Meeting Minutes, 22 March 2022
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

LOCATION
Addis Ababa, online

DATE
22 March 2022

CHAIR
Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) Adviser
Andrea Rosales, Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
• Partners are requested to submit their Service Request Form (SRF) via ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org to access storage and transport services.
• Partners wishing to access the Logistics Cluster facilitated airlifts have to:
  (1) obtain the necessary clearance from the authorities (independently from the Logistics Cluster). (2) In parallel, coordinate with the Health Cluster Coordinator (Endalemaw Aberra (WHO), aberae@who.int and the Nutrition Cluster Coordinator (Wondayferam Gemeda (UNICEF)), wgemeda@unicef.org to be included in the prioritisation list. (3) submit a Service Request Form (SRF). For additional information, kindly contact hannah.bamberger@wfp.org.
  Further information can be found in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) published online
• Prioritised Clusters to collaborate with their respective partners to consolidate a list of prioritised life-saving cargo for airlift through the Logistics Cluster.
• Partners who would like to request Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) for their storage should submit the MSU Form to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org. More information can be found in the MSU Request SOPs

https://logcluster.org/ops/eth20a
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AGENDA
1. OCHA Updates
2. Health Cluster Updates
3. Nutrition Cluster Updates
4. Agriculture Cluster Updates
5. Operational Updates
6. FAQs and Partner Discussion

1. OCHA Updates

- OCHA provided updates on access in Northern Ethiopia. Regarding the Amhara region, the Amhara-Addis Ababa route heading North along the A2 is reportedly accessible up until Kobo.
- OCHA informed that the B-30 from Gondar going northeast is accessible until Debark. Partners reported delays with checkpoints in regards to accessibility on the border with the Tigray region.
- A3 and B31 (Bahir Dar) are reported to be accessible; however, precaution is advised in these zones and along with west Gojam.
- OCHA shared that the Addis Ababa-Semera route using the A1 via Awash was reportedly accessible.
- OCHA informed partners that the route from Semera to Kombolcha via the B-11 was reported as accessible.
- In Afar region, the area long Zone 2 is still hard to reach.
- In Tigray, the main access constraints remain on the border with Eritrea and in the West zones.
- OCHA highlighted the additional requirements for UNHAS flight requests:
  - All MoFA Diplomatic ID holders wishing to travel to/from Mekele must first obtain clearance from MoFA before booking their flights with UNHAS.
  - If the passenger does not have a diplomatic ID (national/work ID and or passport holders), then all NGO staff travelling from Addis Ababa to Mekele are required to submit a mission letter to UNHAS explaining the purpose of their travel.
- OCHA updated partners that there was no cash approval for today's (22 March) flight. The last flight carrying cash took place two weeks ago.
- According to OCHA, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) was able to provide comprehensive data on cash and updated the precise amount transferred (1.2 billion ETB), on behalf of 74 agencies in 612 rounds approved since July 2021.
- OCHA reminded partners no humanitarian fuel tankers have entered Tigray since August 2021, which continues to hamper partners’ ability to respond.
- To contact OCHA, partners were encouraged to reach out to nicola.wing@un.org

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2. **Health Cluster Updates**

- The Health Cluster shared updates regarding the airlifts of life-saving medical supplies from Addis Ababa to Mekele.
- Regarding the clearance process of the health cargo, partners were informed of guidance regarding the clearance process from the Health Cluster, which has been drafted and will be shared with partners and the Logistics Cluster upon completion.
- To contact the Health Cluster, partners can reach out to aberae@who.int

3. **Nutrition Cluster Updates**

- The Nutrition Cluster updated partners on the scheduled prioritised humanitarian cargo that will be airlifted to Mekele through the Logistics Cluster.
- The Nutrition Cluster reminded partners interested in moving nutrition cargo via air to coordinate with them to be included in the prioritisation list.
- To contact the Nutrition Cluster, partners can reach out to adobamo@unicef.org

4. **Agriculture Cluster Updates**

- The Agriculture Cluster presented updates on the prioritised agricultural cargo that has been cleared through the relevant authorities to be airlifted from Addis Ababa to Mekele and the schedule.
- As agreed with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), the Agriculture Cluster is working to prioritise agricultural cargo.
- To contact the Agriculture Cluster, partners can reach out to ntandoyenkosi.mlobane@fao.org

5. **Operational Updates**

**Cargo airlifts Addis Ababa-Mekele**

- In the past week, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the airlift of 95.2 mt of prioritised health items from Addis Ababa to Mekele on behalf of two partners.
- The Logistics Cluster notified partners that the ICCG prioritised Health and Nutrition, WASH, Emergency Shelter and NFI, and Agriculture Clusters (in the respective order).
- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that the updated Airlifts Addis Ababa to Tigray SOP's were shared via the mailing list and can be found on the website with additional information, including clearance processes.
- Partners were informed that the next planned airlifts will move 15 mt of Nutrition cargo on behalf of one partner on 22 March and 12.5 mt of Nutrition cargo on behalf of one partner on 23 March.
- The Logistics Cluster highlighted the below cargo airlift recommendations to avoid delays and incidents:
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- Ensure the cargo is labelled. This can be done by sticking a logo/tag of the organisation on each box, either with a sticker, pen, or tape. For more safety, partners are recommended to bring at the airport some extra stickers, a boxcutter, a tape roll and face masks.
- Share the clearance with the Logistics Cluster as soon as the partner receives it. This is required for planning purposes and for UNHAS to request flight clearance.
- Remove any unnecessary extra plastic before the arrival of the cargo at the airport. This can help speed up the manual checks at the airport, which require unboxing all cargo for National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) clearance.
- Partners should ensure that at least one representative per organisation (if possible two) are present at the Addis Ababa and Mekele airports, carrying the cargo packing list, work ID, and the required airport pass. In Addis Ababa and Mekele, they should be able to answer any questions related to cargo from the authorities. In Mekele, the focal person will be responsible for picking up the cargo. If storage services are required, please inform the Logistics Cluster in advance by writing to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org or by including this on the submitted SRF, for planning purposes.
- Partners also must ensure the correct information on the SRF is included. Discrepancies between SRF figures and actual figures will cause delays during the checks. To ensure accurate SRF figures, partners need to provide the packing list by email to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org, and make sure to correctly measure the volume, weight, and number of boxes.
- Partners should request access passes for the airport restricted area where the NISS inspection is conducted. This will enable them to access the area in the airport where the cargo is checked, unboxed, and repacked.

The Logistics Cluster highlighted the below new requirements for cargo airlift services that have been shared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
- EDRMC letter for cargo must mention the total weight and expiration date of the cargo to be airlifted.
- EDRMC letter for cargo must include a validity date.
- Without the above information, UNHAS cannot secure the flight clearances for the following week’s airlifts.

Other operational updates

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that no convoy movements to Mekele through the Semera-Mekele corridor had occurred since 14 December.
- In Afar, the Logistics Cluster has received 65.5 mt of Shelter NFIs for storage in the warehouse in Semara on behalf of two partners.
- Additionally, two partner trucks of 13.5 mt of Shelter NFIs from one partner have been dispatched from Logistics Cluster warehouse for distribution in the Afar region.
- In Shire, between 10-14 March 7.2 mt of WASH, Health and Shelter items were dispatched from the warehouse in Shire by two partners for their distribution in IDP centres in Shire and Adwa. Both partners used their transport means and fuel.

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In Addis Ababa, the Logistics Cluster facilitated two training sessions on Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) Installation and Dismantling at the Kality warehouse from 14 to 17 March. Eleven partners attended the sessions.

Two Mobile Storage Units (MSU) have been installed in the Kality warehouse (Addis Ababa), adding an extra 640 m2 to the total storage capacity in Addis Ababa. During the reporting period, 82.4 mt of Shelter, Food, and Heath items were received on behalf of three partners in the warehouse.

Regarding the storage capacity available in Ethiopia, as of 22 March: 14% is available in Addis Ababa, 50% in Gondar, 60% in Kombolcha, 71% in Mekele, 97% in Shire, 36% in Semera and 25% in Adama.

The next coordination meeting is in Mekele at 15:00 EAT on 29 March, in-person and online. To receive the link for this meeting, contact abriha.assefa@wfp.org.

The next coordination meeting in Bahir Dar will take place on 6 April at 10:30 EAT, in-person and online. To receive the link for this meeting, contact eyerusalem.ameha@wfp.org.

To be added to the mailing list and receive Logistics Cluster communications and notifications on upcoming meetings and training opportunities, partners should contact hannah.bamberger@wfp.org.

6. FAQs and Partner Discussion

One partner required clarification regarding the Ministry of Health’s (MoH) approval on all nutrition item categories. The Nutrition Cluster answered that according to MoH requirements, all nutrition and health items need the MoH’s approval.

A partner asked when the tentative flight schedule for the prioritised items that have received EDRMC clearance will be shared. Partners must provide letters from both, EDRMC and MoH in order to access airlift services. The tentative flight schedule will be shared with the partner once all the requirements have been met.

One partner enquired about the convoy movements through the Semera-Mekele corridor and the clearance requirements. The Logistics Cluster informed a test convoy is at Semera, waiting for the green light from local authorities to move. Once the test convoy is completed, further updates regarding the clearance requirements will be shared.

Partners were recommended to contact the Logistics Cluster ethiopia.logisticscluster@wfp.org for any enquiries related to cargo and or SRF.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 29 March at 11:00 EAT
# Contacts

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