HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS MEETING
18 February 2009, UNRWA Jerusalem & WFP Gaza

MAIN POINTS DISCUSSED AND AGREED:
Attendees- FAO, ICRC, OCHA, Relief international, WFP, UNRWA, US consulate

- Work has started in preparation for the Logistics Cluster mission to streamline bilateral donations. WFP met with Jordan Hashemite Charitable Organization (JHCO) in Jordan this week and will visit Egyptian Red Crescent in Cairo in the coming weeks. There is a trip planned to Gaza next week to discuss the issue and share ideas. JHCO have committed their full support and have agreed to participate in the mission. UNRWA is sharing experience from the Jordanian corridor and will be an integral part of the planning process with WFP and OCHA.

- “Free Gilad Shalit” stickers with political logos were stuck onto humanitarian aid pallets by protesters outside Karem Shalom one day this week. They were removed on the Palestinian side of the crossing. A complaint was made to the authorities who have promised to prevent a recurrence.

- Some aid crossing into Gaza is not being registered by UNRWA, OCHA, COGAT or Ministry of National Economy figures despite being fully coordinated for entry.

- Agencies and companies have been urged to “re-request” items previously denied entry to Gaza as there is some change in the procedures. Basic household reconstruction items may be allowed however not for Gaza manufacture.

- 8 forklifts passed through Kerem Shalom this week for use at the Palestinian side of the terminal. There has also been some development of the Palestinian side of the crossing with some basic infrastructure (washrooms and electricity) but no lighting is in place to date. Lighting would take around 2 weeks to install which would allow the Palestinians to work later to uplift the cargo to Gaza. Kerem Shalom is open from 8am-4pm Monday-Thursday. The capacity can potentially reach 170 trucks/day however it is currently only between 60-70 trucks/day (30% of pre June 2007 throughflow to Gaza). Cooking gas supplies have increased to around 87% of market demand. OCHA are working on a capacity assessment of the crossing- not yet finalized. 100 trucks of glass entered Gaza successfully and the price of glass has reduced to within the purchasing power of the average population which is allowing some repairs to take place.

- Change of customs procedures for UN agencies – previously submitted papers to Beit El for signature prior to customs but must now submit to MoFA. UNRWA already uses this system. Discussions to clarify the issue are ongoing.

- Bekim Mahmuti is leaving for Haiti next week for 2 months to respond to the Haiti emergency. Kirstie Campbell will remain the WFP oPt LC Focal point in his absence. Next meeting will be in mid March.

WFP Logistics Cluster contact:
Kirstie Campbell, Information Management Specialist
(kirstie.campbell@wfp.org), mobile: +972 (0) 54 677 3117

http://www.logcluster.org/gaza09a