Meeting Minutes, 31 October 2023
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

LOCATION
WFP Office, Addis Ababa

DATE
31 October 2023

CHAIR
Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior Adviser, Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC)
Andrea Rosales, Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS (7)

AGENDA
• Access Updates
• Situation Updates
• Logistics Cluster Updates
  ❖ Cargo Movement to Tigray
  ❖ Gaps and Needs Analysis
  ❖ Logistics Cluster Extension
• AOB

ACTION POINTS
• To access inland transport services to the Amhara region, partners are requested to send their requests to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org and submit a Service Request Form (SRF). The SRF can be found here Service Request Form
• Logistics Cluster to share further updates on cargo movement to Amhara region.
• Logistics Cluster to finalise the clearance of the GNA document and publish on the Logistics Cluster website.

1. Access Updates

Updates on access constraints into different regions in the country as presented by OCHA AWG (Access Working Group) are as follows:
• Tigray: Most parts remain accessible except for few areas in the western zone of the region

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• **Amhara:** Accessibility remains challenging in most parts with few partially accessible routes. Some parts of the North Gojam, East Gojam and West Gojam are hard to reach. The Deberemroks-Finoteselam - Bahir Dar route remain partially accessible but unpredictable.

• **Afar:** The region is accessible except for few areas in Zone 5 that are partially accessible namely, Somerobi, Hadelela Woredas. The route from Shoa Rorbit to Amahra is now closed.

• **Beneshangul Gumu:** There are reports of physical constraints accessing Metekel and Kamashi zones with Metekel being the most challenging. Similarly, access to Kamashi via Oromia is difficult. The alternative route to Kamshi from Asossa is inaccessible due to lack of a connecting bridge. Due to the poor road infrastructure along Akobo woreda and some areas in Dima woreda, physical access constraints exist.

• **Oromia:** Access in western and southern part of this region remains challenging, however, access to the western part in Wolleg is improving but unpredictable. The road between Najo and Assosa was closed in the past week due to negative reports.

• **Somali:** The Dawa river overflow has rendered the Dawa and Liben zones inaccessible. The flood incident has resulted into displacements in Shebelle zone in the Mustahel and Kalafo region. Generally, access to most locations in this region is difficult because of the inadequate road infrastructure.

For further updates on access, partners can reach out to Anuwar Mohammed [anuwar.nur@un.org].

2. Situation Updates

**Cargo movement - Amhara region**

• Five trucks carrying a total of 104.2 MT of cargo have been dispatched from Addis Ababa to Amhara. Three trucks carrying 92 MT cargo were provided by Logistics Cluster on behalf of two partners (ANE and IMC). Two trucks carrying 12.2 MT cargo are partner-provided (Medical teams and PUI).

• Transport of humanitarian cargo to Amhara is possible, interested partners can liaise with the Logistics Cluster to arrange and join the convoy to the region.

• At the time of reporting, a convoy of 33 trucks was waiting in Adama to depart to Gondar and Benishangul Gumuz. Further clarification on convoy movement updates will be shared at the next coordination meeting.
3. Logistics Cluster Updates

Cargo Movement to Tigray Updates

- In October, 75 trucks reported arrival into Tigray via the Semera-Mekelle corridor on behalf of eight partners.
- The items in the truck were primarily items for Food and Security (1,936 MT), ES/NFI (255 MT), Health (100 MT), and WASH (260 MT) clusters.
- Given the ongoing security situation in the Amhara region the Semera corridor has been the main corridor to move cargo in the past two weeks.

Gaps And Needs Analysis (GNA) Updates

The findings of the GNA exercise conducted in September 2023 was presented and the key points highlighted are:

- **International Procurement**: Partners are heavily dependent on international procurement for health, medical, and IT items.
- **Transport**: The availability of commercial transport to Tigray has improved slightly, but there are still several challenges.
- **Storage**: Storage facilities are available, but they are not aligned with the requirements of partners.
- **Customs**: It’s difficult for partners to keep pace with changing clearance procedures leading to delays in cargo delivery and increased demurrage costs.
- **Mapping**: Very few partners have the capacity to prepare maps themselves. They are heavily dependent on OCHA and the logistics cluster for maps.
- **Training**: Not many partners are fully trained staff in logistics. Partners have not fully availed themselves of the online training provided by the Logistics Cluster.

Next Steps on the GNA process:

- The report of the findings will be presented at the next Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meeting.
- The final document will be published on the Logistics Cluster website.

Logistics Cluster Extension

Based on the presentation of the GNA findings, the Logistics Cluster inquired from partners if they find it necessary to extend the cluster operations till June 2024. The partners responded in the affirmative given the persistent logistics gaps and bottlenecks existing in the field. With this affirmative response, the cluster

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will proceed on the next steps for authorization and convey the consensus reached among the partners to the relevant bodies.

4. Questions and AOB

- Following a request from a partner for support with the transportation of cargo from Kombolcha to Bahir Dar. Partner was instructed to fill out the Service Request Form (SRF), and the request will be confirmed afterward.
- INSA support letters are still needed to move IT equipment’s into the Tigray area. The Logistics Cluster will inform partners of any updates from EDRMC accordingly.

The next coordination meeting will be held on 14 November 2023 at 11:00 EAT in person.

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