

SYRIA – MEETING MINUTES



LOCATION: Amman, Jordan
DATE: 11 March 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: ADRA, DRC, ICMC, IMC, IOM, IRC, Medair, Save the Children, THW, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNICEF, WFP, USAID/FFP

- ACTION POINTS:**
- Remaining Participants to provide the Logistics Cluster with their estimated monthly fuel requirements (for generators and light vehicles)

Situation Update

- 3 additional INGOs have been recently authorized by the Syrian Government to work in Syria: NRC, Merlin, and Mercy Corps.
- WFP is regularly sending trucks via the Jordan corridor. Other UN Agencies are considering using this corridor as well (UNHCR is already using it as its regular route for supplies).
- The Customs Terminal in Adra (Syria) for Vehicle Registration is currently closed due to the situation on the ground. A temporary office has been set up behind the Four Seasons Hotel, but it deals only with car insurance matters and does not handle Armoured Vehicle registration issues. Access Adra terminal is currently insecure; all customs issues related to the registration of vehicles have to go through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Once any update is received from MoFA, the Logistics Cluster will share the information with partners.
- Currently the Logistics Cluster is utilizing the Lebanon corridor for transportation. So far only requests for common transport from Lebanon to Syria were received from participants. The Logistics Cluster stands ready to transport common cargo via the Jordan corridor as well.
- Common storage space is available in Syria and also in Irbid (Jordan). Currently, there is no common warehousing space in Lebanon as the requests received so far are insufficient.
- Tartous Port is gradually being used more by WFP, and is currently not congested. Lattakia Port is also operating as normal, with no congestion.
- The Special Operation (SO 200477), which supports Cluster activities, has received additional funding. The second Budget Revision has been approved. The current budget of approximately 16.3 million USD is now 52% funded. Given the current funding, and taking into consideration the recent increase in activities (especially via the Joint Humanitarian Convoys), the Logistics Cluster expects to provide common services through the summer, after which further funding should be sought.

Fuel Update (as of 10 March 2013):

- The official price is currently 65 SYP for Petrol, and 35 SYP for Diesel
- Overall approximate market rates for different locations are as per table below:

Location	Petrol Price (SYP)	Diesel Price (SYP)
Damascus	100	95
Tartous	55	50
Lattakia	55	50
Aleppo	140	125
Hassakeh	100	115
Der Ezor	100	70
Homs	55	45

Common Services and Cargo Tracking Update

Overall

- In February, the Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and OCHA, organized the first Joint UN Convoy to Atmeh in Idleb Governorate. This included 5 truckloads of Non-Food Items (NFIs) and 1 truckload of Food Rations. The convoy reached the final destination on 16 February, transporting WASH, Shelter, Health, and Food Items on behalf of UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, and WFP.

Two trucks reached Aleppo on 08 March with medical supplies on behalf of WHO, UNICEF, and UNFPA. The Cluster organizes transport, loading, and dispatch trucks for the convoys to the final distribution point. The group collectively agrees on priority locations before each convoy. Facilitation letters from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) are required for each journey.

- ***The planned convoy to Dar'aa that was discussed at the meeting has since been postponed due to security reasons – Discussions are underway for alternative locations.***

Transport

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide free transport of humanitarian relief items inside Syria, from anywhere to anywhere, access permitting. Although there is no shortage of trucks at the moment, issues are being faced when matching destinations of transport with drivers willing to go. (e.g, It is difficult to get drivers willing to go to Hassakeh).
- To avoid competition between organizations, the Logistics Cluster is sharing prices with other organizations on a bilateral level. WFP is the main actor in terms of transport, but whenever a lack of trucks is reported, organizations cooperate closely to find solutions. So far, no major issues have been reported. Challenges, such as availability of drivers, could be faced only in case organizations concentrate their efforts on a single governorate.

Storage

- Currently, storage space for Cluster participants is available inside Syria in Damascus (JAD warehouse 2,500 m²), Safita (400 m²), Qamshli (300 m²), and Lattakia (1,000 m²); and regionally in Irbid, Jordan (1,200 m²).
- JAD is currently the main warehouse for NFIs in Damascus (in the Southeast of Damascus). Warehouse space now has been divided into two sections: (one for normal temporary storage, one for storage for joint humanitarian convoys).
- Partners are kindly requested to use Sunday and Monday to offload their cargo and Wednesday and Thursday for pick-up.

Fuel

- Administrative procedures are being established for fuel provision on a cost-recovery basis. This will entail distribution of petrol/diesel for use in generators and vehicles. So far the Logistics Cluster has received monthly fuel consumption estimates from 7 organizations and invites the remaining organizations to follow suit.

Cargo Tracking

- The Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) has been implemented by the Logistics Cluster. This application will enable accurate data collection/analysis of common services for Syria, and will allow users to monitor their cargo during transport/storage.
- All Service Request Forms (SRFs) must be sent to syria.cargo@logcluster.org
- As per the RITA tracking system, the 2012 statistics for inter-agency transport and storage are as follows: 8 organizations supported, 1,816 MT/7,693 m³ transported, 2,070 MT/12,995 m³ stored, with an overall estimated 200 trucks (TEU equivalent).
- Since the activation of the Logistics Cluster in January, 1,340 MT/7,336 m³ of aid cargo have been transported to locations inside Syria on behalf of 7 organizations (DRC, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNDP, UNICEF, and WHO). The cargo transported includes Shelter, Protection, WASH, Health, and Food Items.
- In 2013 so far, 1,020 MT/10.942 m³ have been stored on behalf of participants.
- The Cargo Tracking Officer also gave participants a quick briefing on updated procedures for making requests for common transport and storage services. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/sop>
- The updated customer guidance procedures are available at: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/rita_customer_guidance/view

Round Table and Emergency Telecommunications (ETC Cluster) Update

- UNICEF asked other organizations whether they were facing any challenges importing items into Syria from Jordan.
- UNHCR's informed the group that its main corridor is Jordan-Syria. Occasionally some consignments are stranded at the border due to new customs requirements. The corridor is slow, however it is operational.
- DRC will procure items from Lebanon as a first choice, before considering the Jordan corridor.
- UNICEF has items pre-positioned in Amman for onward transport to Syria.
- The Logistics Cluster also informed the group of the current structure:
 - One Logistics Cluster Coordinator, one Cluster Officer, one Fuel Officer, and one Cluster Assistant/Cargo Tracking Officer in Damascus.
 - One Cargo Tracking Officer in Amman (moving to Beirut)
 - One Information Management Officer in Amman.
- DRC thanked the Logistics Cluster for its flexibility and support. The representative from DRC also mentioned that the scale-up of activities after Cluster activation was keenly felt on the ground.

Emergency Telecommunications (ETC) Cluster Update

- Permission has been received to bring in some telecommunications equipment. A test run is being conducted via Lebanon, and the equipment has reached the Free Zone. Customs paperwork is now being prepared to move it to Syria. The same process is expected to be easier from Jordan to Syria.
- The ETC Cluster has received additional funding and has pre-positioned equipment in the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Dubai. Staffing is on standby.

Information Management Update

- The Syria Logistics Cluster webpage is active and regular logistics Information Management (IM) products are being produced and distributed at: www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
- Recent IM products include: Regional Map of Logistics Cluster Storage Space (11 March), Overall Situation Report (07 March), and Damascus Meeting Minutes (26 February).
- A GIS Officer has been deployed to Amman and maps can be printed here up to A0 size. Participants can send in their requests to the IM Officer.
- Meetings are currently being held once every month in Amman and Beirut, and once every 2 weeks in Damascus.
- As per indications from participants on future use of the Jordan-Syria corridor, a Customs Snapshot for imports into Syria from Jordan is under preparation.
- The Logistics Cluster meeting in Beirut is tentatively scheduled for 21 March. An email will be sent out to the group, confirming the date/time and venue for the meeting.

Contacts

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