



Note for the Record

Logistics Cluster Global Meeting

9th & 10th October 2013

Hosted by Auswärtiges Amt, Berlin

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Logistics Cluster Global Meeting
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BACKGROUND

The Global Logistics Cluster Meetings (GLMs) are held twice a year, and bring together senior logisticians from humanitarian organisations at the global level. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss recent Logistics Cluster operations, collect feedback from partner organisations on Logistics Cluster performance, present new initiatives and projects relevant to the field of humanitarian logistics, and since the Nairobi meeting of 2010 they have also served as a forum for strategic discussion concerning the further development of the Logistics Cluster. At the previous Global Meeting, hosted by the International Humanitarian City (IHC) in Dubai, January 2013, two Working Groups were formed. These Groups undertook the Projects of the Lessons Learned and the Logistics Capacity Assessments due to popular demand at the Meeting.

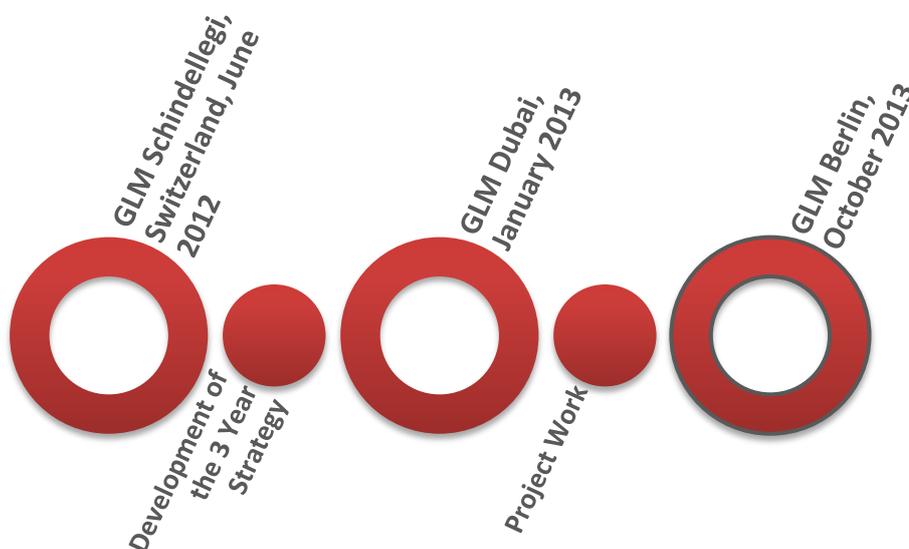
INTRODUCTION TO THE NFR

The main objectives of the Global Meeting in Berlin were divided into two categories, **strategic** and **operational**.

Strategic objectives included: to confirm the Projects from the 3-year Strategy that should be undertaken in 2014 and to provide an update on projects undertaken in 2013: Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCAs), Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA), Lessons Learned (missions to Mozambique and Yemen), and the launch of the redesign of the Logistics Cluster Website.

Operational objectives included: to establish a clearer picture of key events and developments in Afghanistan in 2014 and to identify any logistics information and coordination gaps. On the second day, a panel discussion with three experts on Afghanistan was held; discussions focused on the impact events in Afghanistan in 2014 will have on the humanitarian logistics community.

This document is organised to reflect the discussions as they took place during the Global Meeting in Berlin. The Meeting Agenda is presented first, followed by a brief description of each presentation given to the plenary sessions.



GLM BERLIN 2013

MEETING AGENDA SUMMARY

Day 1

09:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks
09:30	Update on the 3 Year Strategy
10:00	BREAK
10:30	Update on the 2013 Projects
11:00	Website & RITA
11:30	2013 Working Group Projects – LCAs & Lessons Learned
12:30	LUNCH
13:30	<i>PARCEL Project – Oxfam & World Vision</i>
14:00	Selecting Projects for 2014
15:00	BREAK
15:30	Prioritising Projects for 2014
16:45	<i>Changing the Way We Deliver – WFP Logistics</i>
17:30	END OF DAY 1

Day 2

09:00	Recap Day 1
09:30	Working Group Projects for 2014
10:00	BREAK
10:30	Timelines & Outputs for Working Groups
11:30	<i>Getting Seaports Ready for Disaster – University of Münster</i>
12:30	LUNCH
13:30	Afghanistan 2014 – Panel Discussion
15:00	BREAK
15:15	Afghanistan 2014 – Group Discussion: Gaps & Constraints
16:45	Formal Closing

PRESENTATIONS

ALL POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS FROM DAYS 1 & 2 MAY BE FOUND IN THE ANNEXES.

DAY 1

UPDATE: THE LOGISTICS CLUSTER 3-YEAR STRATEGY

Presented by Thomas Thompson (GLCSC)

The Logistics Cluster Coordinator presented an overview of the Logistics Cluster 3-Year Strategy and gave a detailed summary of the Logistics Cluster Projects from January 2013, listed by Strategic Goal (Operational Support, Accountability and Policy). It was highlighted to participants which projects were completed, which were on-going and which had not yet been started.

THE LOGISTICS CLUSTER WEBSITE

Presented by André Lamelas (GLCSC)

The presentation regarding the new Logistics Cluster website was divided in two parts: the new Logistics Cluster Information Management approach was introduced as a way to explain why the current website doesn't meet the Cluster's IM needs anymore, followed by the unveiling of the new Logistics Cluster website, with focus on detailing the new functionalities of the homepage and operations pages. The link to the construction site (beta.logcluster.org) of the new website was made available to the participants.

RELIEF ITEM TRACKING APPLICATION (RITA)

Presented by Cameron Birge (GLCSC)

An update on the current status of RITA: it has been successfully deployed to Logistics Cluster operations in South Sudan and Syria; it has been recently used to track common service provision by WFP in Zimbabwe; in autumn 2013 it will be launched to support common service provision in Mozambique and Sudan. Over 30 WFP and non-WFP staff has been trained as RITA operators. Regarding RITA's future development, customer logins will soon be available for self-creation of consignments and reporting and RITA will soon be easily accessible via smartphones and tablets. The user-interface has also been redesigned in keeping with the Logistics Cluster website.

LOGISTICS CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS (LCAs)

Presented by Cameron Birge (GLCSC) and Nicolas Brulé (Solidarités)

This presentation focused on the template upgrades and the Working Group accomplishments since the Global Meeting in Dubai (January 2014). The Working Group was made up of representatives from Solidarités, the GLCSC, ECHO and World Vision. The LCA templates were improved, including merging the Customs Information Guide, relocating the Contact Lists to the Annexes, removing the Contingency Planning section, and adding of a new section on Waste Management. The LCAs have been upgraded to the Confluence platform to support better hosting and global access; the presentation gave a detailed overview of the benefits of this upgrade.

LESSONS LEARNED

Presented by Colin Hourihan (GLCSC) and Gilles Cimetière (GLCSC)

One of the key recommendations of the Logistics Cluster Joint Evaluation was to standardise the Lessons Learned process. The Lessons Learned Project was piloted in December 2012 with the review of the Somalia Operation. Since then, Missions have been conducted to Logistics Cluster Operations in Mozambique and Yemen (September 2013). The presentation included a description of the project's methodology, as well as key findings and recommendations from the recent Lessons Learned Missions.

PARCEL PROJECT

Presented by Rebecca Vince (Oxfam)

The PARCEL (Partnership Capacity Enhancement in Logistics) Project is a joint venture by World Vision and Oxfam, led by Oxfam GB, to contribute to building local logistics capacity in emergency-prone countries. The pilot countries for training are as follows: Mozambique, Niger, Ethiopia, Haiti and Pakistan (back-up countries: Somalia, Bangladesh, and Cambodia).

CHANGING THE WAY WE DELIVER

Presented by Wolfgang Herbinger (WFP Logistics)

The presentation focused on Cash & Vouchers initiative in general, the benefits to the humanitarian community and the role that logistics has to play. It was highlighted that these three key aspects of logistics could build relationships through common humanitarian services and thus relates to Cash & Vouchers: Joint warehousing/prepositioning, Inter-Agency Service Agreements & Joint Trainings and Pipeline Visibility.

DAY 2

GETTING SEAPORTS READY FOR DISASTER

Presented by Prof. Dr. Ing. Bernd Hellingrath (University of Münster)

Prof. Dr. Ing. Hellingrath is the Chair for Information Systems and Supply Chain Management at the European Research Centre for Information Systems (ERCIS). The background and objectives of the preparing seaports for disaster programme, as well as the phases and related activities of the programme were presented to participants.

AFGHANISTAN PANEL PRESENTATIONS

POLITICAL SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Presented by Birte Kemming (Auswärtiges Amt, Afghanistan & Pakistan Desk)

The presentation highlighted 4 key areas that need to be addressed for success in Afghanistan in 2014. These were: 1) that the presidential elections in April 2014 must run smoothly; 2) that there is a peace and reconciliation process; 3) ensure support/regional cooperation from neighbouring countries; 4) strong support from the international community regarding relief assistance and security support.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Presented by Arnhild Spence (OCHA Afghanistan)

The presentation of the current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan touched on four main points: that the majority of needs are due to the on-going conflict; that the Civilian Casualty (CIVCAS) has risen by 23% in 2013; attacks on humanitarian workers are up by 78% and that a major issue to focus on regarding the humanitarian response is chronic needs versus acute needs. A detailed overview was also given of the current humanitarian presence in Afghanistan, including low coverage in certain regions due to the security situation. Other aspects that were discussed were humanitarian coordination, funding trends, innovations and the Risk Register.

LOGISTICS CHALLENGES IN AFGHANISTAN

Presented by Gerard Rebello (WFP Afghanistan)

Potential operational logistics impacts and internal challenges were the key focus of this presentation by the head of WFP Logistics for Afghanistan. The operational impact included the potential exacerbation of an already volatile security situation thus an increasing need for escorts and convoy movements. The corridor challenges were highlighted, as well as a list of preparedness actions.

2014 PROJECT SESSIONS

The strategic objective of the Logistics Cluster Global Meeting in Berlin was to establish which projects from the 3-Year Strategy should be focused on in 2014, by the Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell (GLCSC) and by the new Working Groups (to be formed at the Meeting).

The participants were broken down into four discussion groups of approximately 8 people. These groups were tasked to evaluate and give guidance on the projects the Logistics Cluster should focus on in 2014. The groups broke down as such:

Day 1

- Discussion 1 – Participants were requested to determine a list of all the projects the Logistics Cluster should focus on in 2014 with no priority of order given, and additionally, identify which of these projects should no longer be a focus, i.e. be cut out of the Strategy.
- Discussion 2 – The results from Discussion 1 were collated and analysed. Participants received a list of all the projects submitted and were requested to list them in order of priority. Participants were also required to state whether they were in agreement with the recommendations to remove particular projects from the Strategy.

The Project Priority List: (in order of priority)

1. Sustainable Funding Model
2. Field Handbook for Logistics Cluster Coordinators
3. Identify New Alternative Funding Streams
4. Sustainable Seconded System
5. Platform for Development for Logistics Innovation and Knowledge (*new*)
6. Cluster Coordinator Training
7. Lessons Learned Implementation
8. Advocacy Strategy
9. Multi-Language Key Documents
10. Global Stakeholder Survey for the Identification of Cluster KPIs & Areas of Logistics Innovation to be Supported by the Cluster (*new*)
11. Logistics Cluster Induction Document for Stakeholders (*new*)
12. LOG Mapping of Institutional Requirements (*revised*)
13. Cash and Financial Systems – template for LCA (*new*)
14. Data Collection Tools (*new*)
15. Rapid Assessment Tool (*new*)
16. Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSAs)
17. Broader Inclusion of Stakeholders

Projects to be Merged:

- Stakeholder Map and Broader Inclusion of Stakeholders at GLM
- LCAs and HSAs

Projects to be Removed:

- New Tools – enough tools have been developed for the time being (if concrete suggestions this could be considered to be added to the priority list)

- Focused Update on LCAs (new platform soon to be launched and updates are a core responsibility of WFP Regional Logistics Officers.
- Humanitarian Staging Areas (HSAs) - (will be included within relevant LCAs)

Day 2

The morning sessions of the second day (10th October) featured more group discussion, first focusing on which of the projects from the priority project list (which had been established on the previous day) were to be tasked to the Working Groups; secondly, to define the expected output of the Working Groups over the next six months. Two working groups were established, chairs selected and key objectives listed. Details of the Working Group discussions and participants are listed below.

- Discussion 3 – Participants were requested to review the priority project list and identify which projects should be undertaken by a Working Group. It was decided that *Sustainable Funding Model & Sustainable Secondee System* should be merged to and be given to Working Group 1. Working Group 2 was tasked with the Project of *Platform for Development for Logistics Innovation and Knowledge*.
- Discussion 4 – Participants then chose which Working Group they would like to join; having broken up into the two Working Groups, participants were required to determine two objectives that their Group would need to accomplish in the next six months, and also identify the working group chair.

Working Group 1 - Sustainable Funding Model & Sustainable Secondee System:

Participants:

Co-chairs: Chuck Woolgar (Save the Children) and Thomas Thompson (GLCSC)

Bob Demeranville (USAID/OFDA)

Sean Barton (Oxfam)

George Fenton (World Vision)

Jean-Baptiste Lamarche (ACF France)

Brian Healy (GOAL)

John Myraunet (GLCSC)

Discussion:

While the GLCSC will focus on the fundraising strategy for core activities and operations, the Working Group focus on a sustainable model for Secondees and ad-hoc projects. This will include clearly defining why it is crucial to have Secondees for the Logistics Cluster to work properly, the role of the Secondees globally and in the field, and a strategy for fundraising.

Output:

- To define why secondees crucial for the logisitcs cluster to work optimally and what would be their exact role.
- To establish what is the best fundraising/financing strategy/mechanism for the secondees.

Working Group 2 - Platform for Development for Logistics Innovation and Knowledge:

Participants:

Chair: Bekim Mahmuti (UNHRD)

Nicolas Brule (Solidarites)

Cameron Birge (GLCSC)

Jurgen Mika (Welthungerhilfe),

Theo Lingens (THW)

Martijn Blansjaar (Oxfam)

Jason Connolly (DFID)

Isabelle de Muysen-Boucher (OCHA)

Jonas Stumpf (Kühne Foundation)

Martin Willhaus (Kühne Foundation)

Kamal Ait Ikhlef (WHO)

Klasien Hoeve (Medair)

Discussion:

The group agreed to meet next via teleconference. They also requested initial guidance on Objective 1 to be generated by the GLCSC.

Output:

- To generate and endorse guidelines on the Logistics Cluster's stance regarding the endorsement of logistics projects being developed and implemented by other organizations.
- To define the type of information and modality by which organisations can share projects and relevant information.

AFGHANISTAN 2014

PANEL DISCUSSION ON AFGHANISTAN IN 2014

Chair: Mr Ramiro Lopes da Silva, Assistant Executive Director, WFP

Panellists (in speaking order):

1. Ms Birte Kemming, German Federal Foreign Office, Afghanistan & Pakistan Desk
2. Ms Arnhild Spence, Deputy-head of Office, OCHA Afghanistan
3. Mr Gerard Rebello, Head of Logistics, WFP Afghanistan

GROUP DISCUSSION ON AFGHANISTAN IN 2014

During the second half of the Afghanistan session, the participants were divided into 4 groups to discuss three questions. Details of these discussions have been compiled and listed below under their relevant question:

Operational Constraints

1. What are your current operational constraints (e.g. security/logistics) in Afghanistan?
 - Security constraints make up most of the operational constraints and many areas are too insecure to have a constant humanitarian presence and thus are resorting to remote management.
 - Corruption is prevalent throughout the country.
 - Border constraints are another major issue, particularly the potential border closures (both from regional and Central Asia) and the challenges with customs clearance of humanitarian cargo.
 - Local cooperating partners lack sufficient capacity and knowledge.
 - Procurement issues – it is challenging to find large enough suppliers in Afghanistan for humanitarian operations.
 - With winter drawing closer, organisations are expecting to scale-up activities as the winters in Afghanistan are particularly harsh.

Future Challenges

2. Based on the information presented during the panel discussion, what logistics challenges do you foresee for 2014?
 - The potential closure of Afghanistan's borders is a major risk; the risk is increased by the volatile security situation and a possible increase in tension with neighbouring countries.
 - There will be a potential rise in the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees/returnee.
 - The unpredictability of the security situation will escalate, and thus there will be a need for coordination with the Afghan armed forces.
 - There are already constant changes of customs regulations regarding the importation of goods into Afghanistan – this is likely to become more rigid and less predictable in 2014.
 - A major challenge will be the lack of capacity regarding the implementation of humanitarian activities due to the lack of access and the insecure operational environment.

Logistics Information and Coordination Gaps

3. Are there any key information and/or coordination gaps in your current or potential operations that need to be addressed?
- The Afghanistan Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) was last updated in 2009.
 - LCAs of neighbouring countries to also be updated but with a focus on logistics corridors and analysis of potential bottlenecks e.g. Temez border crossing.
 - A Logistics Working Group has been formed in Kabul but more attendees are crucial; this will facilitate the coordination and cooperation of humanitarian actors, as well as the sharing of best practices.
 - Remote/difficult-to-access areas of Afghanistan need to be identified for a potential scale-up in operations in the future.
 - Sufficiently qualified local partners need to be identified; the Logistics Working Group could be a forum for tackling this gap.
 - A major gap is the limited capacity of the humanitarian community to communicate with armed actors.
 - An increase in GIS/Mapping services is needed – maps to then be shared with the humanitarian community.
 - There is a need for the advocacy for corridor access.
 - More information is needed on the neighbouring countries customs regulations.

OUTCOMES OF AFGHANISTAN DISCUSSION

Participants reconvened for a plenary session to share the outcomes of their conversation. The action points from the sessions are as follows:

- The Head of Logistics of WFP Afghanistan to organize a Logistics Working Group in Kabul in order to validate the recommendations from the Global Meeting and priorities follow-up actions
- All participants to encourage their respective colleagues in Afghanistan to participate actively in the Logistics Working Group.
- The Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell (GLCSC) to follow-up on corridor assessments / Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCAs) for neighbouring countries, including engagement of private partners who have offered their assistance.
- WFP Afghanistan and Regional offices, in cooperation with the GLCSC and partners, to engage with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and customs officials in the region.

ANNEXES

GLOBAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS LIST AUSWÄRTIGES AMT BERLIN 2013

NAME	ORGANISATION
Jean-Baptiste Lamarche	ACF France
Jason Connolly	DFID
Stephanie Berchtold	ECHO
Ina Lepel	German Foreign Office
Birte Kemming	German Foreign Office
Brian Healy	GOAL
Gaétan Bommel	Handicap International
Thierry Fournier	ICRC
Jonas Stumpf	Kühne Foundation
Martin Wilhaus	Kühne Foundation
Klasien Hoeve	Medair
Isabelle de Muyser-Boucher	OCHA
Arnhild Spence	OCHA Afghanistan
Sean Barton	Oxfam
Rebecca Vince	Oxfam
Martjin Blansjaar	Oxfam
Chuck Woolgar	Save the Children
Nicolas Brulé	Solidaritiés
Theo Lingens	THW
Albrecht Broemme	THW
Eric Perdison	UNHAS
Nabil Makki	UNHCR
Bekim Mahmuti	UNHRD
Jean-Cedric Meeus	UNICEF

Ferdinand Möhring	BLG Logistics Group
Bernd Hellingrath	University of Münster
Daniel Link	University of Münster
Robert Demeranville	USAID/OFDA
Jürgen Mika	Welthungerhilfe
Jürgen Lüdemann	Welthungerhilfe
Ramiro Lopes da Silva	WFP
Wolfgang Herbinger	WFP/Logistics Cluster Chair
Gerard Rebello	WFP Afghanistan
Sabine Starke	WFP – Berlin Liaison Office
Heiko Knoch	WFP – Berlin Liaison Office
Kamal Ait Ikhlef	WHO
George Fenton	World Vision

Participants from the Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell (GLCSC):

NAME	FUNCTION
Amelia Stewart	Global Meeting Coordinator
André Lamelas	Project Manager – Logistics Cluster Website
Cameron Birge	Project Manager – RITA & LCA
Colin Hourihan	Head of Information Management
Gilles Cimetière	Project Manager – Lessons Learned
John Myraunet	Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator
Mark Kelley	Civil-Military Focal Point
Thomas Thompson	Global Logistics Cluster Coordinator