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LOCATION: Nigeria

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ABUJA (20 TO 24 AUGUST)

Introduction:

1. Meeting with National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) – assessment team joined a meeting between NEMA and WFP Logistics for information on Floods: the current situation and any potential for support on preparedness.
 - Current information from NEMA indicated 11 States would potentially be affected, and 3 States are already experiencing some impact.
 - NEMA referenced a contingency/preparedness plan where WFP's lead role in Logistics, Telecommunications, and co-lead in Food Security was highlighted.
 - NEMA inquired about potential support from WFP; also stated that they have been/will approach other agencies bilaterally concerning the flooding.
 - WFP requested more information on planning assumptions, such as: figures affected & potentially affected; forecasting/modeling, etc.
 - WFP asked about potential impacts in the NE.
 2. Meeting with ICRC – assessment team met bilaterally with ICRC Logistics for support, information, background on current operations and any difficulties related to movement of cargo into the NE.
 - ICRC highlighted coordination at the inter-agency level as a real challenge, specifically referencing: information about importation regime, orientation of newly arriving actors, supply/sourcing, and pricing of some commodities.
 - ICRC highlighted the substantial difference between available support for the population and the level of need.
 - In relation to newly accessible areas, there is a reported lack of consolidated information available on: storage capacity, quality of transport, movement restrictions, security, etc.
 - When asked about flooding, ICRC reported that some places in the NE may already be isolated/difficult to reach (Rann).
 3. Meeting with Logistics Working Group – the existing NGO-chaired Logistics Working Group called a special meeting to discuss the situation in NE Nigeria with the assessment team. The meeting was attended by: eHealth Africa, CRS, IRC, INSO (Inter-NGO Security Org.), Save the Children, ACF, Search for Common Ground, and others (awaiting group to share minutes of the meeting).
 - The existence of other NGO-led Working Groups was raised: Country Director Level, Logistics, and Funding/Cash & Voucher.
 - The Logistics Working Group meetings have been held in Abuja and Maiduguri, but there is limited capacity to follow up on actions.
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- Importation regime (process/restrictions), specifically concerning Medical/Pharmaceuticals, RUTF, ICT Equipment, & Vehicles, was raised as a concern. Guidelines are available but reducing the time required is critical.
 - INGOs have been updating and sharing a supplier database, but dedicated IM support is needed.
 - Security restrictions limit suitable facilities for cargo storage/consolidation in Maiduguri, and increasing program activities (not easy to quantify) add to the problem: IRC and CRS have located storage, Save the Children is still looking.
 - Many organizations are working through CBT based programming, but there is an in-kind element to their activities as well (ACF will be wholly working in Borno, in-kind, for the immediate future).
 - As regards access limitations, most organisations want to avoid the use of armed escorts.
4. Informal Meeting with UNICEF– briefed UNICEF logistics officers (local and regional) on the assessment mission to-date and the following points were agreed upon:
- Coordination and IM are coming out as needs.
 - Movement of goods up to Maiduguri has not been reported as an issue.
 - Storage in Maiduguri for the time being is strained, but possible.
 - Security limitations and access for movement of cargo ex-Maiduguri are the biggest problems.
 - Logistics capacities in newly accessible Local Government Areas (LGAs) are an unknown.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The assessment team is in agreement that dedicated Coordination and Information Management capacity is required to support humanitarian logistics activities in Borno State. Justifications and a method of engagement will depend on decisions at a wider level: augmentation of existing coordination mechanisms (i.e. the Logistics Working Group or sector-specific meetings currently chaired by UNOCHA); or activation of a “Logistics Cluster”. However, in both cases the practical support to be provided at field level is largely the same: it is a clear ask from the community, and would have a positive impact on the situation.

Further, some multi-lateral logistics services may also be justified. Storage in Maiduguri will become difficult to secure: as/if in-kind programme activities increase; in case the security situation deteriorates, and greater limitations on access are put into place; as/if more humanitarian actors engage in the area. A consolidation point for humanitarian cargo (a physical location for temporary storage/staging) would facilitate coordination of cargo movement into areas with access restrictions.

An assessment of capacity in the transport market would be prudent, given the onset of the rainy season. However, no partner has reported lack of available transport capacity as a key concern at this stage.

ANNEX I**Operations Update & Limitations from Maiduguri Meeting Minutes (25-AUG-2016)****OPERATIONS UPDATE*****MSF-Spain:***

- Currently operating in Damaturu and Benisheikh, and looking at expanding to Gwoza and Pulka.
- Mainly have nutrition and medical programmes.
- Access, security and means of transport are some of the operational concerns.

eHealth Africa:

- Based in Kano. Mainly working in nutrition, polio, medical logistics and tracking (25 strong GIS team).
- Access and security for staff and medical goods are some of the operational concerns.
- They have been working in northern Nigeria for a long time, and have good information they are willing to share.

IOM:

- Have moved goods to Banki via Cameroon and Gwoza via Adamawa. Working in Shelter and NFI.
- Access and reliable transporters are major issues, which is a concern when using escorts (Quality of trucks).
- Also looking at expanding to Gambaru-Nagala and Rann with cargo moving by land and staff by air.

ALIMA:

- In Maiduguri working in shelter, and in Monguno working in NFI, WASH and medical with MSF.
- Some storage in Maiduguri and some in Monguno but consolidation and coordination are issues.
- Have few trucks moving to Monguno.

ACF:

- Working in Food Security, Nutrition, WASH.
- Nigerian infrastructure and general market is fine; capacity does exist and the expectation that it will increase with demand (regarding the situation). Even in Monguno you will find if needed some storage and supplier capacity.
- Main Constraints: Information management and coordination; consolidation and common use of space/capacity; some items restricted on “front line” area (North and South)
- Custom’s Clearance, helpful to work on a summary of existing law/procedure (For medical drug, all NGO pass through MSF France; for RUTF, possible to deal with UNICEF).

- Support for telecommunications would be welcome; there is no communication network as soon as you are out of Maiduguri:
 - Common Radio will be more that useful to share information and track car.
 - Internet too (everyone on Bgan and Thuraya)

IMC:

- Presence in Jere and Maiduguri. Working mainly in nutrition, WASH, and GBV.
- Distributing RUTF, but have encountered problems conducting distributions.

WFP:

- Working in Maiduguri, and also in Banki and Gubio. Have delivered food into Borno State from Kano and Cameroon. So far have relied on a programme profile that is about 60 percent CbT.
- Looking at possibilities to increase warehousing in Maiduguri. 4000 Mt capacity.
- UNHAS have assessed 6 locations for use of rotary asset; usage for passengers is growing beyond assumptions. Coordination is a big issue, as well as security, with timing critically important. Would be good to share mapping of coordinates of HLS and IDP Camps and existing humanitarian ground assets for transport.

DSS:

- Senior Management Team would like the logistics group to work as the operations/planning focal point, and to coordinate requests for movement to high-risk locations; the military is concerned with resources and lack of coordination.

OCHA:

- Sector coordination is in place, but not coordinated on joint assessment/distribution planning; resulting in overlapping, duplicative requests from different organisations to move staff via UNHAS Helicopter.
- Health sector reviewing existing assessments to identify gaps.
- Sector meeting schedule on humanitarianresponse.org

OPERATINOS LIMITATIONS**Storage:**

- IOM use NEMA storage but there are difficulties at times; they have some small storage set up in their compound and no large warehousing in Maiduguri.
- WFP use NEMA storage, but to a limited degree; additional storage has been secured through SEMA (one warehouse about 700 MT and second of about 1200 MT); also finalizing an agreement for 4000 MT commercial warehouse.
- IMC have some RUSF storage capacity, but it is limited.

Transport:

- 4 organisations are moving cargo outside of Maiduguri, one using escorts.
- The military wants a coordinated system and joint operational cell outside of military base to

improve CivMil coordination.

- Coordinated convoy mechanism as an option is of interest to the group to provide interface and distance from military.

People are interested in working group focal points to start development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on convoy movement and escorts request requirements and process.
