

Afghanistan Logistics Working Group Meeting Minutes



LOCATION: Remote meeting

DATE: 15 June 2021

CHAIR: WFP and PUI

ACTION POINTS

- LWG Coordinators to share information on the importation process for pharmaceutical commodities including SOPs
- Dedicated meeting to be organised to discuss issues around importation of pharmaceutical commodities
- Allocate time during the next LWG meeting to discuss information of alternative corridors
- Partners to contact the LWG coordinators on available storage space in Herat
- New invite will be sent out. Next meeting will be on the 29 June at 11am.

AGENDA

1. Review of the Previous Action Points
2. Access Issues and Border Status Update
3. Customs Issues
4. Update on the gaps review and next steps
5. AOB

1. Previous action points

- ***Clarify the new processes required for online customs clearance.***
Information on the new ASCYCUDA online customs process was shared in the weekly update that was circulated on 9 June and will be re-circulated in the next update. The implementation of the new online system which started on 23 May is still in its early stages and colleagues are encouraged to share any concerns or questions with the LWG coordinators. Please see agenda point 3 for an update on the process for importation of pharmaceutical commodities.
- ***Conduct a series of interviews with partners to review logistics gaps and any contingency planning and preparedness activities.***
The gaps review is ongoing and results are being consolidated. A summary report/contingency plan will be finalised in the coming weeks and shared with WG partners for feedback. Please see agenda point 4. For further details on the review and gaps identified.
- ***Share any relevant logistics assessment information to be included in the update to the [Logistics Capacity Assessment \(LCA\)](#)***
Partners are reminded to continue to share information that supports the update of the LCA including infrastructure information as well as supplier details.

Afghanistan Logistics Working Group Meeting Minutes



2. Access issues and Border Status Update

- The LWG is ready to assist and connect partners in order to support the follow up and overcoming of access related issues.

BORDER STATUS UPDATE

- **Chaman Border (Spinboldak) - Pakistan/Afghanistan:** Open for truck movements and passengers
- **Torkham Border (Jalalabad) - Pakistan/Afghanistan:** Open for truck movements only /emergency cases
- **Hairaton Border (Mazar) - Uzbekistan/Afghanistan:** Open for truck movements and passengers
- **Torghundi Border (Hirat) - Turkmenistan/Afghanistan:** Open for truck movements. This border has rare movements of passengers.
- **Islam Qala (Hirat) - Iran/Afghanistan:** Open for truck movements but closed for passengers due to COVID-19

UNHAS

- At present there are no flights operating to Ghazni due to security concerns.
- If any partner has questions on UNHAS, flight schedule or cargo booking process, please contact the LWG Coordinators at any time.

3. Customs issues

- Partners continue to raise concerns around the delays and issues being faced when going through the importation process for pharmaceutical commodities, especially around the lack of clarity on the process and the delays in particular in receiving the authorisation from the Food and Drug Authority (AFDA).
- The LWG co-coordinator advised that a new directive on the customs process for the pharmaceutical cargo will be announced in the coming 2 to 3 weeks. Once released it will be shared with LWG participants.
- It was agreed that the LWG coordinators would share details on the process including SOP and approximate timeline which can be updated once the new directive is released. In addition, LWG partners agreed that a dedicated meeting with interested partners will be organised.

4. Update on the gaps review and next steps

- An update was given on the status of the logistics gaps review and partners were thanked for their support in the process. Initial feedback suggests the following key logistics gaps are currently impacting or might potentially impact the humanitarian supply chain in the coming months:
 - Ongoing concerns with customs processes including delays and lack of clarity on the process (specifically for medical items)
 - Limited information on alternative corridors as potential options for international importation of commodities
 - Need for further information sharing on details of available commercial transport service providers (including potential in-country air transport)
 - Concerns around logistics coordination to secure access for land transport to certain areas should the security context deteriorate
- A summary report/contingency plan will be finalised in the coming weeks and shared with WG partners for feedback.

Afghanistan Logistics Working Group Meeting Minutes



5. AOB

- The LWG coordinator requested organizations to share information on if they have any available storage capacity (approx. 100-150m2) in Herat for the coming 2 to 3 months for one partner who has a temporary need.
- Based on previous discussions, partners agreed that considering the current context, part of the next LWG meeting could be dedicated to discussing alternative corridors for transportation of commodities into the country to support contingency planning.
- A reminder that the Afghanistan Logistics Working Group webpage has some useful, if not somewhat dated, information filed under the LCA tab at the bottom of the page. The LWG is updating this information as details are collected and partners are encouraged to share any logistics capacity information to be included in the update. The page can be found here: <https://logcluster.org/countries/AFG>

Contacts:

Lucy Styles

LWG Coordinator

lucy.styles@wfp.org

Daniel Ambaw

LWG Coordinator

afg.logco@pu-ami.org