LOCATION: Addis Ababa, online

DATE: 9 November 2021

CHAIR: Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior NDRMC Adviser
Andrea Rosales, Logistics Cluster Coordinator


ACTION POINTS:

- 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.logisticsclustermsu@wfp.org.
- Partners were asked to share information on their pipeline in the Amhara Region with the Logistics Cluster as well as the final destination of the cargo for mapping and planning purposes by writing to Hannah.bamberger@wfp.org.

AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introduction
- NDRMC Updates
- OCHA Updates
- Operational Updates
- Monthly Overview: October
- Logistics Cluster Extension
- FAQs and Partner Discussions

1. NDRMC Updates

- NDRMC recognized the logistics bottlenecks encountered by partners in Ethiopia and informed it was waiting for directions in this regard.
- NDRMC highlighted that the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) in the Amhara and Afar regions is activated and encouraged partners to engage with the authorities for their operations in the regions.
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- NDRMC also noted that name was in the process of changing to EDRMC: Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission.

2. OCHA Updates

- OCHA updated partners on the second trip to Ethiopia of Martin Griffiths, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, which concluded on 8 November. Partners were informed that his trip included various meetings with government officials, UN agencies and NGOs, as well as a day trip to Mekele and a trip to Bahir Dar alongside heads of UN agencies. Partners were informed that access to Tigray and some areas in Northern Ethiopia remains challenging with the suspension of the UNHAS flights still ongoing. OCHA informed that neither cargo nor staff convoys had entered Tigray in the past week.
- On 5 November, UNDSS issued advice to suspend operations in Afar, Eastern Amhara and North West Oromia. OCHA highlighted this means many partners have been relocated from Semera to Awash and onwards to Addis and that it had important impact on the delivery of life-saving supplies.
- According to OCHA, the Semera-Awash road remains open, although extra precautions were advised to partners when using this route.
- OCHA shared that connectivity and communications remain cut in Kombolcha and Dessie and are intermittent in Bahir Dar and Semera. OCHA added that text messaging is intermittently working in Bahir Dar and Semera, but internet connectivity is highly unreliable.

3. Operational Highlights

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that no convoy to Tigray had taken place since 18 October.
- Regarding trucks in Semera, the Logistics Cluster shared that the number remains essentially unchanged compared to last week. This leaves the figure of the total amount of trucks currently in Semera to 365: 200 WFP trucks, 34 Logistics Cluster trucks on behalf of 10 partners and 135 partner trucks facilitated by the Logistics Cluster on behalf of five partners.
- Partners were informed that since 6 November, the Logistics Cluster expanded its warehouse capacity to accommodate the demand for storage capacity resulting from the slow-down of cargo movement. An additional 1,800 m² of warehouse space is now available for partners in Addis Ababa and an additional 1,000 m² in Semera.
- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that around 2,500 mt on behalf of six partners are in the pipeline for storage in Addis Ababa.
- The Logistics Cluster shared that it was actively compiling information on the pipeline of partners active in the Amhara region for planning purposes and requested partners to share this information with the Logistics Cluster by writing to hannah.bamberger@wfp.org.

https://logcluster.org/ops/eth20a
• The available storage space of the Logistics Cluster as of 8 November is as follows: 85% of the warehouse capacity in Addis Ababa is available, 100% in Gondar, 50% in Kombolcha, 68% in Mekele and 69% in Shire. There is no available capacity in Adama and Semera.

• The next coordination meetings are in Mekele at 15:00 EAT today in person and in Bahir Dar in person on 11 November at 10:30 EAT.

• 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. Monthly Overview: October

• The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the Monthly Overview for October is now available on the website here.

• The Logistics Cluster presented some key figures for the month of October: 138 Logistics Cluster coordinated trucks entered Tigray in October on behalf of 22 partners in six convoys from Semera to Mekele. Additionally, 22 partners accessed transport and storage services: 851 mt of cargo were transported, out of which 315 mt were transported to Tigray, and 1,011 m3 of cargo was stored across the seven warehouses of the Logistics Cluster. Regarding coordination, ten coordination meetings were held in October, and 58 partners took part in these meetings.

5. Logistics Cluster Extension

• The Logistics Cluster shared with partners that the process for the extension of the Logistics Cluster activation was ongoing.

• Partners were informed that the Gaps and Needs Analysis supports the extension of the Logistics Cluster.

• Regarding the next steps of the extension process, the Logistics Cluster stated that it will present the extension proposal at the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) on 9 November. It will then seek the approval of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and submit an extension letter to the Resident Coordinator.

4. FAQs and partner discussion

• Partners asked whether assistance in the transport of cargo towards Bahir Dar was possible. The Logistics Cluster shared that there was currently no cargo movement as the security situation was being assessed, but the Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to share their needs and pipeline so that mapping and planning can be done accordingly.

https://logcluster.org/ops/eth20a
A partner asked whether storage space in the warehouse in Addis Ababa was available. The Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to submit their SRFs but highlighted that requests from eight partners were already in the queue.

A partner asked whether fuel had entered Tigray, and WFP shared this had not been the case since 2 August, and no updates on fuel availability were to be reported at this stage.

A partner asked about the strategy for the way forward if access remains constrained in Northern Ethiopia. The Logistics Cluster shared it is currently working on this given the fluid situation, and more details will be shared in future coordination meetings.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16 November at 11:00 EAT.

Contacts

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