

LOCATION: WFP Somalia Conference Room

DATE: 13 April 2016

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: ACF, UNICEF, WFP

AGENDA:

1. Operational updates
2. Access Constraints
3. AOB

1. Operational Updates

- The Chair briefed the participants on the outcome of the consultative meeting held on 12 April between the Head of OCHA and the Kenyan Ambassador to Somalia. The Ambassador committed to support the humanitarian community to resolve the border permit issues by providing clarity on the border procedures and processes while establishing bodies and focal points to liaise with humanitarian organisations.
- A detailed guide on customs procedures was shared during the meeting and will be shared with all organisations via email. The Logistics Cluster stressed its commitment to assist organisations in following-up on specific custom phases, should they face any challenge. It was however stressed that participants will be required to initiate the process and submit all the necessary paperwork independently.
- The LCA was not included in the current Humanitarian Response Plan. However, the LCA is accessible on www.logcluster.org and all participants are encouraged to provide their comments and feedback. These will be essential for the next LCA review for 2017.
- The Chair informed that the Logistics Cluster had only submitted funding requests on behalf of the UNHAS operation, which were not approved, meaning no funds were allocated to the Logistics Cluster. As agreed by the UNCT, CERF and CHF allocated limited resources to the most affected clusters only.
- Puntland authorities, through a letter dated 11 April 2016, have granted a tax exemption for all humanitarian agencies responding to the current drought response. The exemption applies as of April for a period of two months with possibilities of extension.
- A tax emption for relief supplies arriving at the Berbera port has been granted for a period of two months on the condition that the transport contract is awarded to Puntland transporters.
- The Official letter from the Puntland authorities has been shared with all organisations.
- The WFP time-chartered vessel experienced an overall delay of 26 days. The operation was delayed due to port congestion with commercial vessels and mechanical failures of the engine. The vessel is expected to reach Mombasa port on 18 April where the vessel will load about 5000 mt of (WFP and Inter-agency) cargo.
- The Yemen country office will take over the WFP time-chartered vessel for future possible use in mid-May.
- It is still unclear when exactly the vessel will resume its operation in Somalia. WFP is sourcing for alternative means to continue its operation to Bossaso. Currently there are liners to Mogadishu and Kismayu which WFP and interested organisations can rely on.
- Organisations are also urged to share information and any updates on alternatives means they are currently contracted.

2. Access constraints

- WFP is moving cargo by road from Mogadishu to Baidoa on trial-basis. No incidents have been reported so far.
- UNICEF is experiencing great challenges in moving cargo from Baidoa through Dolow due to the volatile security situation.
- The Wajid and Garbahrey locations are currently only accessible by air.

3. AOB

- UNHAS will be requested to conduct an assessment on Bulo-Burte airstrip.
- The Head of OCHA met with the Minister of Interior and Federal Affairs in Mogadishu in February to raise concerns on the checkpoints issue following the emergence of 11 new checkpoints along the Mogadishu – Balcad - Jowhar route. The Minister affirmed he would address the issue. During the deliberations, the Head of OCHA shared the list of checkpoints along that route, which has been raised by the Minister with all necessary administrative and security authorities. The humanitarian community was also re-assured that no charges would apply by using the highlighted routes. Organisations are requested to report to the Logistics Cluster on any further challenges in order for the Cluster to follow up with OCHA.
- The next meeting is scheduled for mid-August, with the details to be shared via the mailing list.

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