
Meeting Minutes, 28 September 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



LOCATION	Addis Ababa, online
DATE	28 September 2021
CHAIR	Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior NDRMC Adviser Andrea Rosales, Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), CARE Ethiopia, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Christian Aid, Crown Agents, Danish Red Cross (DRC), , FHI 360, Food for the Hungry (FH), Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Goal, Handicap International (HI), International Committee for the Development of Peoples (CISP), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Islamic Relief, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B), Medical Teams International (MTI), National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), OXFAM, Plan International, Population Services International (PSI), Red Cross Denmark, Save the Children, Trocaire, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision International (WVI), ZOA
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Partners are requested to submit their Service Request Form (SRF) via ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org to access storage and transport services● Partners who would like to request MSUs for their storage should write to ethiopia.logisticsclustermisu@wfp.org● OCHA to follow up with UNHAS for further clarification on the new documents required for non-Ethiopian passengers on flights to Mekele.● Logistics Cluster to update the Physical Constraints Access Map with the information provided by OCHA: the Mae Tseberi bridge connecting North Gondar to Tigray has been fixed and heavy vehicles can now travel across.● OCHA to share confirmation about the mentioned damaged bridge connecting Gondar to Amdework.● Partners requested by Logistics Cluster to hold regarding SRF for transport and storage of seeds in Addis Ababa and Adama until the regulation around the import of seeds into Tigray is clarified. This is because most of the space occupied in the Addis Ababa and Adama warehouses is currently occupied by seeds.● OCHA to share updates on its upcoming meeting with NDRMC and the Ministry of Peace regarding the reviewed guidelines.

Meeting Minutes, 28 September 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- NDRMC Updates
- OCHA Updates
- Operational Updates
- Humanitarian convoys
- WFP Cost Recovery Fuel Service
- Mid-year Survey Results
- FAQs and Partner Discussions

1. NDRMC Updates

- NDRMC informed partners that a meeting took place on Friday in Addis Ababa, with the participation of Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) colleagues and government officials as well as partners on the ground. The subject of the meeting was to discuss how the humanitarian response could scale up in the Amhara region. NDRMC highlighted that all participants agreed that a fast and coordinated emergency response was needed to respond to the urgent needs in the region.

2. OCHA Updates

- OCHA shared that the access within Tigray is largely accessible except in the northern woredas, where some constraints were reported.
- OCHA shared some insights of a joint assessment report in Afar, Zone 4. The assessment noted that IDPs had started to return home and reported there were currently no issues for actors to move around. OCHA expects movement restrictions to be lifted soon, which will enable partners to do needs assessments as soon as restrictions are lifted. OCHA also informed that the government will also be doing a damage assessment in this area.
- Regarding fuel, OCHA informed that the Tigrayan authorities will not be providing fuel to partners and agencies. OCHA flagged that some partners have stalled completely, and others continue to operate at minimal capacity.
- OCHA provided an update received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the regulations on UNHAS flights. From now on, and in addition to the existing documents, non-Ethiopian passengers will be required to submit a supporting letter from the Ministry of Peace. OCHA expects this will come into effect starting flights on Thursday.
- Several passenger convoys arranged from Semera to Mekele took place last week, and OCHA informed it continues to help coordinate partners in this regard, but underlined OCHA is not providing vehicles.

Meeting Minutes, 28 September 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



- OCHA informed partners that the Mae Tseberi bridge, connecting North Gondar to Tigray, has been fixed with the capacity for 80 mt to travel across (heavy vehicles).
- OCHA also informed they are awaiting confirmation over damages on the Ibant Bridge, connection Gondar to Amdework, Seketa Town, and will provide an update when this information is received.

3. Operational highlights

- Partners were informed that the Field Cluster Coordinator, present in Bahir Dar since last Wednesday, is available to coordinate with the partners' counterparts in Bahir Dar. He is currently working on compiling needs from partners to coordinate the response in the Amhara region. He can be contacted by email: crispin.tshiamala@wfp.org
- As of 12 September, 606 trucks have arrived to Mekele since 12 July, and partners were informed that one convoy of 31 WFP trucks was set to arrive today. Out of the 606, 251 Logistics Cluster trucks and Logistics Cluster-coordinated trucks have arrived in Mekele.
- Logistics Cluster also informed partners that around 44 commercial trucks have come out of Tigray; one convoy came out last week, and one convoy came out yesterday.
- Partners were informed that some trucks this week were not allowed into Tigray as they were carrying seeds, medicines and solar panels.
- Between 20 and 24 September, five trucks of 40 mt have been facilitated to support two partners and transport WASH and Protection items from Mekele to Machew, Axum and Sheraro.
- During this same period, 41.6 mt have been transported in four trucks on behalf of two partners from Shire to Mekele, Axum and Sheraro.
- Logistics Cluster flagged that most of the storage space occupied in Addis Ababa and Adama represents seeds, a commodity that has met some challenges in crossing to Tigray. Therefore, the Logistics Cluster asked partners to hold their requests for seeds storage and transport in Adama and Addis Ababa until the regulations around the import of seeds are clarified.
- Regarding the airlift, Logistics Cluster informed partners that it is working on receiving clarity regarding the clearance process. Partners were informed that it had meetings with authorities to clarify the clearance process and is hopeful to have further clarity by the next coordination meeting.
- Logistics Cluster informed that it is aware of the backlog of requests for transport and is actively working on finding transporters to serve the requests received from partners.
- The next coordination meetings set to happen are in Mekele at 15:00 today, Tuesday 28 September, in Semera at 10:00 on Friday 1 October, and in Shire at 14:00 on Monday 4 October.
- To be added to the mailing list to receive Logistics Cluster communications and notifications on upcoming meetings, partners should contact hannah.bamberger@wfp.org.

4. Humanitarian convoys

- Partners were reminded of the two ways to access the convoys:

<https://logcluster.org/ops/eth20a>

Meeting Minutes, 28 September 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



- For partners wishing to dispatch their cargo **accessing transport services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster**, they are requested to submit the [Service Request Form](#) (SRF) to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org
- For partners wanting to **join the convoy with their transportation**, they are requested to submit the following information 48 hours in advance to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org

NUMBER	AGENCY	DRIVER NAME / ALTERNATE	PHONE NUMBER(S)	VEHICLE NUMBER / TRAILER NUMBER	CARGO TYPE	WEIGHT OF CARGO
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

- It is essential to receive the information on time since the convoys need the approval of NDRMC and the trucks' details must be submitted in advance.
- The Logistics Cluster highlighted the importance of abiding by the following recommendations:
 - Make sure that drivers carry their ID and do not travel with substantial amounts of cash.
 - Not to travel with cameras, laptops or any electronic or communication devices. Generators are not allowed in the convoys either.
- Not following the indications will affect other partners and trucks in the same convoy, causing unnecessary delays in delivering humanitarian cargo.

5. WFP Cost-Recovery Fuel Service

- As of 28 September, 16 partners have finalised the Bilateral Service Provision (BSP) processes, representing a request of 124,340 Liters¹. The estimation of the needs is 233,140 Liters required monthly, to approximately 24 partners on the ground.
- WFP reported it is still advocating on the ground to have fuel tanks pass into Tigray. Partners will be informed when any movement on the ground is reported.
- WFP is also trying to gather needs on the ground in Shire. First, Mekele would be served with current needs and secondly, WFP plans to position a tanker in Shire.
- Partners are encouraged to reach out to annemaud.draugeon@wfp.org, sara.berhanu@wfp.org, helen.somes@wfp.org and elwan.bader@wfp.org for any inquiries related to fuel services.

¹Based on finalized Pro Forma Invoices

6. Mid-year Survey Results

- Logistics Cluster presented the survey that was shared a few weeks ago and that gathered the opinions and suggestions of the Logistics Cluster's partners in the areas of Information Management, Logistics Services, Coordination and Strategy. In total, 29 partners from all sectors of activities took part in the survey.
- In terms of coordination, 69% of respondents rated the Logistics Cluster coordination abilities as very good and 27.6% as good, while 3.4% rated it as poor. Suggestions for improvement included a better adaptation of the training to the audience. Logistics Cluster shared it is taking this into account and will look into the possibility to conduct trainings in Amharic. A partner suggested sharing medical SOPs and cold chain cargos. Logistics Cluster flagged that it is not handling such cargos but expressed it could coordinate the sharing of best practices among partners, under its coordination mandate. Finally, further follow-up on the issues raised during the Logistics Cluster Meetings was suggested, and the Logistics Cluster took this point into consideration.
- On information management, the main point raised was the access of important information for any new partners. Logistics Cluster highlighted all meeting minutes and information management products are accessible on the [Logistics Cluster website](#). If any points are not addressed, the Logistics Cluster shared bilateral meetings with newcomers, and any interested partners are also possible.
- On the Logistics services, 96.6% of respondents rated the services as very good or good. Better communication on the arrival of the cargo and more timely updates on the SRF were suggested by respondents.
- 55.2% of respondents rated the strategy of the Logistics Cluster as relevant. Among the suggestions received, partners suggested that the strategy should be further adapted to the changing contexts.

7. FAQs and partner discussion

- A partner asked for clarification over which items were not able to enter Tigray. Logistics Cluster informed that last week, some solar lamps were not allowed in, as well as seeds and medicines.
- A partner asked about progress on the status of fuel import into Tigray. WFP answered that fuel tankers remain held, but that WFP and Logistics Cluster is continuing advocacy.
- A partner asked if the guidelines review process has been accepted by all partners. OCHA shared it is still under consolidation with the feedback from partners and HQ. OCHA informed it is asking for a meeting with NDRMC and the Ministry of Peace which is hopefully happening this week and will let partners know about the outcomes of this meeting.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for 5 October at 11:00 EAT.

Meeting Minutes, 28 September 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Contacts

Andrea Rosales	<i>Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	andrea.rosales@wfp.org
Anne-Maud Drugeon	<i>Logistics Cluster Deputy Coordinator</i>	annemaud.drugeon@wfp.org
Mustapha Kemokai	<i>Logistics Cluster Operations Manager</i>	mustapha.kemokai@wfp.org
Hannah Bamberger	<i>Information Management Officer</i>	hannah.bamberger@wfp.org