
Meeting Minutes, 20 April 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



LOCATION	Addis Ababa, online
DATE	20 April 2021
CHAIR	Robert Sepe, Logistics Cluster Coordinator Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior DRM Adviser
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (ACF), Catholic Relief Service (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), GOAL, Danish Red Cross, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), Global Affairs Canada, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Lutheran World Relief (LWF), Medecins du Monde (MDM), Nala Foundation, National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), OXFAM, Plan International, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), United States Agency for international Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO)
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Partners are requested to submit their transportation and storage requests using the Service Request Form (SRF) to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org by the deadline of Wednesday 4 PM every week.● Partners are encouraged to provide feedback and data on routes and possible physical access constraints encountered to the Logistics Cluster.● The Logistics Cluster will follow up with UNHAS on the outcome of the Shire airport site assessment and inform partners.● The Logistics Cluster will share a survey with partners on their preference for weekly or bi-weekly meetings.● Partners interested in the Service Request Forms (SRF) training conducted at the Addis Ababa warehouse may reach out to the Logistics cluster via email to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org.
AGENDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● NDRMC Updates● Road Constraints● OCHA Updates● Operational Updates● Preparedness● FAQs and Partner Discussion

1. NDRMC Updates

- The cargo notification process is running smoothly. In the past week, nine notifications, including six from the Logistics Cluster, were received by NDRMC for the movement of 35 trucks carrying food, NFI and mixed cargo. Out of the nine notifications, one was rejected due to the lack of provision of required information in line with the guidelines. Partners are encouraged to review the guidelines shared by the Logistics Cluster.
- Access constraints are the main issue in central Tigray. Meanwhile southern and eastern Tigray are partially accessible. Reports suggest access issues are improving.

2. Road Constraints

Partners are encouraged to refer to the [Interactive Physical Road Constraints Map](#).

- Main corridors from Djibouti, Berbera, and Kenya via Moyale are operating smoothly.
- Routes from Amhara region through Kobo and through Gondar towards Tigray border are physically accessible.
- The route from Gambella to Ninyang via Banyrial is accessible for light vehicles via a new bridge located in Banyrial, 4 km before Jekow. The bridge is only accessible for light vehicles due to damage.
- Reports in mid-March noted heavy rain and strong winds affecting three woredas – Itang, Abobo and Gambella Zuria. However, these roads are currently still accessible.
- Reports indicated heavy rain between Debarik and Zarima in the past week, which led to temporary access problems. As per recent reports there are no access constraints at present.
- Partners are encouraged to provide feedback and data on routes and possible access constraints encountered to the Logistics Cluster.
- Reports from the end of March indicate that the Borkena river bridge has been damaged. The bridge was serving a corridor to Kemissie, Debre Birhan, Kombolcha, Dessie and Woldia towns and Addis Ababa city. The bridge was also an intersect point for Anstokiya Gemiza, Gishe, Albiko and Dawa Chefa woredas.

3. OCHA

- The main road from Debre Sina to Kombolcha and areas within a 20km radius from the main road are currently subject to access restrictions, however over the past two days limited traffic movement has resumed and the situation has been improving.
- A partner raised reports from their transporters suggesting the road from Gonder to Shire was subject to access issues and asked for feedback from the Logistics Cluster and partners. The Logistics Cluster has not been experiencing difficulties and convoys have been moving as scheduled. The Logistics Cluster will follow-up and cross-check and provide further updates if required.

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- OCHA has received reports in the past week from partners on access challenges faced on the routes from Alamata to Mekele, from Mekele to Adigrat, Adigrat to Adwa, and from Axum to Shire.
- The route from Alamata to Adigrat is partially accessible. The Adigrat – Axum – Shire route is inaccessible.
- The main road from Shire to Shiraro was accessible, however there were access constraints related to rural areas in the north western zone with reports from partners that they were not able to access rural areas in Seyermti and Lealay Adiabo woredas.
- The route from Goder to Shire via Mai Tsebri is accessible.
- The route from Mekele through Abiy Addi to Adwa is inaccessible. OCHA and UNICEF conducted a road assessment on the route but encountered access constraints.

4. Operational Updates

- Several partners have been recently requesting transport from the Addis Ababa hub to Tigray directly. The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that transport to Tigray may be requested via Addis, as well as other operational hubs.
- The deadline for submitting SRFs for the following week is Wednesday 4 PM. Exceptions to the deadline will be made for emergencies and life-saving humanitarian cargo. Partners are reminded that a minimum of 72 hours is needed to process the SRF and share the notification before transport can begin.
- The new Logistics Cluster Hub in Shire is working on establishing two MSUs with 640m² available to partners. These are expected to become operational at the end of April.
- Partners raised the possibility of using the Shire airport for humanitarian transport movements. The Logistics Cluster highlighted a recent site assessment by UNHAS and agreed to follow-up and revert with further information during the next coordination meeting.
- In the week of 12 – 18 April, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the delivery of 41 mt of cargo to Tigray on behalf of three partners, including 30 mt of shelter cargo from Addis Ababa to Mekele and 10 MT of mixed cargo from Gonder to Shire on behalf of one partner.
- For the week of 19 – 20 April, the Logistics Cluster has received a request for storage of 13 mt of medical supplies in Addis Ababa and 33.8 mt of shelter supplies in Gonder. Requests for the facilitation of transportation of 26mt of WASH, core relief items, education and protection cargo from Nazareth and Addis Ababa to Mekele have been received from two partners.

As a reminder, below are the storage and transportation services that can be facilitated by the Logistics Cluster for the Tigray response:

- There is 3900 m² of total warehouse space in Adama available as common storage for partners.
- The warehouse in Gondar has a total of 2400 m² of common storage space for partners.
- The logistics hub in Kombolcha has a total of 1500 m² of common storage space for partners
- The warehouse in Mekele has a total of 1600 m² of common storage space for partners.

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- The common storage space in Semera has a total of 640 m² for partners.
- The warehouse in Addis Ababa has a total of 1000 m² of common storage space for partners. This warehouse is used for the consolidation of cargo that is to be dispatched to Gondar, Kombolcha, and Semera.

Partners requesting storage services are invited to fill in the [Service Request Form](#) (SRF) and send it to Ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org.

5. Preparedness

- To support partners and strengthen capacity to respond to partner needs, the Logistics Cluster is in the process of purchasing 120 MSUs (approximately 38000 sqm).
- A survey on logistics capacity is being shared with Clusters and partners through OCHA to assess pipeline information and current storage capacity and needs.
- Road constraint mapping is ongoing, and partners are encouraged to share information with the Logistics Cluster.
- The Logistics Cluster invited partners to consult the [Ethiopia Logistics Capacity Assessment](#) for information on storage, transport and other aspects relevant to preparedness actions and planning by partners.
- Two roving Logistics Officers will be hired shortly to provide surge capacity and address gaps.

5. FAQs and Partner Discussion

- The Logistics Cluster provided an update on operations in Gonder. The Gonder team faced a challenge due to lack of commercial transport capacity in late March, affecting both the Logistics Cluster and other actors such as WFP. In response, the Logistics Cluster has worked with WFP to station more trucks in Gonder to provide the capacity needed for the dispatch of Logistics Cluster cargo.
- There has been a temporary gap in staging capacity at the Gonder hub due to the Logistics Officer taking a sick leave. To ensure that operations continue running smoothly, the Logistics Cluster team is updating the COVID-19 safety protocols and developing a plan to provide full coverage in case of absence of staff through alternates on the team.
- An issue encountered in March – April in the Gonder Hub was trucks being loaded but not dispatched. One reason was that commercial trucks arrived in Gonder with insufficient fuel for the journey, once loaded, were not able to refuel in time to join their scheduled convoys. Agreement has been reached with commercial transporters to ensure that trucks arrive with sufficient fuel for the journey before loading. Dispatches will be based on confirmed convoy manifests communicated by the Logistics Officers based in the Gonder hub, who will also be responsible for communicating with WFP and Logistics Cluster stakeholders.
- The Logistics Cluster will hire an additional Logistics Assistant in Gonder, expected to join the team in May.

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- The Logistics Cluster Gonder hub is expected to be one of the busiest hubs for the dispatching of food, with projections for 27 mt being dispatched through the hub till the end of May.
- WFP has renegotiated commercial transport contracts that will allow for Logistics Cluster direct deliveries from Addis to Shire through the Mai Tsebri route. Transport along this route will stop in Gonder to join the next available WFP convoys scheduled for departure.
- The Logistics Cluster discussed the possibility of moving to a bi-weekly coordination meeting schedule. Initial reactions from partners were in favour of moving to a bi-weekly schedule. A survey has been shared with partners with a Thursday COB deadline.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for 4 May at 11:00 EAT.

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