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# LEBANON LOGISTICS FORUM – MEETING MINUTES

**LOCATION:** Beirut, Lebanon

**DATE:** 31 July 2013

**CHAIR:** WFP and UNHCR

**PARTICIPANTS:** Handicap International, IMC, IOM, Medair, Merlin, MSF Switzerland, OCHA, Solidarites, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA and WFP.

- ACTION POINTS:**
- Organizations to advocate to the Ministry of Finance / Ministry of Social Affairs, for the facilitation of importation of relief items in Lebanon.
  - UNHCR to share the list of Core Relief Items (CRI) that would be available via centralized procurement managed by the organization.
  - Organizations to share their list of suppliers and logistics service providers for compilation.
  - Organizations to share their warehouses location and capacity for mapping.
  - Organizations to share their contingency stocks per area (National reserve stocks, Bekka, North, South, Beirut & Mount Lebanon) for compilation on the “Lebanon Contingency Plan – Action Matrix Stocks” spread sheet shared by UNHCR.

**NEXT MEETING:** Next LLF will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at 10AM in ESCWA building.

## Situation Update – Lebanon Border Crossings and road access

- The Lebanon/Syria border crossing ‘Al-Masnaa’ is open.
- The Lebanon/Syria ‘Al-Arida’ border crossing is open.
- The Lebanon/Syria ‘Abboudieh’ border crossing is open.
- On 29<sup>th</sup> July, WFP has been informed of a new Decree for all goods transiting to Syria. The Decree states that all material procured locally or internationally and destined to Syria is subject for inspection and analysis, according to Lebanese customs regulations. It also states that all trucks should be sealed until they reach the border with Syria.  
Consequence of this Decree on Beirut Port operations is that all transiting cargo will be inspected by a customs official and released only after approval from High Customs Authority. It is estimated that this procedure will delay the clearance process by one day, but only experience will allow WFP to understand the actual delays caused.
- On 01st August, for the occasion of the LAF anniversary, it is expected for the whole country to experience major traffic difficulties. The Forum advised to postpone missions until 02<sup>nd</sup> Aug or to use alternative roads.

## Follow up on action points

### 1. Organizations to advocate to the Ministry of Finance / Ministry of Social Affairs, for the facilitation of importation of relief items in Lebanon

Import in Lebanon has been the main issue discussed during the previous LLFs.

From last meeting on 17th July, organizations were asked to give an overview of their import activities, formalities and issues faced with customs. They were required to inform :

- Organization registration status in the country,
- If the organization has a customs number,
- The proportion of international purchase vs local procurement, and
- The type of commodities imported in Lebanon.

Due to the little feedback provided, organizations are asked to revert before the next meeting to be held on 14th Aug. This will help clarify the organizations actual issues faced.

The objective is to advocate to the government and / or Ministry of Finance for a waiver on humanitarian supplies entering the country. It is clear that UN agencies will have less issues, as most of them are registered in the country or beneficiate from UNDP’s umbrella. The concern is definitely for INGOs that are not registered in the country and might need to import relief items if the local market is not able to respond to their supply needs any longer.

In 2006, a waiver was granted by the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA). Lately, UNICEF has approached MOSA, which so far do not wish to get involved in the issue. UNICEF is now working on a list of

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relief items that would need to be advocated on. UNICEF thinks it would be difficult to facilitate the import of office support items.

## **2. UNHCR to share the list of Core Relief Items (CRI) that would be available via centralized procurement managed by the organization**

UNHCR has shared the list of CRIs potentially available but need organizations to revert on their needs with more specifics. UNHCR needs to get detailed specifications of items needed, as well as quantities and expected time of delivery. The list of CRIs was prepared by the Shelter Cluster and provides with an indicative price at point of entry in Lebanon.

Organizations asked UNHCR to revert on visibility / logos and on delivery lead times. The list will be shared again with all participants. Organizations are encouraged to place orders now for winterization items.

## **3. Organizations to share their list of suppliers and logistics service providers (transporters, warehousing facilities, customs agents) for compilation**

Some more organizations have shared their list of local suppliers, transporters and customs agents. WFP will be working on consolidating the list and will share it within a week.

## **4. Organizations to share their contingency stocks per area (National reserve stocks, Bekka, North, South, Beirut & Mount Lebanon) for compilation**

Very few organizations have been able to provide with their contingency stocks. UNHCR is encouraging organizations to work on building contingency stocks.

In terms of warehousing, UNICEF, UNHCR and MOSA are planning joint contingency storage. This will allow standardising storage and reducing storage costs. UNICEF is looking for storage places to erase MSUs in the Tripoli area, in the Bekka and in the South. UNICEF has asked the organizations around the table if they were interested in sharing storage. IOM would be interested in sharing storage space, however, this would be for turnover stocks, not contingency.

## **5. DRC to share the road access map of Lebanon**

This will be sent to the whole group shortly.

## **6. WFP to share the existent arrangements with UNHRD to raise MSUs**

Two teams have been trained in Syria on erecting Rubhalls, Wiikhalls and prefabs. Those teams are available upon request, they can erect 2 MSUs per day and can easily be deployed to Lebanon. WFP is also willing to train staff in Lebanon if need be.

### **Round table – discussion and organization's updates**

- **WFP**

WFP Lebanon does not have warehousing or packaging facilities in the country.

WFP has signed two Long Term Agreements (LTA) with local suppliers. Their production capacity is of 4,500 food parcels per week, which can be up-scaled to 6,000 parcels in case of emergency.

WFP is prepositioning stock for 25,000 people at the suppliers warehouses.

WFP's partners' warehouses are located in the Bekka, the North, the South, Beirut and Mount Lebanon. Half of the stock available at the partners is contingency stock, which is recycled regularly.

- **IMC**

IMC is scaling-up slowly. The organization supports 40 to 50 clinics in the country. All procurement is done locally.

- **IOM**

IOM on working on WASH programmes and winterization kits. The organization is looking for storage space for its day to day distributions.

- **Handicap International**

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Handicap International (HI) is distributing medical supplies in the North (Tripoli, Qoubaiyat) and in the Bekka. In terms of NFI, HI is reaching 3,000 households per month in the Bekka. HI's strategy for the winterization is to provide with scratch cards and/or in-kind items.

- **Merlin**

Merlin is setting up an office in Lebanon right now.

- **MSF Switzerland**

MSF Switzerland has been procuring medical supplies locally. MSF is currently working on an import process for drugs to help clarify the requirements of Lebanese customs. MSF's programmes are working in Tripoli, Bekka and Saida. The organization has warehousing in Beirut and looking for storage space in Tripoli.

- **UNRWA**

UNRWA has extensive storage capacity in Beirut, Bir Hassan. The organization also has small storage capacity around the country with MSUs.

- **UNHCR**

UNHCR has a reserve stock for 10,000 households and is planning on scaling up to 20,000 households, i.e. 100,000 beneficiaries. UNHCR is building a winterizing stock composed of shelter items (blankets and plastic sheeting).

UNHCR is currently running an assessment on refugees, together with WFP.

- **UNICEF**

UNICEF is currently having storage issues due to the huge size of its pipeline and is encouraging its partners to take delivery of their supplies.

UNICEF is also in the winterization process, which will consist of children clothes and fuel for schools programme.

- **Medair**

Medair is present in the West Bekka. The organization is scaling up to 200 families per week.

- **Solidarites**

Solidarites is working in the North of Lebanon, distributing NFIs, food, shelter and WASH items. All items are procured locally.

## AOB

- **Warehouse mapping**

UNICEF reminded organizations to share their warehouse details in order to produce a map of warehousing capacity in Lebanon.

- **Deadline for ECHO's submission**

UNHCR reminded the group of the ECHO deadline of 08<sup>th</sup> September for the submission of proposals for the winter. UNHCR also asked organizations to share their plans in terms of items, locations and targeted households in order to have a consolidated plan.

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