

**Colombo Inter Agency Logistics Meeting**  
**Monday 12 November 2007**  
**At WFP Office, Flower Av, Colombo.**

**Chair :** WFP (IA Logistics Unit)

New IA Logistics Officer Mr. Phipps was introduced to the meeting. He will be coordinating IA Logistics matters for the next 3 months.

- Oxfam indicated that they have a problem in getting their fuel quota cleared from CGES for November. However, the UN fuel quota which was restricted to 30,000 ltrs last month, may be approved as 34000 ltrs (usual quantity). Letter has been submitted and pending approval.
- A presentation of transport services will be done at the CHA meeting on 16 November. Agencies were reminded to attend.
- **IOM and WFP will put forward 1 combined project for the CHAP 2008 – Logistics sector. NGOs and other agencies were invited to send in their projects to WFP as sector lead, to align with the main proposal to be put forward to OCHA for the CHAP 2008.**
- A meeting of stakeholders will be arranged – WFP, MNBD, JOH, MoD, CGES – within this week to discuss current problems and bottlenecks in Logistics and cargo movement. **Action** => agencies requested to inform WFP of their problems to bring up at the said meeting.
- WFP also mentioned that the turn-around of trucks in Kilinochchi is about 2 days, hence the difficulty to service all agencies in a timely manner.
- To discuss problems of approval of NFI cargo of IOM to Jaffna and Kilinochchi, a separate meeting is due to be arranged with CGES this week. UNOPS will also prepare the present cargo clearance requirement.
- **SOLIDAR informed that they have JCBs (heavy vehicles - loaders and movers) and 3 cargo trucks operating within the Vanni. They have a warehouse in Vavuniya with storage space. Agencies were invited to use these services Contact : 0777 260651 Mr. Mike Pickering – Country Logistics Coordinator**
- UNDP requested the problems of transporting construction material to Mannar be brought to the attention of CCHA. It is reported that there are difficulties with checking goods and trucks even when transporting to government controlled areas.
- ZOA informed that they use the railway as a means of transporting NFIs to Vanni in order to avoid the delays at the checkpoints. They requested WFP to introduce a method to get their trucks sealed in Colombo to minimize the checks and delays. However, WFP said that the option of getting a common parking area for NGO trucks to be checked and sealed by Military was not feasible.
- UNICEF also confirmed that checking was professionally done by the Military involving every item in the trucks. The process is very slow hence a lot of time is needed to complete and seal each truck.
- WFP also suggested that a mobile storage unit can be set up in the WFP parking area where ZOA may store their NFI's and load on WFP trucks for transport, however setting up the storage unit is very costly and will have to be borne by ZOA. The overall impact was therefore not feasible.
- **It was decided to formulate a coherent approach for trucking of NGO cargo (NFIs) through input and suggestions of all agencies and put forward to CGES, JOH and MoD for further discussion. Action => all agencies requested to send in their suggestions to WFP.**
- UNICEF emphasized that furniture items (as NFIs) were not viewed as essential items in cargo consignments to Jaffna, hence there are difficulties in getting approval from CGES. However, WFP highlighted that many furniture items, vehicle for OCHA, motor-bikes and other NFIs have been transported without any problem in the past. However, cost of shipping has been high.
- Discharge of cargo at KKS Port is done by barges most of the time, therefore WFP highlighted to agencies that high-value cargo may incur damage in unloading.
- WFP explained that repairs envisaged to KKS Port were too costly and access was also limited in the area. Hence, it has not been undertaken by the UN.