

Meeting Minutes for Logistics Cluster



Somalia Support Secretariat, Kalson Tower
18 July 2008 @ 15:30

SOMALIA

Venue: Somalia Support Secretariat, Conference Room, Kalson Tower

Participants:

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

1. Review of Last Meeting Minutes

See point 5 in the agenda.

The Chair opened the meeting asking the team to self assess the scope of work of the cluster with its benefits as well as of weaknesses. The Chair reminded the team of the importance of discussing the role of the cluster as to maintain a high relevance level and efficiency in coordination.

Comments were made to confirm the essential needs to receive the regular dispatch of information which are consulted by Organizations in the decision making process of their operation. Some participants also admitted not to have contributed sufficiently enough within the cluster and assured from now on to improve their participation and commitment. In concert the team suggested to establish an enforcing mechanism among member's Organizations to ensure commitment in providing information to the Cluster.

WFP reminded the team that it is important to clearly establish what is the value added of the meetings.

WHO and UNICEF gave examples on how the meetings serve to catalyze the information and find solution to logistics bottlenecks. For instance, is often subject of discussion the delivery option proposed by WFP to ship the cargo to Somalia, together with finding solutions to overcome the problems encountered at the customs and at the in-transit terminal at Mombasa port. Notably, the increase in value added of meetings coincides with the particular crisis faced in Somalia.

The team made the point on the frequency of meetings should be moved to once a month rather than twice a month, therefore the Chair asked the participant to vote.

Vast majority of participants voted for once a month meetings.

The Chair also proposed to establish an email list for the on-set request of assistance [ie. warehouse space, transporters rates, maintenance services, etc].

ACTION: once a month meeting + establish email system for logistics requests.

2. Security update from NGO-SPAS

See attached NGP SPAS weekly security up-date.

3. Price tracking for fuel and transports

Since last April the cluster tracked fuel prices across Somalia which illustrated a constant increase in prices across Somalia. The Chair presented the tabulation and charts showing a increase in costs for both diesel and petrol fuel, where the higher costs reach 100% increase in locations further away from ports (ie. Garbahare) showing the fuel imports are tight to one or two corridors which leads to increase in the inelasticity of demand.

ACTION: increase the information feeding to the cluster on fuel price tracking.

4. IA shipping operations procedures Logistics Training in Mombasa UNICEF/CILT

The Chair circulated the final Standard Operating Procedure for the inter-agency shipping valid for all Organization willing to benefit of this delivery option. The SOP is a document based on the WFP cargo movement procedures and the lesson learned from previous experience in shipping IA cargo.

5. Logistics capacity assessment

Based on the initial discussion and to follow previous discussion on the tentative plan for the LCA, the Chair endorsed the proposal to assign Organizations according to their geographical presence in Somalia to submit LCA basic information. The time-frame for this exercise is set for the first week of August to assign the geographical competencies and by the end of August receive all the information and start the consolidation of the assessment.

ACTION: The Chair to contact the Organizations to agree on the geographical area on where they will focus the information gathering for the LCA.

6. AoB

Based on WVI suggestion to build a local supplier database, the Cluster Chair will liaise with UNHCR who offered assistance in building such database from existing lists of suppliers. On this topic the cluster will have to meet and discuss possible solutions to mitigate the disadvantage and risks involving local procurement.

The next Somalia Logistics Cluster meeting will be announced in due course.