

Meeting Minutes of the Bangladesh Logistics Cluster

Dhaka, Bangladesh
WFP Office, 29 November 2007 – 11:00 hrs
Cyclone Sidr emergency response



ATTENDEES

Care, Proshika, TNT, IMC, ACF, SCF, IFRC, UNICEF, OFDA, US Marine, WFP, MAF

AGENDA

1. Follow up on action points
 - Fuel update
 - Customs
 - Entry points (port, land)
2. Update from agencies about their Logistics Plan
3. Sharing of Transport information
(are you willing to share your contacts and price agreements?)
4. Discussion on warehousing
5. AOB
6. Next meeting

1. FOLLOW UP ON ACTION POINTS

- **Fuel situation:** a snapshot is now available on the logistics cluster website. There is no fuel shortage. Petrol may be in short supply at some gas stations in the South; in that case contact one of the Petroleum companies who supply the gas stations.
- **Custom clearance:** For air-cargo a special receiving cell has been setup at the airport, this is managed through the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM). We have not been able to clarify the clearance and pre-clearance procedure for sea and overland cargo yet. It seems that the office doing pre-clearance is currently overloaded. The LRT is asking more feedback from organizations who are actually clearing goods now. We will be emailing interested organizations.
- Cargo consigned to ministries of the government is customs cleared much quicker. But hereafter the government will take responsibility for distribution.
- **BP5** (and perhaps other food items) require a special radiation test to be cleared at Chittagong port, this adds another 2 days to the process.
- **Benapole:** TNT noted that for clearance of cargo entering at Benapole effective working hours are 10am-4pm, while clearance stops at 2pm. Friday to Sunday clearance is not possible due to the weekend in India and Bangladesh. Cargo must be transshipped into Bangladeshi trucks, therefore take into account also the labor required for this.

2. UPDATES FROM ORGANIZATIONS ABOUTH THEIR LOGISTICS PLAN

- CARE**
- Has setup 4 temp. offices and is deploying 120 staff in the South
 - Is using a 1-year agreement with a transporter
 - Is using in Barguna a Local Supply Depot of the government
- PROSHIKA**
- Has contracted a warehouse for food items in Jamalpur with 1000MT capacity
 - Is contracting 2 500MT capacity warehouses for food in Magura
 - Has local transport arrangements in place
 - Gap: obtaining local transport is difficult
- IMC**
- Will import emergency drug kits and blankets
 - Will work with local partners for distribution and warehousing
 - Asked assistance in clarifying customs clearance process of medicines
- SCF**
- Has sufficient warehouse capacity in Barisal
 - Gap: transport capacity of Homebound transport from Dhaka-Barisal
 - Is looking for a procurement agent who can do forwarding as well
 - Would like to have an map of warehouse space per organization

- TNT**
 - Has information that in Khulna 15-20,000 Sq.ft. warehouse space will become available in an abandoned factory
 - Covered trucks are in short supply
 - In Chittagong if you can load trucks in the weekend, the rates are cheaper
- IFRC**
 - Will have 13 40ft containers arriving in Chittagong, first to arrive Dec. 3rd.
 - An IFRC team will go to Barisal on the 3rd to coordinate distribution
- UNICEF,**
 - Will be bringing 5000MT of blended food into Chittagong and is interested to hear more about local storage conditions. (storage is limited in Chittagong)
 - Clearing 92 MT of BP5 in Chittagong took 7 days, of which 2 for testing
 - 140 trucks (10MT) arriving at Benapole with jerry cans, blankets and tarpaulins
 - Asked LRT to inspect BP5 arrived in Barisal, to be distributed by SCF.
- OFDA / US marines**
 - Operating an air bridge with 3 C130's from Dhaka to Barisal. Onwards distribution to 5 sites per day using 10 helicopters.
 - Operating air cushioned boats from Chittagong to coast locations in the South.
 - Can transport additional relief goods: contact OFDA, John Zavales phone: 0171-1593241. Or Susan: 0171-1593272. smcintyre@usaid.gov Provide information on cargo, destination and date required.

3. SHARING OF TRANSPORT INFORMATION

The LRT proposed to share each others contacts of transports and pricing information in order to curb the rising prices. It was discussed and agreed that the LRT would produce an analysis with an overview of the current **price-range** per transporter, without naming specific organizations.

We invite you to email to us which transporter you use (contact details) and your current price agreement (per MT/km or per truck type and route). We will keep this **strictly confidential**. It will only be used to determine the price range of current transport prices.

4. DISCUSSION ON WAREHOUSING: included in the discussion around agenda item 2.

5. AOB:

The LRT members Daniel & Jurgen doing a logistics assessment in Barisal, Patuakali and barguna from 30 Nov.- 4 Dec. They will be organizing a logistics cluster meeting in Barisal. Please notify your local staff, this meeting will take place Dec. 3rd.

Bangladesh logistics cluster website:

<http://www.logcluster.org/bangladesh>

The Bangladesh disaster and emergency response (DER) website:

<http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/derweb/cyclone/index.php>

NEXT MEETING OF THE LOGISTICS CLUSTER

Wednesday **5 Dec, 14:00hr**. Location: WFP Office, meeting room 17th floor.

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