

LOCATION: Amman, Jordan
DATE: 14 April 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: ECHO, IOM, Save the Children, German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, USAID/OFDA

ACTION POINTS: • **The Logistics Cluster to share available information on suppliers for metal jerry cans (for fuel storage) with participants**

Situation Update

- **Jordan-Syria Update:** After several weeks of no movement at the 'Jaber-Naseeb' border, intermittent movement has been observed during the past week. An alternative route has been identified via sea and has already been utilised by some organisations - Aqaba (Jordan) to Beirut/Tripoli (Lebanon) to Tartous/Lattakia (Syria).
- The **Lebanon-Syria** Border Crossing 'Al-Masnaa' is operational. Crossing is fairly uncomplicated, however customs processing can be slow. Coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is strongly recommended to accelerate the process. For humanitarian cargo, the authorities are more flexible. Currently, only Lebanese trucks are allowed to cross 'Al Arida' border (North Lebanon).
- Currently, the Logistics Cluster is utilising the Lebanon corridor for transportation. No common warehouse space is currently available in Lebanon.
- Tartous Port is gradually being used more by WFP. The port is currently under-utilised, operating at an estimated 30-40% of its total capacity. Lattakia Port is also operating normally, with no congestion.
- The Logistics Cluster shared a Fuel Price Analysis Snapshot for Syria, based on 2013 data so far (Jan, Feb, and March). The snapshot will soon be shared through the website.

Common Services and Cargo Tracking Update

Overall

- A Joint Humanitarian Convoy, supported by the Logistics Cluster, departed from Damascus with WASH, hygiene items, medical supplies and food on 14 April, reaching Aleppo the same day. The convoy transported relief items for IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP and WHO and consisted of 8 trucks of NFIs (around 500 m³) and 1 of food.

Transport

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide free transport of humanitarian relief items inside Syria, from anywhere to anywhere, access permitting.

Storage

- Currently, storage space for Logistics 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).
- As a contingency and operational measure, the Logistics Cluster is considering increased warehouse space in Tartous for common storage in an area considered, as per today, as secure and accessible. The Logistics Cluster has Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) available in Tartous for rapid deployment if needed. A potential location has been identified in Safita, where approximately 15 MSUs could be set up. To be operational, the ground will need to be levelled first and the MSUs erected (approximately 2 months for the entire process to be completed).
- Currently warehousing space is not an issue at present. Participants in need of space are requested to share their needs with the Logistics Cluster for planning purposes.

Fuel

- Currently fuel availability is not a gap (availability has remained stable since January, with a brief shortage in March). Petrol availability may become an issue in future months, and the Logistics Cluster is developing a contingency plan.

- 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.
- UNRWA is providing shared space at its fuel station to WFP for storage of fuel.

Cargo Tracking

- The Logistics Cluster shared the latest Common Transport Info Graphic with participants, showing the volume transported by governorate in Syria, from 1 January to 31 March 2013. Over 11,000 m³ of relief items have been transported in this time period, including: Shelter, Agriculture, WASH, Protection, Food, Education, Health, and Operational Support. The info graphic is available at: www.logcluster.org/about/blog/on-the-move

Round Table

- Organisations discussed alternative options for import of Armoured Vehicles (AVs) into Syria, given the closure of the Customs Terminal for Vehicles at Adra. One option is to import them by air directly to Damascus Airport (approximately 50,000 USD for 2 AVs). A less expensive, but slower option is to ship them by sea from Aqaba to Lebanon, with final transport by road from Beirut to Damascus (approximately 10,000 USD per AV).
- Organisations also discussed the possibility of services from Turkey. The Logistics Cluster informed participants that WFP has staff and capacity at Mersin Port (which is a good staging areas and the main supplier for Food and NFIs). The Logistics Cluster could potentially provide support from Turkey, but this would depend on requests and quantities.
- The Logistics Cluster has received an offer from a commercial company offering shipments from Aqaba (Jordan) to Tripoli (Lebanon) and can share details with interested organizations.
- If the UNRWA Fuel Station is closed at any point, organisations can store fuel for their vehicles in jerry cans. In response to a question from participants, the Logistics Cluster will share supplier details for metal jerry cans.
- Regarding cold chain transport, the Logistics Cluster advised participants to contact commercial transporters, which may be willing to transport temperature controlled items (in Lebanon, and Syria).

Information Management Update

- The Syria Logistics Cluster webpage is active and regular logistics information products are being produced and distributed at: www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
- Recent IM products include: Damascus Meeting Minutes, a Transport Info Graphic, and a Jordan-Syria Customs Snapshot
- Meetings are currently being held once every month in Amman and Damascus, and once every 2 weeks in Damascus.

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