

Logistics and Essential Services Sub-committee (L&ES SC)
2.30 pm – October 24, 2007 - MNB&EID Offices

Attending: ICRC, SCOPP, UNICEF, MNB&EID, JOH, CHA, WFP, UNHCR, UNOCHA, MDM&HR, IA Logs, CGES, M/ReDRS.

1. Matters arising from previous ES&L SC meeting.

Restricted items –

MoD states that a list of restricted items to be transported to Jaffna is finalized. List will be hand over to MDM&HR – Nishanie for circulation.

WFP and MNB&EID concerns about polypropylene bags for rice purchased to support local purchase of rice inside Vanni being considered as restricted items. SLA at Vavuniya so far cleared all existed backlogs of empty bags stocks

Action Point: JOH was requested to to hand over the list to MDM&HR – Nishanie for circulation.

Continue monitoring any future constraints related to passage of empty bags to support local purchase of rice and report if constraints occurred.

Searching of UN vehicles – Subject reported to CCHA level.

Action Point: Because the subject should be discussed & solved at CCHA level was agreed to delete these subject from ES&LSC meetings.

MOSS / Communications items held in customs. WFP equipment has been cleared by MOD Secretary and necessary actions are being taken with customs for release ASAP. At the moment only OXFAM is outstanding. Other UN agency equipment needs to be submitted as a consolidated list that needs to be prepared by DSS.

ICRC to check whether the communications equipment that needed relocation has been given approval. (Some have already received approval officially, while some equipment has only verbal approval)

Action Point - Decided that updated list will be handed over by UNDSS/UN representative, OXFAM and ICRC to

continue bilateral discussions with MOD and keep ES&LSC informed.

Appointment of UN and NGO liaison focal points – IA
Logistics already informed contact details for UN focal points. NGOs focal points officially informed by CHA.

Action Point: Considered subject as solved.

Decision on the landing craft from CGES – CGES have already informed in the previous meeting that at the moment the delivery capacity of 9 vessels sufficient to cover transport needs to Jaffna.

Action point: subject considered as solved and to be deleted from the next meetings agenda.

Omanthai checkpoint – opening days, “fast track”, CCHA decision. – Opening the Omanthai checkpoint for 5 days as suggested currently fully implemented. However, was suggested by CHA possibility to increase up to 7 days.

ICRC informed that on request by Government 3,700 MTN of fertilizers will have to be dispatched into Vanni and in order to speed up the operation discussions to have the border open during weekends only for this consignment being considered.

Improve (un) loading structure and sanitary conditions at Medawachchi police check point to reduce time frame delivery of transportation to Vavuniya and Manar.

MoD secretary has authorized augmentation of UNWFP flagged trucks using private operators as long as drivers and trucks are previously cleared by SLA. Before crossing Omanthai, SLA in Vavuniya agreed to seal trucks part of UNWFP convoys after inspection at WFP Vavuniya Hub as long as humanitarian aid are previously cleared by CGES/JOH.

ACTION Points - Any humanitarian organization interested to have WFP assistance to facilitate transport operations through Omanthai are requested to approach WFP logistics unit for details.

Increase of Omanthai from 5 to 7 days to be addressed on adhoc basis directly to ICRC/MOD or SLA.

Continue monitoring of constraints related to smooth passage of trucks and humanitarian through OMANTHAI and discuss next meeting if any relevant bottleneck is seriously affecting ongoing operations.

Improvements at Medawachchi to be addressed by letter addressed to the police authorities signed by MNBD Secretary cc Secretary of Defense, Ministry of MDM&HR and Mr. Basil Rajapaksa

Food delivery to Jaffna - CGES to provide the monthly update - CGES informed that monthly updates are done regularly to CHA however not confirmed when was hand over the last updated information.

Action Point: CGES was requested to hand over the last updated report to MDM&HR – Nishanie for circulation

WFP co-chair indicated that the Government and CGES had given priority to MNBEID and WFP food cargoes to Jaffna currently two shipments being on process being one currently arrived in Jaffna to discharge 1,075 MTN food (rice, pulses and vegoil) and other being loaded with 100 MTN of veg oil, ETD Colombo during next week.

Fuel quota for UN agencies operating in the Vanni - The UN agencies have requested for the increase of the monthly fuel quota from 30,000 Lts to 34,000l that will allow covering operational needs. The matter was discussed with Senior Advisor to the President, Mr. Basil Rajapakse and agreed in principle. CGES however informed that SLA/JOH did not endorsed the UN request.

Action Point: Matter to be addressed to the CCHA meeting for final decision.

2. Matters arising from CCHA meeting.

Shipping to Jaffna - WFP part payment – CGES and WFP informed that subject has been already satisfactorily solved.

Truck movements – scanner cancelled; rail option to be explored. – Truck scanner cancelled due to cost and maintenance difficulty. Rail authorities informed WFP that they could not provide block trains but allocate maximum of two wagons due to limitation of rolling stock and locomotives. Currently WFP is using its own fleet as well as private road transporters and so far no bottlenecks encountered on dispatches up to Vavuniya.

Assistance of WFP to the Port operations in Jaffna – WFP informed that the request to repair the warehouse inside the security area near KKS can only be considered if SLA authorizes WFP supervision/monitoring of the warehouse. Instead of repairing WFP also suggested possibility to deploy mobile storage units near KKS however, accessibility to monitor goods in transit should be granted by SLA to WFP logistics international staff.

WFP confirmed that received list of requirements to repair existed barges.

Government to indicate list of local/regional companies used by the Government to purchase barges in order to facilitate WFP approach to potential donors.

ACTION POINT – small operators are requested to approach railways for dispatch of humanitarian aid as an alternative to road. Above mentioned subjects should be considered as resolved.

MNBD will send quotation of one company interested to sell barges. CGES will contact Ceylon Shipping Company to provide list of potential sellers.

CGES informed that will contact Naval Jaffna Cdt. Expected in Colombo shortly to have his decision regarding WFP staff accessibility up to storage facilities to be installed inside the security zone at KKS port

3. Regular combined humanitarian allotment of space on CGES shipping to Jaffna.

The Government has agreed to prioritize WFP and MNBEID food cargoes to Jaffna operations currently ongoing.

Decision to request a combined humanitarian allotment per month of 300 mt/cbm (or on adhoc basis), for non food items.

Action Point: Instead of a monthly allotment was agreed that requests for UN to be combined by WFP/UNOPS. On behalf of IA Logistics WFP&UNOPS will provide to CGES list of construction materials and other NFIs ready in Colombo consignee to Jaffna for CGES allocation of vessel space.

4. NFIs clearance to be transported into Vanni.

Building materials, and particularly cement, being transported into the Vanni - CHA collected details of building materials from the 21 NGOs operating in the Vanni on their requirements and forwarded to the CGES and to Hon. Minister Samarasinghe of MDM & HR.

The CCHA requested that the construction material requirements be presented according to progress achieved by the agencies and on a month by month basis.

The UN combined application should also be forwarded to the Minister if it contains building materials, and he will assist in obtaining clearance approval when cleared by the respective GA/CGES.

After the approval of the global needs, a monthly allocations should be requested, cleared by the GA after his assessment of needs in the field before submission to CGES/JOH.

Action Point: CHA to submit a more detailed list for clearance. WFP informed that together with UNOPS will present the list to CGES copy to MDM&HR. After clearance from the GA in the Vanni both lists will be submitted through MDM&HR and CGES to the CCHA for decision/approval