Meeting Minutes, 24 October 2023
Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION: Mogadishu, Online
DATE: 24 October 2023
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS: Action against Hunger (AAH), Acordo, Adrasom, Care International, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, Oxfam, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Save the Children, Secouers Islamic, Somalia Medicines Sons Frontiers (MSF), Somaus Help Inclusion, SOS Somalia, United Nation Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Vision.

ACTION POINTS:
• Logistics Cluster partners to share information regarding boats they have available, including details on their location, size and carrying capacities.
• The Logistics Cluster to regularly update the Log IE physical constraints map to ensure the timely dissemination of critical information to partners, enhancing the effectiveness of the ongoing flood response efforts.
• The Logistics Cluster in collaboration with IMPACCT, to establish a technical working group focused on import and customs clearance, including government entities and humanitarian partners.
• The Logistics Cluster to share updates on the restrictions and accessibility of airstrips and road.

AGENDA
1. Action Points Review
   1. Situation Update
   2. Coordination
   3. Common Logistics Services
   4. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 10 October were reviewed:

• The Logistics Cluster in cooperation with IMPACCT to facilitate a workshop on import and custom clearance in Mogadishu. [completed]
• The Logistics Cluster to finalize the infrastructure mapping for areas that maybe susceptible to flash floods. [completed]
• The Logistics Cluster to share updates on the Mogadishu airport fee. [ongoing]
• Partners to preposition their supplies closer to areas expected to be affected by flash floods. [ongoing]
• The Logistics Cluster to mobilize funds for the helicopter. [ongoing]

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a
2. Situation Update

Physical Transport Network Updates:

- The following physical access roads remain closed or inaccessible:
  1. Kismayo – Doble
  2. Kismayo – Jilip
  3. Jilip – Saakow – Bardera
  4. Afmadow – Baidoa
  5. Jilip – Barawa
  6. Wanlaweyn – Buurhakaba – Baidoa – Luuq
  7. Balcad – Jalalaqsi
- Due to insecurity, standard trucking routes from Burco to Laascanood town are still disrupted.

Air Transport Updates:

- The El Wak airstrip is currently inaccessible due to ongoing maintenance work.
- Garbahare and Wajid airstrips remain inaccessible due to security concerns.
- Jowhar and Beletweyne are currently only accessible by helicopter due to the airstrip being flooded.
- The situation in AAIA regarding the alleged application of levies to air transport remains unresolved, and any cargo movement from AAIA depends on the resumption of air operations.

Sea Transport Updates:

- All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo and Garacad.
- The WFP time-chartered vessel is at Bossaso and expected to depart on 25 October to Mogadishu, with anticipated arrival on 30 October 2023. From Mogadishu, the vessel will make its way to Mombasa on 18 November 2023.
- The updated sea transport schedule has been shared on the Logistics Cluster website.
- 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.

Flood Preparedness:

- Flood risk has been identified as a paramount concern for Somalia in the fourth quarter of 2023. In response to the flood risk due to the arrival of El Nino, the Somalia Logistics Cluster is contributing to the OCHA-led Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to address the likely operational requirements and logistics challenges induced by the floods.
- The Somalia Logistics Cluster is currently in the process of mobilizing funding to enable the Logistics Cluster to efficiently and effectively support the humanitarian community in responding to the impending flood season in Somalia.
- Helicopters will be an important means of transport, as some airstrips and roads are expected to be flooded, and certain locations will only be accessible by helicopters.

Historical data:

- In 2020, 2021 and 2022, different instances of flood response occurred in Somalia and the Shabelle and Juba rivers are particularly susceptible to disruption.
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Warehouse Capacity and Location
- The Logistics Cluster has updated the warehouse capacity map in September 2023 highlighting the key location around Shabelle River.
  - Based on information received from partners, warehouses are currently located in the following areas, each with a specific capacity, and warehouse utilization rates:
    - Kismayo: number of warehouses: 5, available warehouse capacity: 2578 m², warehouse utilization rate: 75%,
    - Dhobley: number of warehouses: 2, available warehouse capacity: 7550 m², warehouse utilization rate: 75%,
    - Elwak: number of warehouses: 1, available warehouse capacity: 1500 m², warehouse utilization rate: 32%,
    - Beled-Hawa: number of warehouses: 2, available warehouse capacity: 63 m², warehouse utilization rate: 75%,
    - Elwak: number of warehouses: 1, available warehouse capacity: 1500 m², warehouse utilization rate: 32%,
    - Dollow: number of warehouses: 3, available warehouse capacity: 5045 m², warehouse utilization rate: 48%.
    - Luuq: number of warehouses: 1, available warehouse capacity: 200 m², warehouse utilization rate: 80%
  - Overall, the declared warehouse capacity and utilization do not indicate the need for common storage services.

Road Connectivity Capacity
- Historically, the movement of goods by road has been challenging within the Juba region.
  - Many locations heavily depend on air transport. Nevertheless, important to note is that during the rainy season, airstrips may become inundated, making helicopter transport the sole alternative for delivering supplies to reach people in need.

Boat
- Partners confirmed the importance of the use of boats to link airstrips with affected areas, as exemplified in Jowhar in 2021.
  - The Logistics Cluster has sent an email to all partners, requesting partners to share information regarding their currently stationed boats, their size and carrying capacity.
  - Partners are kindly requested to share this information with the Logistics Cluster by this Thursday, 26 October.

Relief Materials Pipeline and Sourcing:
For further reference and information, below is a summary of WFP’s weekly market analysis:
- Commodity Prices: Weekly comparisons indicate that prices of most food and non-food items exhibited mixed trends, except Mogadishu, Somaliland, and Jubaland, where prices remained relatively stable compared to a week ago.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20
• **Availability:** Overall, sufficient supplies to sustain the demand of households noted. Some levels of scarcity of certain essential commodities such as white and red sorghum, maize, spinach, pumpkin, and cowpeas were observed in isolated marketplaces of Qansax Dheere, Dhusamarreeb, Taleex, Xarardheere, and Jowhar. Furthermore, in some Somaliland markets onions scarcity was noted.

• **Assortment:** Markets remained robust with a variety of commodity brands and quantities and reported to be resilient in nearly all marketplaces. However, there was a gradual scarcity noted for some brands in Dhusamarreeb (cereals, eggs domestics, spinach & okra), Teleex (spinach, okra, pumpkin and eggs imported), Qansax Dheere (pumpkin, spinach and okra) and Jowhar (cowpea and sorghum).

• **Quality:** Commodity quality was generally high in the country, with the exception of concerns for some commodities such as sorghum, cowpea, pumpkin, sugar, maize in certain markets in Jowhar and Bandar beyla.

• **Market Resilience:** The flow of commodity flow remains steady, with no major impediments reported in the country’s distribution channels. With El-Niño rains forecasted, some routes are expected to be impassable, affecting supply flow in the coming weeks.

• **Logistics:** Major roads and movement corridors are passable. Some exceptions were observed in corridors Zeylac - Borama - Lughaye, Borama - Lawya Caddo, and Kismaayo - Afmadow - Dhobley where access was limited due to security reasons.

### 3. Coordination

**Import and Customs Clearance Technical Working Group**

- The Logistics Cluster, in cooperation with IMPACCT, facilitated a workshop on import and customs clearance in Mogadishu from 16-18 October.
- During the workshop, humanitarian organizations, in collaboration with government entities, formulated the following recommendations aimed at improving the import and customs clearance process in Somalia

  **Legal Framework:**
  - The Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA) to convene a meeting with all relevant line ministries to review the legal framework for import and customs clearance.

  **Policies / SOPs:**
  - It is recommended that relevant government entities create Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for aid imports, covering regular programs, emergency phases, and commercial aspects.
  - It is recommended that government entities involve relevant humanitarian stakeholders in formulating and developing new policies for import and customs clearance procedures for humanitarian shipments.

[https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a](https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a)
Technology:
- The Ministry of Commerce organizes a meeting with the Logistics Cluster and IMPACCT to provide an update regarding the current status of the development and implementation of the single electronic window (TEC)/Drive.
- The Ministry of Finance/Customs is considering transitioning from the present manual custom system to an electronic process.

Documentation:
- The Ministry of Finance/Customs to consider accepting a draft copy of the airway bill/seaway bill for short transit shipments to expedite the tax exemption process.
- Ministry of Finance to share the articles relevant to humanitarian aid for tax exemption.
- The Logistics Cluster, in partnership with IMPACCT, will organize a meeting with another country to facilitate the exchange of best/appropriate practices regarding draft airway bills.

Coordination:
- The Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with IMPACCT, to establish a technical working group that includes all stakeholders, including government entities and humanitarian partners.
- The Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with IMPACCT, to facilitate an annual workshop to bring together all stakeholders for import and customs clearance discussions.
- It is recommended that the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health progressively reduce the time for tax exemption for humanitarian partners.
- The Logistics Cluster to develop a comprehensive workflow process.
- It is recommended that the relevant government entities designate both a primary focal point and an alternative contact for the humanitarian community.
- In collaboration with the Logistics Cluster and IMPACCT, it is recommended that relevant government entities organize a workshop for government bodies, aimed at standardizing and harmonizing customs processes and procedures.

Communication:
- It is recommended that SODMA, in collaboration with the Logistics Cluster, establish an information management platform for importation and customs clearance updates. The Logistics Cluster to create an emailing list/whatsapp group.
- The recommendation is for relevant government entities to communicate new policies, regulations, and procedures in a timely and advance manner.
4. Common Logistics Services

- Since 2020, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport of over 7015 mt of cargo (excluding shunting) on a Free-to-User basis on behalf of 28 organizations.
- In 2023, 2973 mt of supplies (excluding shunting) was transported to 27 locations on behalf of 22 organizations.
- The Logistics Cluster has currently 438 mt in the pipeline to 13 locations on behalf of 6 organizations.
- Presently, there is no movement at the Mogadishu airport due to the new fees which have been introduced.
- The Logistics Cluster will keep partners better informed of the ongoing situation at the airport.

5. AOB

- Discussion topics for the next Logistics Cluster Meeting can be shared with annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org and joseantonio.carino@wfp.org

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 07 November at 11:00 am EAT, online

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