Afghanistan Logistics Working Group
Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Remote meeting

DATE: **29 June 2021**

CHAIR: WFP and PUI

ACTION POINTS

- LWG to share contacts of UNHAS colleagues – *see below*
- LWG to share information on the HAG access reporting
- LWG partners to review and share feedback on the Gaps Review and Preparedness Plan
- Regular agenda point to be included for discussions and updates around alternative corridors
- New invite will be sent out. Next meeting will be on the 13 June at 11am.

AGENDA

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

1. Previous action points

- ***LWG Coordinators to share information on the importation process for pharmaceutical commodities including SOPs and dedicated meeting to be organised to discuss issues around importation of pharmaceutical commodities***
  Information and SOPs were shared in the update as of 22 June. Co-lead PU-AMI confirmed that they are following up with relevant focal points to understand more regarding the upcoming revised pharmaceutical customs directive and will keep the LWG updated. Once shared, a dedicated meeting will be held to discuss the details of the directive and to share information on pharmaceutical customs processes and issues.

- ***Allocate time during the next LWG meeting to discuss information of alternative corridors***
  See agenda point 3.

- ***Partners to contact the LWG coordinators on available storage space in Herat***
  The partner has identified storage arrangements.

2. Access issues and Border Status Update

Access

- A representative from the Humanitarian Access Group (HAG) led by OCHA joined the meeting to present on the HAG, information sharing and reporting of access incidents. The purpose of the reporting is to support organizations in their planning as well as understand the developing context. The LWG to share further information with partners.

UNHAS

- A representative from UNHAS provided an update on the latest UNHAS activities. At present there are no flights operating to Ghazni due to security concerns.
- In addition to the regular aviation services provided, UNHAS has recently been receiving more requests for movement of humanitarian cargo which can be done via the regular scheduled flights. If cargo is significant, a charter flight can be organized. For further information, partners can reach out to the UNHAS focal points: khalilullah.kakar@wfp.org and alain.rakotovao@wfp.org. Weekly flights schedules and information are available on Humanitarianresponse.info

BORDER STATUS UPDATE

The Logistics Capacity Assessment for Afghanistan has started to be updated, with the following sections now avalible:

- Afghanistan Land Border Crossing of Torkham (Pakistan)
- Afghanistan Land Border Crossing of Hairaton (Uzbekistan)
- Afghanistan Land Border Crossing of Torghundi (Turkmenistan)

The following is the border status as of 29 June:

- **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, closed for passengers
- **Torghundi Border (Hirat) – Turkmenistan/Afghanistan**: Open for truck movements and passengers
- **Islam Qala (Hirat) – Iran/Afghanistan:** Open for truck movements and for passengers holding a business visa or medical treatment visa
- **Sher Khan Bandar – Tajikistan/Afghanistan:** Closed

3. Alternative Corridors

- As part of this dedicated session, partners provided updates on the use of the different corridors for importation and transport of commodities into Afghanistan by land.
- Partners discussed the use of Pakistan corridors which are the most commonly used but have faced some concerns around delays in recent months. In addition, partners reported that use of Hairaton (Uzbekistan) is reported to be relatively reliable and functioning. Use of Aqina (Turkmenistan) border was not recommended due to insecurity.
- A number of partners shared information on corridors through Iran which faces restrictions due to sanctions, and through Turkey, Riga and Port Poti in Georgia which is reported to take a significant time and cost. Partners were also interested to hear more on potential use of the corridor from China.
- The clearance process time at the entry points is very much dependent on the context and it is constantly evolving.
- It was agreed that considering the usefulness of the information and the need to further discuss contingency planning for corridors, such discussions should be included as a regular agenda point in LWG meetings to enhance information sharing and inform contingency planning.

4. Update on the gaps review and next steps

- The LWG Gaps Review and Preparedness Plan was shared with partners and they have been requested to share feedback on the draft plan. The plan includes a summary of the gaps identified such as customs concerns, information sharing on suppliers and service providers as well as access issues. It also includes a set of proposed mitigating actions that could be implemented to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Logistics Response.

5. AOB

- One partner requested support on information for accessing permits for the importation of medical commodities. LWG co-lead PU-AMI to liaise with the partner to provide guidance.
- It was confirmed that no changes have yet taken place on the exemptions for procurement of relief items from Iran, any further updates will be shared once received.
- A reminder that the Afghanistan Logistics Working Group webpage including the latest minutes, maps and a link to the LCA. 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

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