

Zimbabwe National Logistics Sector (ZNLS)

Meeting Minutes 26 August 2021

Harare, Zimbabwe



LOCATION:	Online meeting – Zoom
DATE:	26 August 2021
CHAIR:	World Food Programme (WFP)
PARTICIPANTS:	AFRICA AHEAD, CHRISTIAN CARE, CARE, DCA, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE, PDC MASVINGO, NAZ, TDH ITALY, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, ZCC
AGENDA:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Opening remarks2. Action points from last meeting3. Updates from working groups4. Global Logistics Cluster update5. Updates from participants and closing remarks
OUTCOMES/ ACTIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WFP will engage ZIMRA to explore the possibility of a presentation to the ZNLS2. WFP will provide an update on warehouse management training in the next meeting3. WFP will share details of the eLRT training by email
USEFUL LINKS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ZNLS SharePoint website may be found here (to be added to be group, please send an email to WFP contacts below)2. The Action Plan may be found here3. Log.IE Zimbabwe viewer interface – the Logistics Cluster Physical Access Constraints reporting and mapping tool4. ZNLS WhatsApp group (please click to join): https://chat.whatsapp.com/FWrDaBRv991BV4Lqprx3YP

1. Opening remarks

The meeting was opened by the Logistics Preparedness Officer from WFP. She welcomed participants, thanked them for attendance, and gave a short introduction on the Zimbabwe National Logistics Sector (ZNLS) – for the benefit of those attending the meeting for the first time. An apology was given for unavailability of colleagues from the Department of Civil Protection (DCP).

2. Action points from last meeting

The warehouse management training for government officers was postponed due to the COVID-19 lockdowns. The terms of reference of the working groups were shared. Members were encouraged to participate in ad hoc meetings and/or to propose meetings for working groups to discuss or work together on specific tasks that affect the ZNLS. WFP will ensure that participants are informed of relevant meetings across the working groups/clusters/sectors.

3. Transport update

Logistics Cluster reporting and mapping tool (Log. IE) is being promoted and deployed in Zimbabwe. Socialisation at subnational level was disrupted by COVID-19 lockdowns which prohibited face-to-face interactions and inter-city travels. Socialisation efforts will continue when the restrictions are eased. In the meantime, online promotion of Log. IE is ongoing in various virtual meetings.

4. Import clearance update

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in introduction of new ways of working and changed office arrangements. Delays have been faced by some partners in the import and clearance of goods. There was a suggestion to engage the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) to assist in articulating the new ways of working due to COVID-19 and to give ideas to how to expedite clearance of goods. Participants were encouraged to forward specific questions to enable ZIMRA to prepare an appropriate presentation or points for discussion.

Action: WFP will engage with ZIMRA to explore the possibility of a presentation to the ZNLS.

5. Health logistics update

Members of the ZNLS participate in Pillar 8 (Procurement, Logistics, and Supply Chain working group) meetings for supporting the national COVID-19 response efforts by the Government. Meetings are led by Ministry of Health and Child Care every Thursday morning. Colleagues who would like to be included in the meeting invitations should get in touch with the Secretariat by email to drama@clintonhealthaccess.org; nkawaza@clintonhealthaccess.org.

6. Warehousing update

The warehouse management training for government officers was postponed due to the COVID-19 lockdowns. The new dates will be communicated with participants and a strict enforcement of the COVID-19 control protocols will be implemented.

Action: WFP to provide an update regarding the training in the next meeting.

7. Flood Preparedness and Prepositioning update

The meeting participants were informed about the upcoming workshop to be led by UNICEF, OCHA, and the government's Department of Civil Protection on 6-8 September 2021. Invitations have been extended to all humanitarian clusters/sectors including the National Logistics Sector. The objective of the workshop is to improve the capacity of humanitarian partners and government to ensure readiness for the occurrence of rapid onset emergencies and to effectively integrate cross cutting issues such as Disability Inclusion and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

8. Global Logistics Cluster update

The Global Logistics Cluster is in the process of developing a new Strategy for the next five years. Stakeholder consultations are ongoing and partners were encouraged to provide feedback to WFP email contacts (see below contacts). The strategy development process will be completed in November 2021.

There will be Virtual Reality Logistics Response Team (e-LRT) Training on 4-8 October 2021. It was noted that the training is practical and may be of benefit for colleagues from government and humanitarian partners to attend. However, the requirements may deter some people from registering or being accepted. To enable colleagues to plan to attend future sessions and make informed decisions regarding the training, it was suggested that additional application requirement details should be shared.

Action: WFP to share details regarding the eLRT training by email.

9. Updates for participants and closing remarks

Participants expressed concerns over the continuing negative impact of COVID-19 on activities. It was suggested that all opportunities to share lessons learnt should be utilised by members. The need to share experiences and best practices on managing activities under the new normal, as well as strategies for business continuity and sustainability was highlighted.

The Logistics Preparedness Officer closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attendance and participation.

The next meeting or email update will be on 30 September 2021. The Zoom link or email update will be shared in due course.

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