Meeting Minutes, 26 July 2022
Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Mogadishu, Online

DATE
26 July 2022

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), GREDO, HALO Trust, Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Save the Children, Somaus Help Inc., United Nations’s Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision

ACTION POINTS

• The Logistics Cluster to continue to share updates on access restrictions.
• The Logistics Cluster to continue to share updates on fuel prices.
• The Logistics Cluster to share Market Alerts Report upon request.
• Partners to share transport needs to El Wak for the Logistics Cluster to consolidate.
• Partners to share needs to transport cargoes to Mahas for the Logistics Cluster to consolidate.
• The Logistics Cluster to share a summary of security assessment done by WFP on the Garacad port.
• The Logistics Cluster to share updates on ongoing discussions with local authorities on repairing the El Berde airstrip.

AGENDA
1. Action Points Review
2. Situation Update
3. Logistics Cluster Concept of Operations (ConOps)
4. Energy Fuel Prices
5. Customs Clearance
6. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 12 July were reviewed:

• The Logistics Cluster will continue to share updates on access restrictions across Somalia (road and airstrip accessibility). [Ongoing]
• The Logistics Cluster will continue to share updates on fuel prices across Somalia. [Ongoing]
• The Logistics Cluster will share Market Alert Reports upon request. [Ongoing]
• The Logistics Cluster will consolidate partners’ needs for El Wak and Mahas. [Ongoing]

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
2. Situation Update

General Country Updates:

- The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) requested the Somalia Logistics Cluster to conduct a supply chain assessment of Bay and Bakool regions. The exercise was primarily desk-based, reaching out to partners on the ground to provide information on accessible roads and airstrips in the two regions.
- Based on information received from partners, the following roads are currently inaccessible for humanitarian and commercial transporters: Ceel Berde – Xuddur, Rab Dhurre – Xuddur, Tayeeglow – Xuddur, Wajid – Xuddur, Baidoa – Qansaxdhere and Baidoa – Diinsor.
- Based on information received from partners, the following roads are accessible by commercial transporters only: Mogadishu – Baidoa, Mogadishu – Berdaale, Beletweyne – Tayeeglow, Ceel Berde – Rab Dhurre, Baidoa – Qansaxdhere and Baidoa – Diinsor.
- There are airstrips in Huddur, Ceel Berde, Baidoa, Waajid, Buur Hakaba (Helipad), Qansaxdhere, Diinsor and Berdaale.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently facilitating flights to all mentioned airstrips in Bay and Bakool regions. Partners are encouraged to reach out to the Logistics Cluster with needs to allow for consolidation of cargoes to be transported to these two locations.
- Currently, Buur Hakaba can only be reached by helicopter which the Logistics Cluster does currently not have access to. However, information received indicates that cargo could be transported by air to Baidoa and then by road to Buur Hakaba. Because of security considerations, partners are encouraged to reduce the number of trucks traveling together and minimise the visibility of cargo being transported.
- The partners needs assessment conducted by the Logistics Cluster indicates that there is currently no need for the Logistics Cluster to contract a dedicated helicopter to the operation.
- There is warehouse storage facility in Huddur (48mt) and Baidoa (1220mt).

Road Transport Network Updates:

- A warning has been issued for the Mogadishu-Marka-Brava road due to insecurity. Careful planning is required to use the route.
- The Logistics Cluster conducted a road assessment for Kulbio and Raskamboni. Kulbio is only accessible with commercial transporters from the Kenyan border via Garissa and Haluqo. Raskamboni is only accessible with commercial dhows via sea from Kismayo.
- Mahas is now inaccessible via road due to evolving insecurity. As there is no airstrip in Mahas, flight access can only be facilitated through helicopter. In order for the Logistics Cluster to consolidate needs, partners to share their needs to transport cargo to Mahas.

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Air Transport Updates:
- All airstrips are currently accessible.
- Authorities have officially opened the airport in El Wak. The Logistics Cluster has identified a contractor through WFP who is on stand-by to facilitate airlifts from Mogadishu to El Wak. Partners are expected to share their transport needs to El Wak for the Logistics Cluster to consolidate requests.
- Baidoa airport time restrictions have been lifted. Baidoa can now be accessed at any time.
- The El Berde airstrip is deteriorating. Commercial transporters have indicated that if the airstrip is not repaired soon it will be difficult to continue to fly to El Berde. Discussion with local authorities are ongoing. The Logistics Cluster will share updates with partners.
- Due to ongoing kat transporation from Nairobi to Mogadishu, the Mogadishu airport tends to be congested between 8:00 EAT and 9.30 EAT. Partners are advised to avoid the planning of air transport between these times.

Sea Transport and Airport Updates:
- All sea ports remain operational: Mogadishu – Berbera – Bosasso – Kismayo.
- WFP time-chartered vessel MV Zehrah 1 arrived in Bosasso on the 23rd of July. The next port after Bosasso is Mombasa followed by Mogdishu – Bosasso – Berbera.
- Partners are requested to share cargo movement needs from Mogadishu to Bosasso and Berbera by end of July.
- Updates to upcoming schedules will be shared with all partners.

Relief Materials Pipeline and Sourcing:
- Availability/Assortment: Food commodities are available in all regions. However, there is limited supply of food commodities in Puntland and South Somalia.
- Prices: While the prices of food commodities and fuel in South Somalia, Central Somalia, Puntland and Banadir/Hirshabelle have increased, the prices in Somaliland have decreased due to the Somaliland administration’s tax reduction on some food commodities.
- Infrastructure: The supply corridors in all regions are accessible. However, in South Somalia, the supply corridor between Afmadow and Dhobley is currently impacted by ongoing rains. In addition, in Banadir/Hirshabelle, the supply corridor from Mogadishu to Raage-Elle district via War Sheik is heavily impacted by the floods caused by river Shabelle. Partners are advised to plan accordingly.
- For a detailed report, please reach out to annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org.

3. Logistics Cluster Concept of Operations (ConOps)

Information Management
- The updated Roads Access map and Airport Access map (as of 26th of July) have been uploaded on the Logistics Cluster website.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
Services

- Thus far in 2022:
  - The Logistics Cluster has supported 11 organizations (CESVI, UNHCR, HAPPEN, IOM, ACF, MOHADM, Gredo, UNICEF, Concern, Save the Children and MOH).
  - The Logistics Cluster transported 1,312 mt of cargo (nutrition, WASH, health, education, shelter, non-food items (NFIs) and food) to 22 locations (Adado, Afmadow, Baidoa, Belethawa, Beletweyne, Bulo Burte, Burdhubo, Dhobley, Dhusamareb, Diinsor, Dollow, Elil Wak, El Berde, Galkayo, Garbaharey, Garowe, Huddur, Kismayo, Luuq, Mogadishu, Qansadhere and Wajid).
  - 88.21 mt of cargo was transported on behalf of 7 organizations during the month of July 2022.
  - 600.43 mt of cargo has been transport via air, 591.57 mt via road and 120 mt via sea.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently planning to airlift cargo from Baidoa to Wajid, Huddur and Qansadhere. Partners are requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster indicating needs to airlift cargo from Baidoa.
- The majority of requests for airlifts are for transport to the southern region.
- Access remains a concern due to insecurity. This is creating high dependency on airlifts, increasing the cost of transportation.

Funding

- The Logistics Cluster funding needs (anticipating that the Logistics Cluster is supporting the humanitarian community to facilitate transport of 150-180 mt per month) have been covered for at least the next six months.
- Partners are requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster forecasting their needs for at least the next three months.

Additional Service Discussion

- The Logistics Cluster is currently carrying out an assessment to identify needs for rotary wings. So far, Mahas and Buurhaka were identified as two potential locations. Partners are requested to provide feedback if there is need for helicopter transport in these two locations.

4. Energy Fuel Prices

Energy Fuel Analysis: Diesel

- The Logistics Cluster continues to conduct assessments on fuel prices.
- The data consolidated for May and June indicated that there were no major changes in price during these two months.
- The average price for diesel lies currently at 1.13 $ per litre.
- Since January 2022, there has been an estimated 38% increase in fuel prices.

Energy Fuel Analysis: A1 Jet Fuel

- A1 Jet Fuel is mainly used for airlifting and it is therefore important for partners to continue monitoring its availability and cost.
5. Custom Clearance

- In 2021, the Logistics Cluster conducted a tax exemption analysis to inform advocacy efforts with the relevant government ministries in order to reduce import waiting times. The mixed methods analysis included:
  - Quantitative data – Logistics Cluster partners’ customs data from five ports.
  - Qualitative data – Key informant interviews and focus group discussions.
- This data was updated in 2022 to capture the most contemporary lead times and increase the breadth of analysis. All nine Logistics Cluster partners submitted quantitative data for the most recent analysis and four Logistics Cluster partners contributed to our qualitative data analysis.
- The aim of this analysis was to capture:
  - The average number of days to obtain Tax Exemption (TE) approval
  - Key locations identified which have most delays in custom clearance
  - Key challenges
  - Opportunities
- Comparing the 2021 to 2022 updated results, the average processing time has seen no improvement and a greater proportion of imports took more than three weeks to be processed, indicating that the customs challenge has only increased over the months.
- Mogadishu was found to be the port with the highest average number of days to secure customs clearance and tax exemptions, and this was reinforced by the Logistics Cluster qualitative data: partners consistently cited Mogadishu as the port with the most challenges.
- Mogadishu is also the port most frequently utilized for imports. These challenges in Mogadishu persist regardless of the transport modality and overall results were similar across the various sectors.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently in the process of developing a one-pager on customs challenges in Somalia and with the support of OCHA, engaging in advocacy efforts.

5. Any Other Business (AOB)

- One partner enquired whether it is possible to reach Galkayo from Hobyo by road. The Logistics Cluster informed the partner that the road remains closed for humanitarian movements at the moment. An assessment has been conducted on the Garacad port which could allow for possible road movement to Galkayo. The Logistics Cluster will share a summary of the assessment with partners.
- The Logistics Cluster will meet again on the 16th of August at 11:00 am EAT.
- All requests (including IM requests) are to be directed to somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org

1 ICRC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP
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