.
The signed copies were disseminated with all related counterparts for their signatures in turn.
There was a slight change in the head count of the UN IA staff after the MoU was shared for signature due to changes in the staffing numbers that occurred in some agencies like UNDP and RCO. These changes will be reflected on Annex 1 of the MoU “cost allocations per agency”. WFP received the new staffing figures only today from UNDSS. The new updates will be included and will be presented to OMT members in the next meeting for endorsement.
Once endorsed, it will be re-shared with all IA.
There was a suggestion to have a standard MoU that governs the IA services between WFP and other IAs. The budget to be bi-annually calculated. The suggestion will be communicated for discussion next OMT.

2. Update on WFP fuel access to agencies
   - Participants were updated on fuel availability. Over 2 million litres of fuel is available with the bulk in El Obeid depot.
   - Fuel stocks in Khartoum are currently low, awaiting replenishment by next week. It was suggested that WFP to consider increasing storage and stock in Khartoum.
   - A total of 31 agencies inclusive of 3 donors have completed Service Level Agreements for fuel.
   - Participants enquired whether WFP had sufficient stocks to cater for the increased demands on fuel from agencies, they were assured that current stocks were sufficient.
   - Participants were informed that if demand of fuel exceeds supply, the INGO will be requested to form a fuel working group who will prioritize releases. This is also in the SOP and had been communicated to the INGO forum during the presentation made to them last year August.
   - Participants were informed that the current SOP on fuel management was being updated and will be shared once approved.
   - Participants recommended that SOP should also include the number of days required to notify WFP in case of bulk fuel request.

3. Operational updates from agencies
   - Agencies present noted that fuel scarcity and cash liquidity is a challenge affecting the overall operations, especially surface transport.
   - MSF reported on delays/problems to obtain permit to transport drugs, this has now improved. It was noted that problems had been experienced in the overall clearing process due to the events happening in the country.
   - UNHCR reported that suppliers were requesting to be given advance payment due to the fluctuation of the dollar, participants noted that the practise should be discouraged. It was suggested that the validity of the offer should be short. It was reported that some suppliers were requesting to be paid in accounts outside the country.
   - UNICEF informed the meeting that this issue had been discussed in the finance working group and it was noted that payment outside the country was not permitted.
4. AOB

- Participants requested to be responding to emails circulated on sector issues, this also includes survey requests.

The next meeting will be held on 11 June 2019 in the WFP conference room at 10:00.

CONTACT

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