Meeting Minutes, 26 April 2023
Kabul, Afghanistan

LOCATION  KABUL, online
DATE  26 April 2023
CHAIR  Logistics Working Group


AGENDA  1. Recap of Previous Action Points (from LWG meeting on 29 March 2023)
2. Exemption letter issued to customs
3. Logistic Impacts of Ban on Female National Staff Workers
4. UNHRD Survey: Feedback
5. Updates on Border Status and Customs Issues
6. Aviation-Related Updates
7. Discussion on Shared Resources
8. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Recap of Previous Action Points:
   - Ongoing—Partners expressed concerns over bureaucratic delays with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) issuance of tax exemption certificates needed for the importation of commodities. Partners communicated that different organizations are resorting to different engagement strategies with various ministries in efforts to shorten the lead times.
   - Customs standardization and streamlining have been taken up by the United Nations Operations Management Team (UN OMT). Member UN organizations have been asked to share internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for sector-specific customs procedures for review and consolidation. Any partners interested in sharing information on customs procedures for joint discussion and consolidation should contact the Logistics Working Group (LWG).
   - Feedback was provided to partners following their participation in the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) Survey: Logistics Support for the Humanitarian Community.

https://logcluster.org/countries/AFG
2. Exemption Letter issued to customs:

- Première Urgence International (PU-AMI) updated partners during the meeting regarding the revised pharmaceutical exemption letter issued by the Afghanistan Food and Drug Administration (AFDA). PU-AMI will send out an email to all partners regarding the use of this exemption letter and how they can add the names of NGOs and humanitarian actors in this letter.

3. Logistics Impact of Ban on Female National Staff Workers:

On 11 April 2023, Special Representative and the Resident Coordinator called for a one-month trial period where all national UN staff were requested to work from home; further updates are expected in May 2023.

Discussions were held on partner reliance on the commercial logistics sector; dependence on humanitarian logistics support organisations; partner internal organisational logistics staffing across procurement, warehousing, transportation, contracting, and partner contingency planning. It was agreed that the LWG would continue to monitor closely for unanticipated gaps and secondary effects of reduced commercial or humanitarian logistics capacity resulting in the potential widening of decree enforcement, stronger restrictions on female staffing, or larger changes to humanitarian response programming.

4. UNHRD Survey Feedback:

The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) is a global network of hubs that facilitates emergency preparedness and response efforts for its partners. Accessible to all partners, including UN agencies, NGOs, and governments, UNHRD provides logistical support, storage, and transport of relief items to aid in timely and efficient humanitarian assistance.

This survey aimed to evaluate the current and potential demand for improving the financial accessibility of WFP air and ocean freight from UNHRD Dubai to Afghanistan through cargo consolidation and cost-sharing between partners.

Results from the survey indicated that:

- Over 75% of respondents who provided feedback to the survey are involved/responsible for the supply chain.
- Over 50% of organisations who responded to the survey confirmed that their organisation was registered with UNHRD.
- 33% of organisations who responded confirmed they are using UNHRD services.
- 67% of organisations who responded are not sure or NOT using UNHRD services.
• **ALL** respondents confirmed they required more information from UNHRD about their services.
• Over 25% of respondents who provided feedback to the survey reported flights as their primary barrier.
• 63% of respondents confirmed they were **most interested** in the UNHRD hub in Dubai.
• 92% of respondents confirmed they were interested in **continuing shipments** from UNHRD.

5. Updates on Borders and Customs Issue

• Border Status Update: the following are the border statuses as of 26 April 2023:

• **Call for additional Border Crossing Points (BCPs):** Partners are encouraged to share with the LWG additional BCPs of concern if relevant to their operations. The LWG will investigate ways to monitor these BCPs and add them to the weekly monitoring infographic.
• Additional information regarding movements at points of entry can also be found from IOM Displacement Tracking Metrix (DTM) monthly flow monitoring [here](https://logcluster.org/countries/AFG).
6. Aviation-Related Updates

UNHAS Domestic (Passenger and light cargo service)
- Passenger and cargo to all domestic destinations operational.
- For more information, please visit the Humanitarian Booking Hub, the LWG Website, the UNHAS Users List, or contact UNHAS Customer Service at unhas-afg.customerservice@wfp.org and khalilullah.kakar@wfp.org

UNHAS International (Passenger and light cargo service)
- Islamabad Airbridge operational.
- Dushanbe Airbridge operational.
- Doha Airbridge operational.
- Dubai Airbridge is operational through Al Maktoum International Airport.

UNAMA (Passenger service only)
- Almaty Airbridge is operational.

Commercial Airlines (Passenger and cargo service)
- **Mahan**: Kabul — Teheran and Mashhad
- **Taban**: Kabul — Tehran and Mashhad, Kandahar-Mashhad
- **Kish Air**: Operated to Kandahar
- **Ariana**: Kabul — Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah, and Islamabad, Al Ain UAE.
- **KamAir**: Kabul — Islamabad, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, Ankara

Freight Forwarders and Courier Services
- **UPS services**: Operational (Move One authorized UPS services).
- For more information, please contact Move One Country Director, Richard Tagg at richard.tagg@moveoneinc.com, or visit https://www.moveoneinc.com/

ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB)
- For more information, please reach out to thibault.larose@echofield.eu and alexandre.veron@rlh.coop

PACTEC:
- Operational. For more details regarding PACTEC services and flight schedules, kindly reach out to: Sayed Hamid Hashimi Booking/ Flight following Manager bookingkbl@pactec.net, John Woodberry PACTEC Country Director jwoodberry@pactec.net
7. Shared Resources Forum

- IRC is looking for information on RUTFs suppliers: Muhammad Ziad Muhammad.Ziad@rescue.org
- Intersos is looking for cold chain storage for duration of one month: Damien Chateau logistics.afghanistan@intersos.org.
- ICF is looking for information on packaging waste recycling: Samantha Brangeon: Samantha.brangeon@icf.com
- Save the Children is looking for RCW50 refrigerator, cool boxes and information on vehicle rental rates in different provinces: Khairuddin Khairkhwa khairuddin.khairkhwa@savethechildren.org, Allan Tuazon Allan.Tuazon@savethechildren.org.
- DRC is looking for suppliers of explosive mining material: Hamidullah Sediqi hamidullah.sediqi@drc.ngo
- Medair is looking for old and used electronic equipment recycling company: Jorg Kunz jorg.kunz@medair.org
- IMC is looking for pre-qualified medical/pharma vendors: Faisal Barayaly mbarayaly@InternationalMedicalCorps.org and vehicle rental vendors in Central, Eastern, and Northern regions of Afghanistan: sohailahmed@InternationalMedicalCorps.org

Quick links:
- Logistics Working Group Web Page: Afghanistan | Logistics Cluster Website
- WFP Service Market Place (SMP): Service Marketplace | Delivering humanitarian assistance services
- UNHRD Partner Portal: Home page | UNHRD

8. AOB

- Any partners who would like to request dedicated time to present their specific logistics challenges in the next LWG Coordination Meeting can please contact the LWG Team.
- The next Logistic Working Group coordination meeting will be held on: Wednesday, 31 May 2023, at 11:00h Kabul time.

Contacts

Paballo Mosala  Logistics Working Group Coordinator  paballo.mosala@wfp.org
Aria Noor  Assistant-Coordination & Information Management  aria.noor@wfp.org
Muhanad Mowafq  Logistics Working Group Co-lead  log.co@premiere-urgence-afg.org

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