Meeting Minutes, 15 August 2023
Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Mogadishu, online

DATE
15 August 2023

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger (AAH), Concern Worldwide, Danish Red Cross (DRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Gredo, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), Islamic Relief Somalia, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam, Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF), SOS Children’s Village, Trocaire, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Vision.

ACTION POINTS
- The Logistics Cluster to share the training plan for the second ‘Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course’.
- The Logistics Cluster to conduct a Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) in the 4th quarter of 2023.
- The Logistics Cluster to update the tax exemption application tracking sheet.
- Partners to contact the Logistics Cluster for any transport request from Kenya to Somalia by road.
- The Logistics Cluster to revise the Concept of Operations to address the existing gaps.

AGENDA
1. Action Points Review
2. Situation Update
3. Coordination
4. Common Logistics Services
5. Training
6. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 18 July were reviewed:
- The Logistics Cluster to share the date for the second ‘Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course’. [Not started]
- The Logistics Cluster to update the tax exemption application tracking sheet. [Ongoing]
- Partners to contact the Logistics Cluster for any transport request from Kenya to Somalia by road. [Ongoing]
• The Logistics Cluster to conduct a Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) in the 4th quarter 2023. [Ongoing]
• The Logistics Cluster to revise the Concept of Operations to address the existing gaps, taking into account the transition from drought to flood context. [Ongoing]

2. Situation Update

Physical Transport Network Updates:

• Physical access across Somalia remains unchanged. The following roads remain closed or inaccessible:
• Due to insecurity, standard trucking routes from Burco to Laascanood town are still disrupted.

Air Transport Updates:

• The airstrip in El Wak is temporarily inaccessible as it undergoes maintenance work.
• Partners can reach out to the Logistics Cluster via somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org to share their transportation needs, particularly in areas that are hard to reach, including Buurhakaba, Jalalaqsi, Mahas and Qansaxdhere.

Sea Transport Updates:

• All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo and Garacad.
• WFP time-chartered vessel is currently at Mogadishu and is expected to depart to Mombasa on 25 August.
• The voyage vessel schedule, with arrival and departure dates along with the deadlines for submitting documentation will be shared with all partners via email and published on the Logistics Cluster website.
• Partners are encouraged to take advantage of the vessel service facilitated by the Logistics Cluster, especially to move cargo from the North to the South, as it is more cost-efficient than moving cargo by air.

Relief Materials Pipeline and Sourcing:

For further reference and information, below is a summary of WFP’s weekly analysis:

• Commodity Prices: Prices of food and non-food items exhibited mixed trends in most states compared to a week ago. Exceptions are Galgaduud, Jubaland and Mogadishu, where prices of most food and non-food items remained relatively stable.
• Availability: Countrywide markets saw sufficient stocks. The exceptions were the towns of Jariban, Xudun, and Qansaxdhere, which encountered some insufficient inventories in basic commodities such as rice and wheat flour. This is partly due to ongoing availability issues linked to insecurity and the seasonal monsoon, both of which continue to impact the communities living in these districts.
• **Assortment:** Assortment remained strong in almost all markets, with the exception of some markets in Southwest and Puntland that saw diminished variety on shelves due to new taxes on goods and the transporters who carry them.

• **Quality:** There was no significant quality issues reported during this week.

• **Logistics:** Over major and minor corridors, movement was consistent. Every port is at least partially accessible. The awaited reopening of the border with Kenya and Ethiopia remains postponed. Most roads were passable, however, roads through Laas Caanood continued to experience restricted flow resulting from the social conflict. There is armed conflict going on in the suburbs of Baidoa town affecting commercial movements to other districts in Bay and Bakol regions.

• **Resilience:** Shops continued to experience a dependable flow of products through distribution networks, with lead-times over the network stable week-over-week.

• The Logistics Cluster is sharing weekly Market Alerts and Supply Chain Updates via the Logistics Cluster mailing list and publishing the documents on the [Logistics Cluster Website](https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a). Partners wishing to be added to the Logistics Cluster mailing list can send a request to somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.

**Black Sea Grain Initiative**

• The withdrawal of Russia from the Black Sea Grain Initiative raises concerns about the potential for increased food prices, as this move could disrupt global grain markets and impact the availability of essential commodities.

• The initiative’s absence contributes to supply chain uncertainties, potentially leading to higher costs for food production and distribution.

**Other current logistics challenges include:**

• **Somalia-Kenya Border Crossing:** Cross border movement between Kenya and Somalia is still halted. This has a significant impact on humanitarian operations in Somalia due to the importance of the border crossing points in delivering life-saving food and non-food supplies to key areas such as Dollow, Dhobley and Ceel Waak. As a result, the humanitarian community has resorted to airlifts to reach these key destinations. However, this limits the nature of supplies that can be delivered to emergency-affected and hard-to-reach populations, and also significantly increases costs.

• **Customs Delays:** Tax exemption delays continue to be a challenge, particularly in Mogadishu. To support their operations, the humanitarian community imports a significant quantity of supplies including food, nutrition products, health and water-sanitation/hygiene materials through Mogadishu Seaport and Airport which requires approval of Tax Exemptions (TE) by relevant line ministries. The issue of TE approval presents a persistent concern to humanitarian organizations as delayed processes result in demurrage costs and affect the timely availability of life-saving supplies. On average, it now takes 18 days for TE to be approved with several instances of it taking several months.

• **Miraa Trade:** In July 2022, following diplomatic discussions between the new Somalian President and Kenya’s President, the two-year importation ban on miraa was lifted. Typically, there are 5-7 flights carrying 7 tons of miraa each from Nairobi to Mogadishu per day. The offloading of humanitarian cargo and the miraa
coincides upon their arrival in Mogadishu, causing congestion at the airport and disrupting the smooth flow of humanitarian relief supplies.

- **ATMIS:** The possibility of Africa Transitional (Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)) withdrawing from Somalia raises concerns about potential security implications for humanitarian organizations in Somalia.

### 3. Coordination

#### Cross Border Transport from Kenya to Somalia

- Kenyan authorities approved a one-off border crossing from 15 to 2 September 2023.
- Partners are requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster for any transport request, so that needs can be consolidated efficiently somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org

#### Subnational Coordination Meeting

- The upcoming subnational coordination meeting is scheduled to take place in Dhusamareb on 8 October 2023.
- The objective is to gain insight into the challenges that partners face in the field and how the Logistics Cluster can provide support.
- Partners are encouraged to share this information with their counterparts and colleagues on-site to encourage a comprehensive discussion and active participation.

### 4. Common Logistics Services

- Since 2020, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport of over 6,791 mt of cargo (excluding shunting) for 28 organizations on a free-to-user basis.
- In 2023, 2,748 mt of supplies (excluding shunting) were transported on behalf of 22 organizations to 27 locations.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to support the humanitarian community in reaching hard-to-reach locations. Since the mobilization of the helicopter in September 2022, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 150 mt on behalf of 6 partners to 4 hard to reach locations: Burhakaba, Jalalaqsi, Mahas and Qansaxdhere.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to participate in crucial decision-making forums on behalf of the humanitarian community. The Logistics Cluster continuous to attend the weekly Drought Operations and Coordination Centre (DOCC) and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings.
- Access remains a concern due to insecurity, creating a high dependency on airlifts and increasing the cost of transportation.

**Helicopter**

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
• Due to the reduced funding resulting from the scale down, partners are kindly asked to submit a request for bilateral service provision if they require the helicopter for transporting supplies.

5. Training

Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course

• The Logistics Cluster will facilitate two Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course in September and October
  o Dhusamareb: October 9 & 10 2023.

• Interested partners are requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster by the following cutoff dates:
  o Mogadishu training application deadline: August 20, 2023.
  o Dhusamareb training application deadline: September 15, 2023.

• Partners are kindly requested to extend the invitation for the training to their counterparts and colleagues in the field.

6. AOB

• All requests (including Information Management requests) to be directed to somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 29 August at 11:00 am EAT, online.

Contacts

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