



LOGISTICS SERVICES BULLETIN



Dear Reader,

After many months of preparation and testing, I am happy to inform you that we have eventually rolled out the pilot phase of the online travel authorisation process.

We supported Hormud Youth Group income-generating activities in Dadaab by taking charge of the shipment process of a new ice-making machine. This new investment will enable Hormud to generate an additional income of 460 US Dollars every month.

This bulletin provides summaries of warehousing, procurement, transportation, supply chain and capacity building activities implemented by the Logistics Department in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen.

Happy reading!

Zahra Abdi
Regional Logistics Manager

September 2016

- Page 2
 - Online Travel Authorisation Request system piloted
 - New ice-making machine delivered to Dadaab for Hormud Youth Group
- Page 3
 - Logistics support to humanitarian operations
 - Fleet Management Software Training
 - Pre-qualification of South Sudan suppliers
 - Supporting environmental conservation
- Page 4
 - Logistics supports training in Iraq

The Logistics departments serves to reach more beneficiaries in a timely, effective and efficient manner. For more information, contact: info@nrc.no



Inspection of goods delivered for distribution
Photo: NRC/Ali Hassan

Upcoming events

- Support to South Sudan pre-qualification process
- Country Logistics Workshop, Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia
- Roll-out of Travel Authorisation Request (TAR) in Kenya
- Agresso roll-out support in South Sudan
- Pilot the Asset and Warehouse System in Kenya

ONLINE TRAVEL AUTHORISATION SYSTEM PILOTED

The Logistics Unit has registered a new milestone with the release of online travel authorisation system. The 'Go-Live' date for the online TravelAuthorisation system was 6th of June.

The online system incorporates requests for travel, approvals from both line manager and security, security updates and maps, travel briefs, travel reporting and data on NRC travel for analysis and cost efficiency measures. Training sessions have been held in the regional office in Nairobi. The roll-out plan will initially focus on Nairobi-based staff as a pilot phase, to ensure that the system functions flawlessly before it is rolled out in the wider region. The TAR is being piloted for Nairobi staff traveling from Nairobi to within Kenya and then will be extended to the other offices in Kenya and there after the Region.



Ice-making machine is assembled in Nairobi before shipment. Photo: NRC

NEW ICE MACHINE DELIVERED TO DADAAB FOR HORMUD YOUTH GROUP

The Logistics Unit supported shipping of large ice-making machine cargo from Nairobi to Dadaab refugee camp. The ice-block machine was procured with support from the Food Security and Livelihood unit, and has capacity of producing 50 ice blocks daily, each weighing 25 kilogrammes.

Due to the hot climate in Dadaab, demand for ice-blocks for cooling purposes is at an all-time high. Refugees prefer to dip ice-cubes into soft drinks or water to make the liquids cooler and more refreshing. Ice-blocks produced by the ice-making machine are huge, and can measure about 48 inches by 24 inches each. There are only three other machines that perform similar functions in the entire refugee camp and are expected to serve an estimated population of 160,000 people.

Hormud youth group is one of the active refugee groups registered under the umbrella of youth organisations in Hagadera refugee camp and consists of a cross-section of youth from different backgrounds.

The group members actively participate in the day-to-day ice-block production process and coordinate ice-block distribution targeting smaller vending locations across the refugee camps. The group aims to expand production and take services closer to their clients.

Combining the two machines has taken production up from 30 ice-blocks produced by the old machine to 80 blocks, with the additional 50 blocks. This means that production has more than doubled. After deduction of all the maintenance and administrative costs, the youth group earns a profit margin of ksh 50,000 (or 480 US Dollars) per month.

“We are grateful to the Nairobi Logistics Unit for being able to coordinate the transportation of the ice-making machine from Nairobi to Dadaab in record time. This has enabled speedy installation on site and expansion of production capacity in a highly cost-efficient manner”, says Ahmed Mohamed, NRC's Food Security and Livelihood Coordinator in Dadaab.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT TO HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

Fleet management software training

Harald Glevoll who is the Logistics Advisor for Field Operations in Oslo, and Tony Conolly of Terramarnetworks conducted a fleet management software training for logistics staff at the Regional Office in Nairobi. This was in preparation for a pilot project involving ten vehicle tracker units rolled out in Dadaab and Nairobi.



Fleet management training in Nairobi

Prequalification of S.Sudan suppliers

The regional logistics unit provided support to South Sudan country office in pre-qualification of vendors and other service providers in Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Warrap field offices.

Pre-qualification process entails advance selection of a set of service providers whose ability to competitively deliver is critically analysed and once approved are kept on stand-by for active engagement during a given procurement cycle.

The support has enabled the South Sudan office to update its records and as a result, strengthen its procurement processes.

Supporting environmental conservation

The Logistics Department supported the shipment of an extruder from Nairobi to Dadaab in July. An extruder is a type of machine that crushes blended soft and hard plastic in high boiling point into electrical energy and convert into plastic poles.

The high rates at which trees are being felled in the surrounding areas of the refugee camps has resulted into the need for innovative solutions to address the growing need for wood products. The extruder produces durable plastic poles that reduce the pressure on trees that are traditionally used to make poles.

The technique involves crushing and shredding of waste plastic both hard and soft converting into ready raw material

“It is a useful resource that creates livelihood opportunities and cleans the environment by saving humans and livestock from disease that emanates as result of accumulation of waste”, says Ahmed Mohamed, Food Security and Livelihood Manager in Dadaab.

The machine was bought from Continental Renewable Energy Co. Ltd. It transited through the Regional Office before being transported by road to Hagadera where it was offloaded and handed over to the beneficiary group. This is the only machine of its kind in the Eastern and Horn of Africa region.

NRC is the lead agency in Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), with a particular focus on solid waste management in Hagadera and Kambioos sections of the refugee camp.

This investment contributes by enhancing the hygiene and sanitation, creates livelihoods opportunities through job creation for the youth, improving incomes and positively impacting on economic status of young people and helps to diversify and expand the knowledge and skills among group members.



*Extruder machine loaded and ready for transportation.
Photo: NRC/Devolta Shikoli*

AGRESSO: LOGISTICS SUPPORTS TRAINING IN IRAQ

Pre-rollout training sessions on Agresso financial system were held in Iraq with the aim of providing key Agresso practitioners with an opportunity to exchange practical knowledge and agree on a systematic formula for harmonisation of regional processes.

Training activities took place from 26th June to 10th July at NRC's Erbil office, and from 11th July to 13th July at Dohuk offices located in Kurdistan region of Iraq.

The aim of the training was to prepare the ground for rolling out Agresso functions in Iraq programm, replacing use of paper-work for procurement processes. The paper system is cumbersome and lacks strong back-up and accountability support.

The training attracted 65 participants mostly from the Erbil and Dohuk offices of NRC in Iraq. In recognition of the hands-on expertise on Agresso from the Horn of Africa programme, Mr. Jackson Ngatu, Logistics Coordinator in Dadaab was invited to attend the training and share his knowledge on Agresso with the Iraq-based participants.

Mr. Ngatu used the opportunity to present to the Iraq team the approach taken by the Horn of Africa programme in ensuring that Agresso remains an efficient, relevant and reliable system that responds to the requirements from donors as well as needs of displaced populations.

"The paper-work system poses major challenges because it becomes difficult for logistics and programmes staff to track procurement requests and orders raised. Agresso also makes it possible for requests to be duplicated when lost or not well recorded", explains Jackson.

Since NRC's initial implementation of Agresso in the Horn of Africa region in March 2010, Agresso has been continually developed to provide staff with an efficient and effective method of carrying out financial transactions. For the first time, staff in Iraq have started using agresso procurement tool. With the knowledge gained from the training, the Iraq team will be in a better position to upgrade and enhance logistics operations using advanced systems.



Jackson Ngatu (in checked shirt) attended Agresso training in Erbil and Dohuk offices of NRC in Iraq and shared the experiences of using Agresso for financial, logistics and programming processes in the region.