Meeting Minutes, 29 August 2023
Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Mogadishu, Online

DATE
29 August 2023

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger (AAH), Concern Worldwide, 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), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Islamic Relief Somalia, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam, Medair, Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Secours Islamic France (SIF), Service Civil International (SCI), Somhaus Help Inc, 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 facilitate a ‘Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course’ in Mogadishu.
• 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 tracking sheet.
• The Logistics Cluster to update the warehouse capacity map.

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 15 August were reviewed:
• The Logistics Cluster to share the date for the second ‘Basic Humanitarian Logistics’. [Completed]
• The Logistics Cluster to update the warehouse mapping to assess changes in available storage capacity in Somalia. [Completed]
• The Logistics Cluster to update the tax exemption tracking sheet. [Ongoing]
• Partners to contact the Logistics Cluster for any transport request from Kenya to Somalia by road. [Completed]
• 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 a 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.
– The airstrip in Garbahare is temporarily inaccessible due to insecurity.
– 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 Garacard.
– The WFP time-chartered vessel is currently in Mogadishu and is expected to depart for Mombasa on 05 September. There have been some delays due to delayed tax exemption at the Mogadishu seaport. Partners with cargo for transport from Mombasa to Mogadishu are kindly requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster team at somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.
– 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.

Logistics Cluster Funding
– The Logistics Cluster is currently facing operational constraints due to reduced funding availability. This reduction stems from global funding cuts, including allocations to the Logistics Cluster.
– In response to these challenges, the Logistics Cluster is proactively engaged in efforts to secure funding from alternative donors. The Logistics Cluster is currently in the process of developing a draft proposal, which will be made available for review by potential donors. The proposal emphasizes critical topics
such as the transition from drought to flood response and the persistent security challenges prevailing in Somalia.

- While the Logistics Cluster endeavors to secure additional funds, the Logistics Cluster top priority remains addressing logistical obstacles in remote and hard-to-reach areas of operation. This approach ensures that vital assistance and relief efforts can continue even in challenging circumstances.

3. Coordination

Subnational Coordination Meeting
- The Logistics Cluster is facilitating the upcoming Subnational Coordination Meeting in Dhusamareb on 08 October 2023. This meeting presents an opportunity for stakeholders to come together and address pertinent challenges on the ground.
- The primary objective of this meeting is to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges that partners encounter in the field. By identifying these challenges, the Logistics Cluster aims to formulate strategies and solutions to ensure a more efficient and effective humanitarian response.
- The Logistics Cluster encourages all partners to actively participate in this event and to share this information with their counterparts and colleagues on-site. Partners are encouraged to share this information with their counterparts and colleagues on-site to encourage a comprehensive discussion and active participation.

Import and Customs Clearance Technical Working Group
- The forthcoming meeting of the Import and Customs Clearance Technical Working Group is set to take place on 31 August at 11am. During this meeting, the Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with IMPACCT, will delve into crucial topics, with a primary focus on the recently introduced certificate of conformity (CoC) requirement and the challenges it poses to the humanitarian community.
- Furthermore, the Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with IMPACCT, will discuss the upcoming workshop focused on Import and Customs Clearance. This workshop will be facilitated in Mogadishu, and details will be provided during the meeting.
- The enhance coordination and prepare for the upcoming workshop, the Logistics Cluster is presently in the process of updating the tax exemption tracking sheet. The Logistics Cluster kindly requests all partners to ensure the completion of this tracking sheet by 31 August.

4. Common Logistics Services

- Since 2020, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport of over 6,857 mt of cargo (excluding shunting) for 28 organizations on a free-to-user basis.
- In 2023, 2,955 mt of supplies (excluding shunting) were transported on behalf of 22 organizations to 27 locations.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som2023
Meeting Minutes, 29 August 2023
Somalia Logistics Cluster

- 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 currently has 505 mt in the pipeline, destined for 15 locations. These supplies are being transported on behalf of 8 organizations.
- 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**

- In response to the funding reduction, the Logistics Cluster has adjusted its helicopter services. Partners who require helicopter support for supply transportation are encouraged to submit a request for bilateral service provision (BSP).

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**5. Training**

**Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course**

- The Logistics Cluster is facilitating two Basic Humanitarian Logistics Courses, scheduled to take place in September and October. These courses are designed to equip participants with essential logistics knowledge and skills for effective humanitarian operations.
  - Mogadishu: September 12 & 13
  - Dhusamareb: October 09 & 10

- Application deadlines:
  - For the Mogadishu training, the application deadline is 20 August
  - For the Dhusamareb training, the application deadline is 15 September

- The Logistics Cluster encourages all interested partners to take advantage of this training opportunity. Moreover, the Logistics Cluster kindly request partners to extend invitations for these are kindly requested to extend the invitation for the training to their counterparts and colleagues in the field. By sharing this opportunity widely, the Logistics Cluster aims to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian efforts across the region.
- For inquiries and to submit your training applications, please contact the Logistics Cluster. We look forward to your active participation in these training sessions.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
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 12 September at 11:00 am EAT, online

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