



## **OUTCOME STATEMENT**

**FROM THE**

### **WORKSHOP ON THE ADOPTION OF A COORDINATED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF CARGO IN SADC**

**28-29 July 2016,  
Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg  
Johannesburg, South Africa**

The SADC El Niño Logistics and Coordination Team convened a workshop of Senior Officials from SADC Member States to facilitate the development of a Coordinated Regional Transportation Plan for Humanitarian Relief Cargo in the region.

The workshop was held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at the Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg, in Johannesburg, South Africa as a follow up to the Declaration of a Regional Drought Disaster for the 2015/16 season and the Launch of a Regional Appeal for Humanitarian and Recovery Support by the Chairperson of SADC, H.E. Lt. General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, and President of the Republic of Botswana on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

The SADC Regional Humanitarian Appeal estimates that 40 million people, in the region's rural population are food insecure and out of this figure, 23 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian support. The region's cereal situation indicates an estimated cereal shortfall of 9.3 million metric tonnes which will have to be sourced from within and outside the region.

With this background, the workshop discussed potential logistical issues that needed to be addressed to ensure that humanitarian relief cargo is transported in a cost-effective and timely manner.

The workshop was hosted by the Republic of South Africa, chaired by the Government of Botswana through the Ministry of Transport and Communication as current SADC Chair, and was organised with support from the World Food Programme (WFP).

Senior Officials from Ministries responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Agriculture and Food Security, Transport, and Home Affairs from 8 of the 15 SADC Member States namely; Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe attended the workshop. Also in attendance were stakeholders involved in the funding, procurement, transport and logistics, and coordination of humanitarian relief cargo from humanitarian organisations, UN Agencies, development and donor communities, Public and Private Transport logistics companies and Association, Transport Corridors in the region, Transporters Associations, and Ports in the region.

In his address to the workshop, SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo called for a coordinated plan to ensure that humanitarian relief cargo was delivered timely since the majority of countries that have declared national disasters are landlocked and will be importing significant volumes of cereals at the same time, through the same ports.

The workshop noted the need for adequate communication and coordination through the entire transportation phases of the humanitarian relief cargo, and made the following key observations and decisions:

### **1. Transport Demand**

The stakeholders agreed that regional transport infrastructure and services in SADC are adequate to handle the importation and distribution of the estimated regional cereal shortfall of 9.3 million metric tonnes which is planned to be imported over the next six months from within and outside the region. However, it was agreed that in order to ensure that imports are delivered at the most economical, speedily and securely, ports, roads and railway, transport logistics will need to be coordinated and monitored based on agreed rules and a regional transportation plan.

### **2. Transport Facilitation**

Transport Service providers identified a number of policies and regulations which constrain cross border transport operations, limit vehicle and crew utilisation and raise transport costs. The service providers requested government policy makers to consider review, revise and or elimination of such constraints.

The stakeholders identified several trade and transport facilitation policy measures and recommended the following:

- a) Introduction of special drought-relief cross-border permits to transport operators awarded drought relief tenders, and issuance of logos to identify drought relief vehicles or trains, special visas and identity documents for drought relief crews (road and rail) involved in cross border operations.
- b) Introduction of expedited customs clearance procedures (including pre-clearance and special lanes at border posts) for drought relief cargo.

- c) Harmonization of vehicle and drought relief cargo inspection, fumigation and certification procedures.
- a) Conditional permits on cabotage and third country rules only to operators moving humanitarian relief and upon application. The permits to apply for six months subject to review
- b) Provision of security escorts for rail and road convoys and security at logistics hubs where necessary.
- c) Provision of GIS mapping of regional ports, road and railway networks and installation of cargo tracking and monitoring systems on drought relief vehicles and trains.
- d) Sensitisation of all government transport, customs, port, border, police and security agencies involved in cross-border trade and transport regulation on the agreed regulations and changes. SADC El Niño Logistics and Coordination Team.
- e) Humanitarian tariffs on humanitarian relief cargo and single consolidated quotations and contracts especially for rail coordinated by Southern African Railways Association.

### 3. Coordinated Regional Disaster Transportation Plan

To facilitate smooth management of the movement of the anticipated surge in transport the workshop adopted a **Coordinated Regional Disaster Transportation Plan** and agreed on an institutional framework for coordination between and among national drought relief coordinators, port or corridor-based logistics cells, and the Logistics Cell imbedded in the SADC El Niño Logistics and Coordination Team.

In addition it was agreed that awareness campaigns targeted at government regulatory and security entities responsible for cross border transport and private sector operators and service providers be intensified to ensure common understanding of the agreed **SADC Regional Disaster Transportation Plan**, regulations and procedures.

29<sup>th</sup> July 2016,  
Birchwood Hotel, Boksburg, Johannesburg, South Africa

End