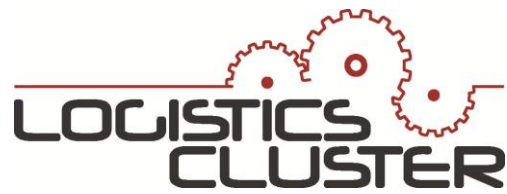


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# SYRIA – MEETING MINUTES



- LOCATION:** Amman, Jordan  
**DATE:** 07 October 2013  
**CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster Officer  
**PARTICIPANTS:** DRC, Handicap International, IOM, Medair, Oxfam, Syria Needs Analysis Project (SNAP), THW, Jordan Food Assistance Program (FAP), USAID/OFDA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP
- ACTION POINTS:**
- Organisations scaling up activities next year to update the Logistics Cluster, in order to shape the on-going Budget Revision for 2014.

## Situation Update

### General

- The SHARP Analysis and Prioritization Workshop/Meeting will take place in Beirut from 08-09 October. Logistics Cluster staff will attend and share outcomes.
- For the planned UN Hub in Tartous (approximately 150 staff) the Logistics Cluster is taking the lead on implementation/construction. The Logistics Cluster Coordinator will therefore travel to Tartous frequently in the coming months for this project. The estimated completion time is two months.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently 100% funded. The Special Operation (SO 200477) for the Logistics Cluster currently runs until the end of 2013. A Budget Revision is currently underway to extend the project until the end of 2014. **Organizations planning to scale up activities in 2014 must inform the Logistics Cluster.**

### Syria

- Road access has been sporadic for several governorates so far in 2013. Currently Aleppo is the most challenging governorate to access followed by some parts of Rural Damascus (including Ghota, Moadamiyeh, Qalamoun, and Zabadani). Delivery has been hindered in many cases despite several attempts to access these areas.
- Access to Ar-Raqqa governorate remains unpredictable.
- Lattakia Port is operating normally. UNICEF and UNRWA continue to use it as their main entry point.

### Jordan

- Aqaba Port is operating normally.
- UNICEF and UNHCR informed participants that, regarding transport via the Jordan-Syria Corridor, their main challenges are customs clearance for pharmaceuticals (as the processes and requirements constantly change).

### Lebanon

- All Lebanon to Syria Border Crossings (Al Arida, Al Masnaa, Abboudiyeh) are operational.
- Beirut Port uncongested at present, with vessels berthing within 24 hours. Trucks are now allowed to operate from midnight to 06:30 am (previously banned), so as to minimise congestion.

### Fuel - Market Prices Analysis

- Fuel prices have been rising rapidly in the country, with some locations facing more significant price increases (e.g. Qamishli, and Aleppo). Currently, the official prices for fuel in Damascus are as follows: Benzene is available at 100 SYP/litre, and Diesel is 65 SYP/litre.
- Benzene Official Fuel Prices have risen as follows, from January to September 2013: (35 – 55 – 65 – 80 – 85 – 100). This is a 185% increase since January.
- For Diesel, the official price is 65 SYP as of end-September 2013 (the trajectory has been 25 -35-60-65 from January to September 2013) – an increase of 160%.
- WFP and the Logistics Cluster have a Fuel Depot located in Kisweh, Rural Damascus (total capacity: 270,000 Litres). While there is no fuel shortage at present, fuel could be provided to participants on a cost-recovery basis. The current stock includes 100,000 litres of Diesel: 75,000 imported from Lebanon, and 25,000 purchased from the Syrian Company for the Storage and Distribution of Petroleum Products (SADCOP).
- The new Sahnaya warehouse also has a Fuel Depot with a capacity of 100,000 litres for Diesel (potentially to be used in the event that the current depot in Kisweh becomes inaccessible). An assessment is on-going to evaluate the need to operationalise this fuel depot.

## Common Services Update

### Transport & Storage

- **Transport inside Syria** – Free-to user common transport by the Cluster to locations inside Syria continues security & access permitting.
- **Transport from Lebanon to Syria** continues (with 8 consignments so far this year). Jordan to Syria common transport services remains available.
- **Storage** – The primary hubs for Logistics Cluster storage are Damascus and Safita. Space can also be offered at Qamishli and Lattakia as per participants' requests. The Logistics Cluster also offers warehousing space in Irbid (Northern Jordan).
- The current utilization of Logistics Cluster storage at the Safita facility is approximately 40% (Total Cluster space is about 2,000 – 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>). Each Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) is 32 m X 10 m. Further expansion is planned for Safita's storage capacity.
- A new Logistics Cluster warehouse has been contracted in Sahnaya (Rural Damascus), on the road from the Al Masnaa Border Crossing to Damascus. This will replace the Logistics Cluster's warehouse in Kisweh (Rural Damascus). Cargo currently stored on behalf of participants in Kisweh will be transported to Sahnaya once the physical inventory is completed. The new warehouse has a storage capacity of 4,300 m<sup>2</sup>.

### Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- A Joint Humanitarian Convoy, of 9 trucks loaded with over 222 mt/756 m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo, supported by the Logistics Cluster, reached Ar-Raqqa on 25-27 September transporting food, hygiene materials and medical supplies from WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO. This was the first convoy supported by the Logistics Cluster to reach Ar-Raqqa.
- The upcoming Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Moadamiyeh (Rural Damascus) is planned for the next two weeks, pending security and access (several unsuccessful attempts have been made so far).
- The Logistics Cluster is increasingly using Tartous as a point of origin for upcoming Joint Humanitarian Convoys to locations in Northern and Central Syria. This is due to: shorter distances and quicker administrative procedures, augmented storage space in Safita (30 km from Tartous), and the planned set-up of the UN Hub in Tartous, led by the Logistics Cluster.

## Information Management (IM) Update

- Recent IM products include an updated Regional Roads & Border Crossings Map, Maps of Homs and Rural Damascus, Transport Infographic (Jan-Aug 2013), and Beirut and Damascus Meeting Minutes. All products are available at [www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a)
- WFP's GIS unit in Amman can produce maps on request. Requests may be sent to the Information Management Officer.

## AOB

- Participants raised a query regarding the possibility of establishing a Logistics Forum to discuss issues in Jordan related to the refugee response. The Logistics Cluster will correspond with UNHCR (lead agency for logistics in the refugee response) to explore the possibility of starting such a forum.

## Contacts

Website: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a>

Email: [syria.logs@logcluster.org](mailto:syria.logs@logcluster.org)

### Syria

Massimiliano Cosci	Logistics Cluster Coordinator	<a href="mailto:massimiliano.cosci@wfp.org">massimiliano.cosci@wfp.org</a>
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Rajaa Baddour	Logistics Assistant	<a href="mailto:rajaa.baddour@wfp.org">rajaa.baddour@wfp.org</a>
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### Lebanon

Matteo Perrone	Logistics Officer	<a href="mailto:matteo.perrone@wfp.org">matteo.perrone@wfp.org</a>
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Céline Bracq	Cargo Tracking Officer	<a href="mailto:celine.bracq@wfp.org">celine.bracq@wfp.org</a>
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### Jordan

Hamza Mohmand	Information Management Officer	<a href="mailto:hamza.mohmand@wfp.org">hamza.mohmand@wfp.org</a>
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Mattia Pinzone	GIS Officer	<a href="mailto:mattia.pinzone@wfp.org">mattia.pinzone@wfp.org</a>
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