Meeting Minutes, 19 December 2023

Somalia Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Mogadishu, Online

DATE
19 December 2023

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger (AAH), 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, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Relief Somalia, Save the Children, Somaus Help Inclusion, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision.

ACTION POINTS

- The Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with OCHA, will continue to facilitate prepositioning of boats in flood-affected areas in the Juba and Shabelle regions.
- The Logistics Cluster to send an email to partners to coordinate the consolidation of partners needs for storing cargo in Baidoa.
- The Logistics Cluster to follow up with the Bureau of Standards on the Certificate of Conformity (CoC).
- The Logistics Cluster to regularly update the Log IE physical constraints map, ensuring the timely dissemination of critical information to partners and enhancing the effectiveness of ongoing flood response efforts.
- The Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with IMPACCT, to facilitate a technical working group meeting with the humanitarian community to provide updates on developments in import and customs clearance topics.
- The Logistics Cluster to finalize the gaps and needs analysis as a first draft, which will be shared with partners for endorsement.

AGENDA

1. Action Points Review
2. Situation Update
3. Boat Network
4. Humanitarian Logistics Hub Baidoa
5. Logistics Cluster Gaps and Needs Analysis
6. Updates on Funding
7. Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) 2024
8. AOB

1. Action Points Review

The action points from the Coordination Meeting on 5 December were reviewed:
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- Partners to complete the survey on Gaps and Needs in Somalia facilitated by the Logistics Cluster. [completed]
- The Logistics Cluster to conduct face-to-face interviews with selected partners to re-assess current logistics gaps and needs in Somalia. [ongoing]
- The Logistics Cluster, on behalf of the Somalia Burau of Standards and UNICEF, cordially invites partners to participate in the Bureau of Standards awareness training next week. [completed]
- The Logistics Cluster to set up a humanitarian logistics hub in Baidoa for partners to store cargo free of charge. [ongoing]
- The Logistics Cluster plans to provide a detailed update on the Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP) 2024 in the next few weeks. [completed]

2. Situation Update

Physical Transport Network Updates:
- Most major overland supply routes in Jubaland, South-West, and Hirshabelle are not accessible.
- Due to insecurity, standard trucking routes from Burco to Laascanood town are still disrupted.

Bridgest
- Critical bridges in Bardheere, Buurdhubo, Bulo Burte, Bu’alle, and Luuq have been either washed away or submerged, disrupting primary access routes. Disruptions in commercial supply have led to heightened fuel and market prices, exacerbating existing logistics challenges.

Air Transport Updates:
- Along the entire Juba and Shabelle river basins, Bulo Burte, Luuq, Berdale, Burdhubo, Qansaxdhere, El Wak, and Afmadow are currently only accessible by helicopter.
- Currently, the Logistics Cluster operates with two helicopters: one funded by ECHO and the other by FCDO.
- Additionally, the Logistics Cluster has resumed fixed-wing flights following the confirmed confirmation from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF).

Sea Transport Updates:
- All seaports remain operational: Mogadishu, Berbera, Bosasso, Kismayo and Garacad.
- The utilization of the Garacad seaport by the humanitarian community remains restricted, primarily due to challenges in the road infrastructure connecting the port to Galkayo.
• The WFP time-chartered vessel is currently at sea to Berbera and is expected to arrive on 23 December.
• The WFP Supply Chain has communicated the updated transport schedule. The vessel is scheduled to depart from Mogadishu on 29 December and is anticipated to arrive in Bosasso on 05 January. Subsequently, the vessel will proceed to Berbera, with an expected arrival on 12 January.
• The updated sea transport schedule has been shared on the Logistics Cluster website.
• Partners with cargo for transport from Mogadishu to the north of Somalia are kindly requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster team at somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org.

3. Boat Network

• As of 20 December 2023, 44 boats are in field across 10 flood affected locations. These include: Baardhere, Belet Weyne, Jowhar, Luuq, Buur Dhuubo, Bulo Burto, Jalalaqsi, Doolow, Afmadow, and Kismayo.
• The Logistics Cluster continuously monitors the positions of boats operated by authorities, humanitarian organisations, and private sector through the LogIE Somalia tool on the Logistics Cluster website (logcluster.org).
• The Logistics Cluster transported a total of 22 boats to 10 different flood-affected locations, including Afmadow, Baardheere, Beletweye, Bulo Burte, Buurthubo, Dhobley, Dollow, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar, and Luuq, on behalf of eight organizations FAO, HIRDA, ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, SODMA, UNICEF, and WFP.

4. Humanitarian Logistics Hub Baidoa

• The Logistics Cluster has set up a Humanitarian Logistics Hub in Baidoa, providing the humanitarian community with a total storage capacity of 700 m³. The primary objective of this hub is to function as a central facility, ensuring the efficient and effective transportation of cargo within the Jubbaland and South-West State regions.
• The Logistics Cluster will send an email to partners, seeking to consolidate the current storage requirements of partners in Baidoa.
• The Humanitarian Logistics Hub is provided free of charge to support the efforts of the humanitarian community.

5. Logistics Cluster Gaps and Needs Analysis

• The Logistics Cluster is currently conducting a comprehensive gap and needs analysis in Somalia to systematically identify and address existing gaps and emerging needs within the logistics landscape.
• The objective is to refine strategies, optimize resource allocation, and tailor services to better meet the evolving demands of the humanitarian community through a thorough assessment of the current situation.
• This analysis is crucial for ensuring a more efficient and targeted logistical response, considering dynamic challenges such as deteriorating infrastructure, ongoing conflict, and the anticipation of future crises.
• The outcomes of the analysis will guide immediate interventions and inform long-term planning to fortify the Logistics Cluster’s ability to support humanitarian operations effectively.
• Currently, 15 partners have completed the gaps and needs analysis survey, and the Logistics Cluster has conducted 6 face-to-face interviews with selected partners.
• Partners interested in participating in face-to-face interviews are encouraged to reach out to the Logistics Cluster at annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org to book an appointment.
• The Global Logistics Cluster actively supports the Logistics Cluster in Somalia with the interview process and the overall development of the gaps and needs analysis.

6. Updates on Funding

• Currently, the Logistics Cluster has secured funding for both helicopters until January 2024, US$ 1.2 million for fixed-wing operations until March 2024, and US$ 160,000 for the humanitarian logistics hub in Baidoa through the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF).
• However, considering the total required funds amounting to $14.7 million, the Logistics Cluster faces a shortfall of US$ 12.8 million for 2024.

7. Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024

Trends in Sectoral Needs
• Extensive damage to critical transport infrastructure has resulted from the floods in Jubaland, South-West State, and Hirshabelle. As of November 30, 2023, 15 out of 19 airstrips are rendered inaccessible to fixed-wing aircraft, and crucial overland supply routes across these states remain closed, severely hampering movement.
• Critical bridges in Bardheere, Buurdhsumbo, Bulo Burte, Bu’alle, and Luuq have been either washed away or submerged, disrupting primary access routes. Disruptions in commercial resupply have led to heightened fuel and market prices, exacerbating existing logistics challenges. The severity of the damage necessitates urgent investment in infrastructure repair, impacting the timely and efficient delivery of essential supplies.
• Persistent security challenges, attributed to non-state armed groups, continue to affect the effectiveness of cargo deliveries and the safety of air passenger flights. The anticipated ATMIS withdrawal in 2024 adds an element of uncertainty, demanding strategic planning.
• The imminent risk of cholera further amplifies the pressure on logistics operations, requiring urgent transport of medical supplies and the allocation of resources to logistics assets for an effective response. Vigilant monitoring and adaptive response strategies are imperative for successfully navigating these multifaceted challenges.

https://logcluster.org/ops/som20p
Response Scope and Priorities

- To address the challenges in 2024 stemming from ongoing floods, conflict, the anticipated ATMIS withdrawal, and the imminent risk of cholera, the Logistics Cluster will continue in supporting the humanitarian community in Somalia. This support encompasses logistics coordination, information management, and common services (cargo transport via road, sea, and air) with a specific focus on priority regions like Juba, South-West, and Shabelle State where humanitarian access is difficult.

- A combination of both fixed and specialized air assets will be utilized to transport humanitarian cargo and passengers to inaccessible areas, prioritizing cost-efficient fixed-wing aircraft when possible. As a last resort, the Logistics Cluster will extend its support to road and sea transport.

- Regular coordination meetings at the national and sub-national levels will facilitate information sharing, and the Logistics Cluster's Somalia webpage will disseminate crucial logistics information management products.

- Additionally, the Logistics Cluster efforts are directed towards enhancing the logistics capacities of the humanitarian community through tailored training, emergency simulations, and the sharing of best practices.

8. AOB

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

- The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 2 January 2024 at 11:00 am EAT, online

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Kathrin Landherr</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org">annekathrin.landherr@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseantonio Carino</td>
<td>Logistics Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Joseantonio.carino@wfp.org">Joseantonio.carino@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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