Meeting Minutes, 01 August 2023
Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Mogadishu, Online

DATE
01 August 2023

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger (AAH), Concern Worldwide, Danish Red Cross (DRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Islamic Relief Somalia, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children, Somaus Help, 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), United Nations Programme (WFP), 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 3rd quarter 2023.
• The Logistics Cluster to update the tax exemption tracking sheet.
• Partners to contact the Logistics Cluster for any transport request from Kenya to Somalia by road.
• Partners to submit a request for bilateral service provision if they require the helicopter for transporting supplies to hard to reach areas.
• 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. Information Management
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’. [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 3rd quarter 2023. [Ongoing]
• The Logistics Cluster to revise the Concept of Operations to address the existing gaps, taking into account the transition from a drought to flood context. [Ongoing]

2. Situation Update

Physical Transport Network Updates:
• 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 Qansaxdthere.

Sea Transport Updates:
• All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo and Garacard.
• WFP time-chartered vessel is currently at Berbera and is expected to depart to Mogadishu on 10 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: Overall, prices of food and non-food items remained relatively stable compared to the previous week in most areas across the country. Exceptions are in Puntland and Southwest where prices of food and non-food items changed from mild (1-5%) to moderate (6-15%) rates.
• Availability: Adequate supplies were observed in markets across the country, with the exception of Xarardheere, Baardheree, Qandala, Jariiban, and Laasqoray towns. These areas experienced shortages in essential items such as rice, wheat flour, and camel-based products. The ongoing challenges in maintaining supplies can, in part, be attributed to the seasonal monsoon, which has been affecting the stocks of coastal communities. This coincides with reports indicating that ports are grappling with strong winds.
• **Assortment:** Assortment remained strong in almost all markets, with the exception of some markets in Southwest and Hiran that saw diminished variety on shelves due to new taxes on goods and the transporters who carry them.

• **Quality:** There were two isolated market-level quality issues that unfolded in Baardhere and Cadaado towns, with some other towns experiencing isolated issues mainly related to quality of split peas and potatoes.

• **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. A sense of commercial normalcy returned to roads cutting through Bay and Bakool regions after the cessation of the AS restrictions.

• **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). Partners wishing to be added to the Logistics Cluster mailing list can send a request to somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.

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**Update on the Country Current Context**

• **Conflict:** Continues to be a major contributing factor to humanitarian needs, with the Central and Southern regions of the Somalia being particular affected.

• **Floods:** Somalia experiences two types of flooding – river that occur along the Juba and Shabelle rivers in southern Somalia, and the more common flash floods that occur along the intermittent streams in the northern part of the country.

**In Numbers:**

- 8.25 million people are currently in need of humanitarian assistance
- 2.01 million people are estimated to be affected by conflict, cholera and floods

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### 3. Coordination

**Cross Border Transport from Kenya to Somalia**

- The Logistics Cluster is awaiting authorization for the border movement crossing by road from Kenya to Somalia through Elwaak, Dhobley, and Mandera border points. Once the approval is granted, the Logistics Cluster will promptly send an email to confirm the dates for the border crossing.

- In the meantime, partners are encouraged to contact the Logistics Cluster for any transport request, so that needs can be consolidated efficiently somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org

[https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a](https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a)
4. Common Logistics Services

- Since 2020, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport of over 6,762 mt of cargo (excluding shunting) for 28 organizations on a free-to-user basis.
- In 2023, 2,720 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 continues 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

- 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. Information Management

1. Concept Note of Operations (ConOps)

Objective:
- The purpose of the ConOps is to outline a clear and comprehensive plan detailing the Logistics Cluster operations for the coming year

Progress:
- The initial draft has been completed and is ready for sharing with volunteer partners for their input and feedback.

Next Actions:
- After receiving feedback from partners, the ConOps will be forwarded to WFP HQ for the final review and approval process before being uploaded to the Logistics Cluster website.
2. Basic Humanitarian and Logistics Course

Objective:
- To equip participants with essential knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage and coordinate logistics operations in humanitarian settings.

Content:
- The training will cover key topics including humanitarian supply chain, procurement, warehouse management, transport planning, inventory management and distribution.

Scheduled Dates:
- The next basic humanitarian and logistics training is scheduled for the 2nd week of September 2023.

3. Warehouse Management Assessment

Objective:
- The warehouse assessment aims to evaluate the warehouse capacity and stockpiling strategies to ensure efficient storage and distribution of humanitarian supplies.

Progress:
- Partners will receive an excel file to consolidate information regarding their current storage capacity both available and utilized, across various locations.

Timeline:
- The assessment will be shared next week, and partners are given a two-week timeframe to complete and submit their responses.

4. Subnational Coordination Meeting

Objective:
- To deep dive into the context and challenges faced in specific locations within Somalia. These meetings provide a platform for partners to engage in focused discussions and exchange information on the humanitarian situation and operational constraints at the subnational level.

Potential Locations:
- Discussions are ongoing on having the next subnational coordination meeting take place in Berbera, Bosasso, or Dollow
- The partners are encouraged to liaise with the Logistics Cluster, proposing potential venues to host the upcoming subnational coordination meeting.

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Scheduled Dates:
• The next subnational coordination meeting is scheduled for mid-September, with the exact dates to be confirmed during the next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting.

6. AOB

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

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 15 August at 11:00 am EAT, online

Contacts

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