Meeting Minutes, 30 August 2023
Kabul, Afghanistan

LOCATION KABUL, online

DATE 30 August 2023

CHAIR Logistics Working Group

PARTICIPANTS Organization for Migration (IOM), Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI), Emergency, Food and Agriculture organisation (FAO), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Caritas, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Rescue, Medair, Médicine sans Frontières (MSF), Save the Children, Handicap International (HI), World Vision Afghanistan (WV), Mercy Corps, World Health Organization (WHO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Afiat, Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & development (ACBAR), AIRLINK, Pactec, Management Science for Health (MSH), iMMAP, Development Education Learning and Training Association (DELTA)

AGENDA
1. Recap of Previous Action Points (from LWG meeting on July 26, 2023)
2. Update from Customs Clearance Meeting
3. Humanitarian Service Provision
4. Updates on Border Status
5. Aviation-Related Update
6. Shared Resources Updates
7. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Recap of Previous Action Points:

Customs and Importation Challenges

- **Sub-Group Formation by LWG**: A specialized sub-group has been established by the Legal Working Group (LWG) to address customs and importation challenges. Partners are invited to join this sub-group and can contact the LWG team for inclusion in future communications.

- **Collaboration with UN OMT**: Ongoing discussions are taking place with the United Nations Operations Management Team (UN OMT). Member UN organizations and NGOs are requested to share their sector-specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for customs procedures. These will be reviewed and consolidated by the Logistics Working Group (LWG). Partners interested in contributing information should reach out to the LWG.

- **Technical Guidance from IMPACCT**: A meeting was held with the IMPACCT project to seek expert advice on customs-related challenges. This led to a call for both qualitative and quantitative data from partners about delays and costs. This data will inform upcoming dialogues at the HCT forum and with UNCTAD, the organization responsible for implementing the ASYCUDA system.
GNA Questionnaire Development

- **Next Steps:** The LWG is actively working on the next phases of the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA). Interviews with partners will be scheduled to collect feedback on the questionnaire.
- **Survey Distribution:** A survey link will be circulated among partners in the upcoming weeks to gather additional responses and insights.

2. Update from Customs Clearance and Importation Challenges meeting:

- Customs clearance and import challenges Sub-group follow up meeting took place on 17th August 2023, with the participation of WFP customs and protocol unit focal points. LWG shared the meeting minutes with this sub-working group.
  
  All partners are encouraged to contact the LWG team if interested in sharing information and involving in the customs and import challenges discussion.

  LWG conducted a meeting with IMPACCT to seek technical guidance on customs-related issues. Subsequently, partners were contacted to collect additional qualitative and quantitative data on delays and costs, which will be used in upcoming discussions at the HCT forum and with UNCTAD, the implementers of the ASYCUDA system.

  - LWG team will engage with HCT and ICCT groups for further discussion and sharing these challenges with the larger groups.

3. Humanitarian Service Provision:

During the meeting, below partners presented the humanitarian services that they are providing to their humanitarian partners:

- **PACTEC:** LWG team member presented PACTEC new airstrip project in Nuristan province during the meeting on behalf of PACTEC. Based on the latest 2023 NGO survey, Nuristan was identified as the province of greatest need for PACTEC to consider constructing a new airstrip for humanitarian flight support. PACTEC is looking for possible partners to support building an airstrip in Parun, Nuristan. Please contact PACTEC Country Director John Woodberry: jwoodberry@pactec.net if you are interested to take a part in this project.

- **WFP Humanitarian Logistics Services (HLS):** During the meeting WFP On Demand Services (ODS) focal point presented the HLS available Logistics Services and opportunities to its partners which these services and opportunities included:
  
  - **Warehouse Services in Herat:** 4,000 sqm storage, handling, and warehouse management is available in Herat province for partners use.
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- **Termiz Cargo centre**: Facilities are available near Uzbekistan and Afghanistan border in Termiz with various services including Storage, warehouse management, customs and forwarding handling and transportation services. WFP has an active hub in Termiz since 2021.

- **Termiz river port**: The facility is located in Termiz, Uzbekistan, beside Amu Darya bank. It has six warehouses with total capacity of 10,000 sqm and warehouse management services, handling, Customs & Forwarding, also equipped with railway and wagon loading offloading facilities, Tugboats, and barges to transport cargo across the river and currently WFP is assessing these opportunities to utilise this port for partners use.

For any further information or support, please feel free to reach out HLS team through the following email address: HLS_AFG@wfp.org.

4. Updates on Borders and Customs Issue

- **Border Status Update**: the following are the border statuses as of 30 August 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 table.
Additional information regarding movements at points of entry can also be found from IOM DTM’s monthly flow monitoring here.

5. Aviation-Related Updates

**UNHAS Domestic (Passenger and light cargo service)**
- Passenger and cargo to all domestic destinations are operational.

**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

- **Visa Requirement for Traveling to Afghanistan:** It is now mandatory for all passengers, including those utilizing humanitarian air services, to possess a valid visa for Afghanistan. Adhering to these procedures is crucial as passengers without a valid Afghanistan visa will be rejected by the immigration authorities. Please note that for all passengers arriving on international flights to Kabul, it is also imperative to possess either a valid entry visa for Afghanistan or an approved letter from the authorities that grants a visa upon arrival.

- For more information, please visit the Humanitarian Booking Hub, the LWG Website, the UNHAS User List, or contact UNHAS Customer Service at unhas-afg.customerservice@wfp.org and khalilullah.kakar@wfp.org

**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 ANN 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)**

https://logcluster.org/countries/AFG
6. Shared Resources Forum

- IRC is looking for information on RUTFs suppliers: Muhammad Ziad Muhammad.Ziad@rescue.org
- DRC is looking for suppliers of mining material: Hamidullah Sediqi hamidullah.sediqi@drc.ngo
- Save the Children is looking for information on vehicle rental rates in different provinces: Allan Tuazon Allan.Tuazon@savethechildren.org

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, 27 September 11:00, Kabul time.