

**LOCATION:** Amman, Jordan  
**DATE:** 05 September 2013  
**CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster Officer  
**PARTICIPANTS:** ADRA, DRC, IOM, THW, UNICEF, UNRWA, UNFPA, UNHCR, OFDA, WFP

## Situation Update

### *Corridors Update*

#### *Syria*

- The current main road access constraints have been reported mostly in North-East Syria, especially Deir Ez Zor, Ar-Raqa, and Al Hassakeh, where access by road is sporadic.
- Access to Idleb and Aleppo is unpredictable due to the security on the ground and to the multitude of different groups controlling access roads.
- On 02 September the Logistics Cluster supported an inter-agency convoy to Dara'a to conduct an assessment mission. The convoy included IOM, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP. The results of the assessment will be made available shortly.
- Lattakia Port is functioning normally at present, with no congestion.
- Tartous Port is currently congested due to administrative issues and a non-functioning Port X-Ray machine, used to scan cargo.

#### *Lebanon*

- The Logistics Cluster provided an update of the Lebanon/Syria access situation: The Lebanon/Syria border crossings of 'Al-Arida,' 'Al Masnaa,' and 'Abboudieh' are operational and working normally at present.
- Beirut Port is being utilized more as the operation progresses. For WFP operations, the ratio of port operations is expected to be 70% Beirut Port/30% Tartous Port in September.
- An increased number of storage requests is being received in Lebanon for pre-positioning. As part of contingency measures for a potential sudden mass influx of refugees into Lebanon, humanitarian partners could consider strengthening voucher programs by expanding in-kind support, therefore storage needs could further grow. As in Lebanon road distances are short it is likely that there would be no need for large warehouse space but rather for Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in specific locations.

#### *Jordan*

- Currently, the Jaber/Naseeb border crossing is operational, with some changes in administrative procedures. Customs clearance procedures are now taking place regularly in Naseeb. However, trucks still need to proceed to Swaid'a via a military road, under escort. From Swaid'a, trucks can proceed to onward destinations inside Syria.
- Aqaba Port is currently facing a strike by customs staff. The Cluster is monitoring the situation and will update the group if port operations become significantly affected.

## Common Services Update

### *Joint Humanitarian Convoys*

- The destinations and types of cargo for Joint Humanitarian Convoys are being prioritized by the inter-sector coordination group in Damascus, which meets every Thursday at the OCHA Office in Damascus.
- The planned Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Aleppo is on hold currently due to the security situation.

### *Transport*

- The Logistics Cluster, in principle, continues to offer free-to-user transport services from anywhere to anywhere inside Syria, security and access permitting.

### *Storage*

- Common warehousing capacity has been increased in Safita and Damascus, which are the two primary storage hubs for the Logistics Cluster in Syria. 15 Mobile Storage Units have been erected recently in Safita for storage augmentation (10 m X 32 m each). Warehousing space can also be provided at other storage locations in Syria upon request (Qamishli or Lattakia).

### ***Airlift to Qamishli***

- A humanitarian airlift to Qamishli was completed on 29 August, with relief cargo transported on behalf of ACF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP/LC.

### **Cargo Tracking**

- From January to August 2013, the Logistics Cluster has transported over 17,000 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo, and stored over 22,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- Participants were informed that, since January 2013, the Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) has tracked cargo for 14 organisations via over 280 service requests. All Service Request Forms (SRFs) should be sent to [syria.cargo@logcluster.org](mailto:syria.cargo@logcluster.org)

### **Northern Jordan Warehousing Assessment**

#### ***Northern Jordan Warehousing Assessment***

- The Logistics Cluster informed participants that it is currently finalizing a Northern Jordan Warehousing Assessment, which will soon be shared with participants. The Assessment includes Irbid, the Syrian Jordanian Industrial Free Zone in Zarqa, and Mafrq. Information on warehouse facilities, customs advantages, and company contacts was shared with participants.

### **User Survey Results and Information Management (IM) Update**

- The Logistics Cluster presented some of the findings and analysis from the recent User Survey conducted to assess the first 6 months of services. 26 respondents completed the survey (50% UN, 43% INGOs, and 8% Other). The results were positive overall, and the analysis will assist the Logistics Cluster in streamlining its services moving forward.
- Participants were informed that the Regional Roads and Border Crossings map is based only on logistical access constraints, and not meant to serve as a security map for the region.
- Participants were advised to contact the IM Officer and/or GIS Officer, for any updated specific information products and/or Maps. New products include Beirut and Damascus Meeting Minutes, and the Regional Roads and Border Crossings Map. All IM products are available at the Cluster website: [www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a)

### **Round Table**

- In response to a question raised by UNFPA regarding Armoured Vehicles (AVs) transport, the Logistics Cluster advised participants to send AVs to Beirut, and then overland from Beirut to Damascus.
- Taking into consideration the current situation in Syria, potential future scenarios (possible closure of overland border crossings and/or key ports) were discussed with participants.
- UNRWA's contingency plan is to continue to transport as much food and NFIs as possible into Damascus and Der'aa while the security situation allows. Homs is also a priority, although finding drivers to transport to this location is proving challenging. Using the overland Lebanon and Jordan to Syria Corridors is also part of UNRWA's strategy in the coming weeks.
- UNICEF is building up contingency stocks in Mersin, and the main point of entry for its current pipeline is Lattakia Port (approximately 80%). Storage capacity is seen as the major issue inside Syria. Customs for the Jordan to Syria corridor is generally smooth for most items, except pharmaceuticals and WASH specific items such as chlorine, as the customs requirements change frequently.
- UNHCR is currently using the Zarqa Free Zone in Jordan for storage of high volumes of shelter items. Currently 7 warehouses are under use, with the number expected to increase to 13 next month.
- UNFPA mentioned that it is utilizing Logistics Cluster services regularly inside Syria, and it is currently updating its Business Continuity Plan as a contingency.

## AOB

- UNICEF asked the group about the possibility of a Regional Cluster which may include various countries in the region. The Cluster advised the group that currently the Logistics Cluster has been activated for Syria, for activities supporting Syria crisis only (transport, warehousing). Warehousing and transport is provided in regional countries (e.g. Storage in Irbid, Jordan) as long as the activity is intended for inside Syria. Currently, countries such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq are classified as 'Refugee Response' countries, which are under the mandate of UNHCR. The possibility of a Regional Cluster, where the Logistic Cluster would be activated specifically for these countries (aiding with the refugee response) would depend on the decision of the Emergency Relief Coordinator.
- At present, WFP co-chairs the Lebanon Logistics Forum (LLF) Meeting with UNHCR in Beirut, to benefit organizations on issues purely related to Lebanon, sharing and consolidating local logistics information, and will continue to assist to the extent possible.

## Contacts

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