

Interagency Logistics Meeting 7 December 2007
WFP Logistic Office Flower Ave. Colombo
Minutes

Attendance:

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Apologies for Daryll Ainsworth, UNICEF and Roshan Silva, UNHCR

The meeting was opened and chaired by Patrick Phipps, WFP

1. Minutes of the IA Logs meeting held 23 November 2007 accepted without comment – no matters arising.

2. L&ES Committee and CCHA.

The L&ES meeting scheduled for 5 December will now be held on 19 December the day before the next CCHA. At its meeting held 20 November 2007 at which WFP was represented by the CD there were two logistics issues raised.

- Vanni fuel – CGES co-chair was directed to speak with MoD and the Commissioner General to put in place the quota increase for December 2007.
- New procedures for int. personnel traveling to and from Jaffna. According to CCHA all INGOs and UN agencies are to provide details of int. personnel that visit the area frequently. The intention being is to consider a once off travel approval/clearance for those concerned. Personnel details to be sent to the Military Liaison Officer (MLO). Infrequent travelers will require prior approval through the GA and line Ministry before submitting to the MLO. UNOPS confirmed that they have received new instructions, other agencies have not.

3. Transport Issues.

(a) Air – As well as the new procedures prior to departure from Colombo the process of getting out of Jaffna has been further complicated. Movement controls within the airport “high secure zone” and to KKS have also been strengthened. Anybody traveling into Jaffna is advised to familiarize themselves with clearance process prior to travel.

(b) Sea – WFP reported no problems with the allocation of cargo space on regular services to Jaffna. However the monsoon season is slowing/disrupting the rate of vessel discharge at the port.

© **Road** – Following up on discussion at the last IA Logs re the Medawachchiya check point WFP reported that insufficient returns have been received to determine additional cost impact and to give an overall judgment as to implications for users. Reference was made to the CHA letter and report to the authorities essentially confirming that delay has been considerably reduced and that with further infrastructure improvements at the crossing transit through can be minimized. What is clear is that the Medawachchiya will stay in place as long as current security concerns exist. In this scenario and with no alternative for users (humanitarian and commercial) any cost comparisons are somewhat redundant. WFP did however make it clear that transport using commercial operators has almost doubled compared to the charge levied by GoSL transport.

4. Warehousing.

Mention was again made that UNICEF is to vacate some of their Colombo warehousing capacity with contact details given to NGOs present. WFP reported on the plan to place rub halls at KKS in Jaffna in an effort to improve vessel discharge. Most delay is caused by lack of vehicles and turn-round times given the movement controls in place in the high security zone.

5. Fuel Allocation Vanni.

The 30,000 liter allocation for December 2007 was confirmed. Agencies did not indicate any difficulty this may cause despite the request for an overall 34,000 liters. It was noted that the CGES approval letter issued same day as the letter of request from the RC, 27 November. This again confirms that the authorities had no intention of complying with the CCHA decision to increase the quota.

6. AoB

- NPI and SCF reported on recent difficulties with deduction of Withholding Tax from supplier payments (5% for payments > 50,000 rupees). Apparently this may be required under tax regulations even where a tax clearance certificate is produced.

- UNOPS still await CGES approval for movement construction materials to the Vanni. It is now eight months since the lodgement of the original request. Despite a commitment to reduce the cement quantity CGES still sit on the fence. If there is no resolution the issue may have to be taken up at a higher level.

- SCF on the issue of construction material approvals mentioned that new procedures make it obligatory to have the approval of the Ministry for Nation Building prior to submitting to CGES.

- Next meeting date put on hold pending WFP move to new premises, the scheduled dates for L&ES and CCHA and the Christmas holiday period. If required, NPA has meeting room facilities available.

- For info. the transport order request form for IOM fleet (excluding Jaffna) is annexed to these minutes.

P.Phipps

WFP Colombo

12 December 2007



IOM International Organization for Migration

TRANSPORT REQUEST FORM - CARGO

Requested By	
Loading Date & Time	
Est. Time of Departure (ETD)	
Number of Vehicles Requested	
Loading Address	
Type of Cargo and Quantity	
Destination Address	
Contact Person at the Destination & Phone Number (office & mobile)	
Est. Date & Time of Return	

Please make your transport requests at least 24 hours in advance on the following e-mail addresses or fax no:

To: swells@iomsrilanka.org

Cc: bandue@iomsrilanka.org

Tel : 011 536 1941 - 43

Fax : 011 536 1944