SIERRA LEONE LOGISTICS PILLAR MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: National Disaster Management Agency office and on-line meeting

DATE: 25 August 2022

LEADS: National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and World Food Programme (WFP)

PARTICIPANTS: Action Against Hunger (AAH), Emergency Hospital (EH), Freetown City Council (FCC), Goal Sierra Leone (GSL) Handicap International (HI), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Ministry of Information and Communication (MoIC), Maritime Wing, Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (MWRSLAF), National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), National Revenue Authority (NRA) OBT Logistics, Sea & Land Services - Bolloré (SALS), Tony Blair Institute (TBI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP)

AGENDA:
1. Action items from last meeting
2. Update on disaster prone areas/flooding/challenges
3. Ongoing Preparedness and Response activities within the country
4. Coordination and integration of humanitarian objectives
5. Training of regional coordinators and first line responders
6. AOB
7. Next meeting

OUTCOMES/ ACTIONS
- FCC to check with NDMA for waste recycling contact details.
- NDMA to provide an updated list for flooding and disaster-prone areas.
- NDMA to present an Excel sheet on all relief items received from partners and how they have been utilized.
- Daily weather forecast in line with early warning to be sent to disaster prone communities through media outlets and emergency toll free lines.
- An introductory meeting to be slated to kick start partner coordination.
- WFP to work with NDMA to generate a list of participants and draft a concept note for the upcoming training.
- Next Logistics Pillar meeting is scheduled for 29 September 2022

USEFUL LINKS
- Logistics Pillar Google link here
- Inter-Pillar google link here
- Sierra Leone Log.ie site https://logie.logcluster.org/?op=sle
- Logistics Cluster – online basic logistics training registration here

1. Welcome and Action items

The Logistics Pillar Meeting was held on 25 August 2022 at the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) conference room. In the absence of the Deputy Director General at the commencement of the meeting, the Principal Officer for Relief and Response chaired the meeting. Introductions were made and new pillar members were briefed about the Field Based Preparedness Project and the support the Global Logistics Cluster is contributing to Sierra Leone in the form of capacity strengthening.

Most of the action items are still pending and focal points are making efforts to ensure achievements of results.

2. Update on disaster prone areas/flooding/challenges

- The NDMA Data Analyst reported that they are working on collating data on areas that have been flooded during the last months. Low flooding has been experienced this year due to the flood mitigation exercise embarked on months ago. The drainages were thoroughly cleaned and that has led to the low incidents report.
The WFP National Logistics Officer asked the Freetown City Council how they facilitated the cleaning of the drainages. The Freetown City Council Disaster Risk Management assistant stated that they faced a lot of challenges with funding at the start of the rains. Clogged waterways and subsequent overflow of drainages have led to flooding. However, partners were engaged to source funds and implement the flood mitigation exercise. This exercise was done well in advance thus reducing the prevalence of flooding within the country.

The Logistics Officer for Handicap International suggested that because Freetown City Council does not have adequate financial resources, considerations should be made to engage waste management companies to recycle the waste they are retrieving from the drainages. The Freetown City Council Advisor stated that the Council announced a ‘Request for Proposals’ for private sector operators who are interested in recycling waste for dumpsites in Kissy and Kingtom.

UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Officer urged the NDMA to generate a list of newly flooded areas and areas that are prone to disaster this season. She also advocated for a meeting to be held wherein partners will be briefed on preparedness and mitigation activities relating to the countrywide flooding issues.

The WFP Logisticaian posed a question to the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the NDMA regarding listing of the disaster-prone areas within the country and the mitigation measures that are in place. The DDG responded that the meeting is strategic and timely and that there are sixty disaster prone areas within the Freetown municipality. After a comprehensive assessment, the prone areas were identified around the hills and sea front putting into perspective high, medium, and low risk areas. They have met with community volunteers and other institutions. However, Freetown City Council needs to take the lead to fully engage these partners. NDMA embarked on early warnings to prepare the communities in disaster prone areas and are now trying to set up a national committee with different levels of activation based on the scale of the disaster. They have a toll-free line (1199) for community engagement and work closely with the meteorological department for accurate weather forecasting.

The IFRC Logistics Officer recommended that NDMA should increase coordination and integration of all council country wide to have an effective response.

The Action Against Hunger Logistics focal point emphasized that communication is a key element, and this should be done through the media outlets to help communities be better prepared before disasters.

Action Points
- FCC to check with the NDMA for waste recycling contact details.
- NDMA to provide an updated list for flooding and disaster-prone areas.

3. Ongoing Preparedness and Response activities within the country

The WFP Logistics Officer stated that, regarding the preparedness objectives of the Global Logistics Cluster, the Field Based Preparedness Project has installed six mobile storage units in Bo, Kenema and Makeni to aid response activities in these districts. The NDMA is requesting support from the humanitarian bodies to procure sandbags/cement to strengthen the base of the mobile storage units assembled in these locations.

He went on to say that the NDMA is in dire need of relief items to be stockpiled in the recently assembled storage facilities across the country as they are currently empty.

The WFP Logisticaian gave a brief on the recently held warehouse management training in line with the prepositioning strategy and how it will positively impact the response activities.

The NDMA Deputy Director General gave an encompassing answer when asked about response activities within the country. He assured the pillar that they have data that reflects all the areas they have responded to, and they have disaggregated the data for visibility.

Action Points
- NDMA to present an Excel sheet on all relief items received from partners and how they have been utilized
- Weather forecast in line with early warning to be sent to communities through media outlets and the emergency toll free lines

4. Coordination and integration of humanitarian objectives

The WFP Logisticaian gave a brief on the way forward for humanitarian actors in line with coordination and integration bringing into perspective Who does What, Where, When and for Whom. He emphasized on the 5Ws and the benefits that humanitarian bodies can derive from this partnership. He continued in referring to the
Business Operations Strategy (BOS) which focuses on cost benefit analysis, improved coordination, and efficiency as an example of partnership.

- He went on to say that partners will be assessing their situations and needs and will be developing common strategies.
- The WFP Head of Logistics reiterated the need for partnership and the approach humanitarian bodies can initiate to synergize their endeavours

**Action Point**
- An introductory meeting to be slated to kick start partner coordination.

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**4. Training of regional coordinators and first line responders**

- Another training on Operational Efficiency, Coordination, Warehouse Management and Situational Awareness is planned for regional coordinators, first line responders, local actors, the World Health Organization in line with prepositioning and response activities to reinforce the Warehouse Management Training in the districts. Most part of the training will be Training of Trainers (ToT) to ensure that the concept is embedded in the minds of the responders.
- The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Force Naval Unit’s representative advocated for their unit to be part of the training to ensure that all responders are on the same trajectory when it comes to preparedness and response.

**Action Point**
- WFP to work with the NDMA to generate a list of participants and draft a concept note for the upcoming training.

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**6. AOB**

- Next logistics pillar meeting will be held on the 29 September 2022
- [https://youtu.be/CZOvjXwVkJE](https://youtu.be/CZOvjXwVkJE) The Global Logistics Cluster Conference hosted by UNICEF in June (Copenhagen) Featuring Sierra Leone Field Based Preparedness Project

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