Meeting Minutes
Harare, Zimbabwe – 30 June 2016

Chair: Head of Logistics - WFP Zimbabwe
Participants: Plan International, UNICEF, HELPAGE, GMB CNFA, WFP, UNFPA

Action Points:
- WFP to re-circulate the Terms of Reference for the benefit of others who might not have seen them before.
- WFP to organise a meeting with AMALIMA and ENSURE on pre-shipment inspections by the Ministry of Health and Childcare, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture.
- WFP to provide an update on Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently issued Note Verbal advising the withdrawal of the issuance of the Report Orders.
- LSWG participants to provide inputs for the newsletter. The WFP Information Management Officer will be getting in touch with the various organisations represented for meetings on the information required.

Agenda:
- Welcome and Introductions
- Matters arising from the previous minutes
- Newsletter issues
- Operational updates from the various organisations
- A.O.B

Introduction

- The chair welcomed the participants and gave a brief introduction. The purpose of the meeting was outlined as:
  - To share the experience of the group on the logistical challenges and to share information collectively to resolve those issues.
  - Matters related to previous meetings were circulated and it was requested that any amendments/corrections be documented. Minutes of the May 2016 meeting were agreed upon to be a correct record of what transpired.
  - There was an information request for the Logistics Sector Working group for the logistics sector newsletter; the information will highlight achievements. Infographics in the area of operations will assist the group in better understanding the collective work of the LSWG.
  - Operational updates from organisations were requested. Any information gaps/issues will be taken into consideration.
  - It was pointed out that a WFP L3 (corporate) emergency has been declared. The logistics capacity of WFP will be utilized. WFP is ready to scale up operations to meet the needs of the current situation.
  - Limitation of cash availability in the country has affected CBT programmes and a way forward is being sought with the relevant stakeholders.
  - In-kind interventions are ongoing.
  - WFP will keep monitoring the logistical challenges which may arise due to the current situation of liquidity challenges, if there is any impact upon the service providers. So far services continue to be provided uninterrupted.
  - Transporters’ capacity to cater for the current demands is available.
  - The previously indicated challenges relating to ZIMRA at the borders have been resolved.

El Nino Related Issues
WFP has activated a Level 3 (Corporate) Emergency Response for the impact of the El Nino induced drought in the Southern Africa region.

Countries covered include Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

No Logistics Cluster has been activated and WFP, as the lead agency, is providing logistics sector support including logistics coordination, information sharing and context-specific preparedness measures. A webpage has been set up on the Logistics Cluster website and logistics updates are shared at the following link: www.logcluster.org/preparedness/elnino16.

The WFP-updated Zimbabwe Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) report is being finalised and once ready will be published online.

Discussion on Priority Areas (based on any logistics activities (operational/preparedness) that organisations have already implemented or are planning to implement)

**PLAN INTERNATIONAL**

- PLAN is distributing CSB and cash.
- PLAN indicated the challenges experienced with GMB and has faced delays in paying loaders.
- PLAN pointed out that they did not encounter any logistical issues during the month under review.

**CULTIVATING NEW FRONTIERS IN AGRICULTURE (CNFA)**

- CNFA is running a programme by USAID targeting pregnant women and children under 2 years.
- CNFA is providing CSB and oil.
- Imported 200 mt through Durban and CSB. There are plans to import 300+mt of sorghum via Durban by July.
- Facing challenges relating to obtaining permit for vegetable oil due to the Oils’ GM status. WFP indicated its willingness to assist CNFA on this issue by sharing the process of obtaining import licences.
- CNFA pointed out the pre-shipment inspection by AMALIMA for CSB at Durban and that there was no pre-shipment inspection for vegetable oil. WFP indicated that the Ministry of Health has requested pre-shipment inspection of all imported commodities. There is therefore a need for close coordination and collaboration with other organisations importing humanitarian cargo so that we can share costs and expedite the process. The need for repeated pre-shipment inspections will be reduced.
- WFP also requested that AMALIMA, ENSURE and WFP should come together to share information on expected cargo and dates for inspections to reduce redundant pre-shipment inspections. They also pointed out the inconsistency in inspection mechanisms with different Government departments and requested that the Government ministries should be engaged for shipments coming in. Shipments from consistent vendors/suppliers do not need repeated inspections according to the Ministry of Health and all commodities should not be inspected. The request to invite ministry officials into the form was highlighted.

**UNFPA**

- Currently not doing any logistics.
- Doing assessments to gather information related to maternity but do provide assistance with food in some circumstances.
- NFI have not faced any challenges.
- NGOs are requesting to pre-clear the commodities for NFIs which assist in running their programmes.
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- UNFPA pointed out the Ministry of Foreign Affairs process for the clearance of commodities is no longer available.
- UNICEF pointed out the advance draft procedure to expedite the process for clearance.
- WFP pointed out that the new circular is affecting them and UNDP.

HELPAGE

- No updates from HELPAGE.

GMB

- Working on distributing maize to the vulnerable.
- Facing challenges with empty bags.
- Importing maize from South Africa, Zambia and Mexico.
- In Zambia, due to the clearance procedures for trucks, two weeks of delays have been encountered. WFP pointed out its experience on delays experienced for trucks coming from Zambia also, due to the tightened requirements by the Zambian Government on exports and documentation flow on their side.
- Due to changes in the procedures and documentation requirement in Zambia, consistent challenges are faced.
- GMB is using both road and rail networks to import commodities.
- GMB pointed out that GM products are not allowed and that all commodities they are bringing in are GM free.
- Pointed out that non-GM maize from South Africa is a bit more expensive than GM maize due to quarantine issues.

UNICEF

- Nothing to Update.

A.O.B

- Invited the Ministry of Social Affairs but they could not come.
- Representative for the pre-clearance of shipments could be invited in next meetings to enlighten the participants on the processes and the stakeholders that are involved.
- Ministry of Agriculture to be invited for specific issues or any other related ministry which can assist with the functioning of operations.

Next Logistics Sector Coordination meeting will be held
in Zambezi Room, WFP Office Harare, on Thursday 28th July at 15.00

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