

**LOCATION:** Amman, Jordan

**DATE:** 21 November

**CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster Officer

**PARTICIPANTS:** MSF, THW, WFP

**ACTION POINTS:** **The Logistics Cluster to share with partners the contact information of organizations using the Zarqa Free Zone in Jordan.**

- AGENDA:**
- **Situation Update**
  - **SHARP 2014 – Logistics Cluster Response Plan**
  - **Common Services Update**
  - **AOB**

## SITUATION UPDATE

### Syria

- The Damascus-Homs Highway is currently inaccessible for UN agencies, (as of 21 November).
- The roads to Ar-Raqqa and Deir ez Zour have re-opened for the first time since the first week of November (Note: All humanitarian deliveries are subject to clearance from SARC/the government).
- In Rural Damascus, Ghouta and Moudamiyeh continue to remain inaccessible.
- Tartous Port is not currently congested. Lattakia Port is operating regularly, with no congestion.

### Lebanon

- All Lebanon to Syria Border Crossings (Al Arida, Al Masnaa, and Abboudiyeh) are operational
- Road access to Beirut Port is currently closed due to preparations for the Lebanese Independence Day celebrations. Therefore, truck movements to and from the port are effectively closed until the beginning of next week (Monday 25 November).
- The main logistics constraint in Lebanon at present is low availability of trucks.

### Jordan

- The Jordan/Syria official border crossing point 'Jaber/Naseeb' is operational and after customs clearance in Naseeb, trucks can proceed to forward via Sweida.
- Regarding a query from partners, the Logistics Cluster informed participants that organizations can receive relief items 'in transit' for Syria in Jordan. However such items should be consigned to a registered partner organization in Syria (this could be SARC or any INGO that is registered to work in the country). The consignee will also need to receive import permission from the Syrian Government on the sending organization's behalf.

For organizations requiring 'in transit' cargo, the Zarqa Free Zone in Jordan is a good option. The Logistic Cluster will provide partners with the contact details for organizations using the Zarqa Free Zone (UNHCR, UNICEF).

#### **SHARP 2014 – LOGISTICS CLUSTER RESPONSE PLAN**

- The Logistics Cluster was over 90% funded in 2013. A Budget Revision for 2014 was approved this month and the project has been extended up to the end of next year.
- In 2014, the Cluster will continue to offer its current services (coordination, information management, common storage/transport, joint humanitarian convoys, and fuel contingency stocks) and also the following new services:
  - Establishing the UN Inter-Agency Tartous Hub for 120 to 150 staff members. Construction is planned to last for three months. Normally, such activities do not fall under the Cluster mandate, however as per the decision of the UNCT in light of the requirements of the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster will lead the implementation of this project. After construction is complete, UNDP will be responsible for running and maintaining the compound.
  - The Cluster has also budgeted for one emergency airlift per month. This is meant for extreme cases, when road access to a location is unavailable.

#### **COMMON SERVICES UPDATE**

- **Transport Inside Syria** – Free-to-user common transport continues, dependant on security and accessibility. With new organizations being allowed to work inside Syria, the number of organizations supported has gone up to 16. Mercy Corps and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) are the new INGOs using common services.
- **Transport from Lebanon/Jordan** to Syria continues.
- **Storage** – Primary hubs for Cluster storage are: Damascus and Safita. Space can also be offered at Qamishli and Lattakia as per participants' requests. Regionally, the Cluster offers warehousing space in Irbid (Northern Jordan). Logistics Cluster space in Sahnaya is 6,300 m<sup>2</sup> and in Safita is 1,520 m<sup>2</sup>, through 5 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs). Further expansion is planned for the Safita Compound, bringing the total capacity to 2,720 m<sup>2</sup>.
- **Joint Humanitarian Convoys** – Recent areas served include Rural Homs (October), Aleppo (October and November), and additional locations in Rural Homs (November). WASH, Shelter, Protection, Food, and Health items were transported on behalf of UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, WHO, and WFP. Upcoming convoys are planned for:
  - Rural Damascus (Mouddamiah and Ghouta)
  - Rural Aleppo (Nibol and Zahraa)
- **Fuel** – WFP has an existing Fuel Depot in Kisweh, Rural Damascus. In addition, the new warehouse contracted in Sahnaya, also has a Fuel Depot with a capacity of 100,000 liters for diesel. Depending on needs, this depot could

also be made operational. This would also allow the Cluster/WFP to have a contingency fuel stock in case the current warehouse in Kisweh becomes inaccessible. Fuel could be provided to participants on a cost-recovery basis in case of fuel shortages.

#### AOB

- Participants asked whether the current availability of spare parts for vehicles in Syria is sufficient for increasing transport needs. The Cluster informed participants that there is sufficient availability of spare parts in the local market, requiring no urgent imports at present.
- A foreseen challenge in the coming months is an increase in transport requirements; Organizations will need to coordinate carefully to avoid overlaps, as organizations such as WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF are generally using the same pool of transporters and trucks for deliveries.

#### Contacts:

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