Afghanistan – Logistics Working Group Meeting Minutes
11 October 2023

LOCATION
Online, Kabul, Afghanistan

DATE
11 October 2023

CHAIR
Logistics Working Group Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
Paballo Mosala (WFP), Besharat Ahmad (WFP), Aria Noor (WFP), Gul Wali Shahizada (AKDN), Hamidullah Sediqi (DRC), Char Gul Haq Yar (Rescue.org), Jamal Khaliq Shinwari (DRC), AFG Deputy Logistics Coordinator (Premiere Urgence), Ahmadi Wali (CRS), Facility Manager (Caritas Germany), Rahim Mohammad Aziz (People in Need), Riaz Khalil (Americares), Hamid Mukhtar, Alifullah Arefi (WFP), Masoud Abdullah (Afiat), Shahram Wali (WFP), Ayack Montalvan (WFP), Jenny Torner (Airlift), Nido Guljon (FCDO), KAYITABA Gislain (IOM), MSF-Afghanistan-LTBA (MSF), Sabz Ali Khan (IR Worldwide), Nematullah Atef (WFP), Annie Smith, Laura Marti (WFP), Fardin Faqiri (Rescue.org), ALATRAKHCHI Nasir (IOM), Mansoor Afridi (WFP), AFG Logistics Coordinator (Premiere Urgence), Tom Ombati Fidelis (IFRC), Leonard Asige (World Vision), Mahmood Jawid (ICRC), Hamayoorn Khairi, Jörg Kunz (Medair), John Woodberry (MAF), Samuel David Musembi (UNICEF), Benjamin Killen (RI/AFG), Pietro Persico (Emergency), Allan Tuazon (Save the Children), Darya Sagaydak (WFP), Yousaf Ahmadzai (UNFPA), Sayed Akbar Khpalwak, Asad Naseeb (Mercy Corps).

AGENDA
1. Review of Current Operational Challenges from ICCT
   - Internet Connectivity
   - Anticipated Operational Challenges
2. Physical Access Constraints
3. Update on UNHAS Operations
4. Overview of Humanitarian Service Provision
5. Information Sharing
6. Any Other Business (AOB)
   - LWG Meeting Frequency

ACTION POINTS
• OCHA and partners will work to gather more information about the locations affected by the earthquake that require additional support and resource mobilization.
• Logistics WG will follow up with additional information on mobile storage units (MSUs).
• WFP to provide information on firms that can supply satellite phones, drivers, and SIM cards and to explore options for recharging and airtime.
• Logistics WG will provide updates on using Herat Airport for shipment of humanitarian aid supplies for earthquake response.
• Logistics WG will continue to keep the chat in Teams open for any updates from partners.
• A follow-up meeting is scheduled for next week with a representative from UNCTAD to address questions on customs clearances.

https://logcluster.org/en/countries/AFG
REVIEW OF CURRENT OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES FROM ICCT

- Partners expressed concerns about the earthquake's impact on transportation and logistics for delivering relief supplies to affected areas.
- It was mentioned that Herat appears to be the primary hub for coordination and communication in the region.
- It was mentioned that a lot of assessments in the affected area are going on now; some of the assessments are available on the OCHA assessment page.
- Participants discussed the linear nature of the earthquake's impact, making it challenging to pinpoint a single exact location.
- Nematullah Atef emphasized the need to understand the exact locations of impact to plan for resource mobilization and future Internet connectivity arrangements.
- Partners proposed sharing office spaces in Herat due to a lack of safe buildings for work and living.

PHYSICAL ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

During the meeting, the Logistics Cluster WG coordinator highlighted physical access constraints in the affected areas. Below are the key points discussed:

- The road from Kabul to Herat is accessible mostly in serviceable conditions. Cargo transport by truck from Kabul to Herat takes approximately 3-4 days.
- Smaller arterial roads from Herat to the affected areas are accessible but some have minor damage.
- The LWG mentioned the availability of the mapping platform LogIE, which provides partners with updated information about road conditions and other access constraints.
- There was a consensus on the need to assess the accessibility of affected regions and consider setting up mobile service units (MSUs) based on specific needs.
- Partners were encouraged to communicate any specific challenges they face on physical access.

UPDATE ON AIR OPERATIONS

Regarding AIR operations, the following points were discussed:

- Flights between Kabul and Herat were running as expected.
- UNHAS was available for emergency transport between remote airstrips.
- It was noted that there had been no significant surge in demand for UNHAS services, and commercial flights remained an option for partners.
- PACTEC have 3 flights a week to Herat and are available for charter services.

OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN SERVICE PROVISION

An overview of humanitarian service provision included the following information:

- Herat Airport lacks the capacity to handle large cargo planes effectively.
- It was recommended to fly cargo into Kabul International Airport and then transport humanitarian cargo by road, a process that may take 3-4 days.
- Partners shared their experiences with customs and clearances, particularly related to earthquake response supplies.

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INFORMATION SHARING
In terms of information sharing, the following points were discussed:

- The Logistics WG encouraged partners to use the logistics working group page as a resource for finding transporters, warehouses, and airport information.
- Updates to the logistics capacity assessment page (LCA) were mentioned.
- A list of transporters approved by WFP has already been shared on the Logistics website.
- The Logistics WG committed to keeping the chat in Teams open for any updates from partners.

(AOB) LWG Meeting Frequency
The next meeting will be held the following week.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held on [18 Oct 2023].

Contacts

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