

Highlights

Joint Crisis Coordination Center (JCC)

- A two-day meeting was conducted with the Head of JCC to discuss the revision process of the Action Plan developed in cooperation with JCC in 2020. Other topics were discussed during the meeting, including:
 - Introduction of the Logistics Information Exchange (Log:ie) platform and the possibility of implementing the project in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Subsequently, an invitation for JCC to participate in Log:ie implementation was drafted and will be sent soon.
 - Set-up of Logistics Working Group under the leadership of JCC in order for it to take active role in the Preparedness Project activities and the Terms of Reference (ToR) development.
 - Strengthening cooperation between humanitarian actors and authorities, notably with the introduction of several new areas of cooperation, such as bonded warehouses and tax and customs exemption facilitation.
- It has been agreed during the meeting that a revision of the Action Plan will be done and that a feedback is expected. Upon reception, a workshop will be organised to discuss the possible changes and incorporate them in the updated Action Plan.

Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC)

- The Log:ie platform was introduced to the JCMC senior management and it was agreed to proceed with the pilot of the project. Therefore, intensive training sessions – both virtual and in-person – took place to train JCMC's nominated focal points on the platform different functionalities. A report was thereafter submitted to JCMC's senior management to inform them on the sessions' outcome and Log:ie added value to the humanitarian community. In the coming weeks, together with JCMC, an introductory session on Log:ie will be held (probably in the agenda of the coming Gaps Analysis Workshop) to the government and humanitarian partners.
- In collaboration with JCMC, the preparations for the Gaps Analysis Workshop in Federal Iraq (FI) were initiated by defining the main thematic areas and developing an overview presentation to be presented at the beginning of the workshop. Additionally, the list of government partners to be invited to attend the workshop was defined.
- Work is ongoing in close collaboration with WFP Vulnerability and Mapping (VAM) unit, Iraq Country Office, and the Log:ie team to source the needed data and maps and incorporate information into Log:ie platform for the Iraq Overview pilot project.
- Invitations to join the National Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NHLPWG) in both KRI and FI regions were sent to UN agencies as a first step soon to be followed by those intended to other humanitarian actors (*e.g.* INGO, NGO, ICRC, government partners, private sector).

Background

During the reporting period, the surge of COVID-19 cases in Iraq hampered the possibility of holding meetings and conducting workshops as part of Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP). Only critical selected field visits, in-person meetings, and inter-government movements were allowed. Yet, considering the project importance, JCC counterparts agreed to hold an in-person meeting with the National Logistics Officer. The main objectives of the visit were to follow-up on the Plan of Action review and endorsement process and to introduce Log:ie. As previously agreed, the reviewed Plan of Action will then be presented and discussed during a workshop towards final endorsement by JCC. During the meetings with JCC, representatives from UN agencies joined to discuss the opportunity of enhancing cooperation and communication with the humanitarian authorities thanks to the LWG. The possibility of strengthening JCC Logistics Centres capacity and establishing bonded warehouses at the airport and Ibrahim Khalil Entry point were also discussed.

Furthermore, activities in the central and southern regions progressed slower than expected due to the partial curfew and government shutdown imposed as a precautionary measure to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. Yet, several meetings were also organised with the Head of JCMC to discuss the steps forward and Log:ie. Additionally, the establishment of the NHLPWG that will be attended by humanitarian actors' focal points from both humanitarian community and government sides was discussed and agreed upon. It was also agreed that invitations to the identified government entities will be directly initiated by JCMC.

Several tailored training sessions were held to introduce Log:ie to appointed members. Two of sessions were held virtually and the third one was conducted face-to-face. A report highlighting the training objectives and expected next steps was thereafter drafted and presented to the General Secretariate for the Council of Minister senior management by JCMC to obtain approval for implementing the project regionwide in FI.

The development of the agenda and presentations for the coming Gaps Analysis Workshop (GAW) is ongoing. It was agreed with JCMC to hold the workshop in September 2021. A segment of the workshop will be allocated to introduce Log:ie and agree on the national level information the humanitarian community needs for the platform to be operational, and the relevant entities that will provide it.

Coordination

- Humanitarian community representatives and relevant government authorities were brought together to discuss the possibility to cooperate by joining forces to strengthen the humanitarian supply chain infrastructure and propose projects that can add a great value to the humanitarian community (e.g. bonded warehouse, tax and customs exemption facilitation, free-of-charge JCC resources and logistics centres).
- A meeting was arranged between JCC and UN agencies representatives to discuss the possibility of upholding cooperation via different avenues, including through the NHLPWG.
- A close work with the Head of JCMC allowed an identification of the government entities that are part of the humanitarian response and preparedness so they may be invited to join the NHLPWG in FI.

Information management

- The IM unit and Log:ie teams supported with the drafting of a letter to invite JCC to join the Log:ie implementation in KRI. The letter will be signed by WFP IQCO and submitted to JCC in order to officialise its involvement in the project.
- The IM unit supported with the editing and revising of the Log:ie Introduction and Summary report that has been shared with JCMC.

Contacts

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