

LOCATION: Damascus
DATE: 01 July 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: ACF, DRC, IMC, IOM and WFP.

Situation Update

Border Crossings:

- The Jordan/Syria official border crossing point 'Al-Naseeb' faces intermittent openings and closures. One solution is for trucks to wait in Swaida city, until they receive the 'go-ahead' to cross the border (customs procedures are also completed in Swaida).
- The Lebanon/Syria border crossing 'Al-Masnaa' is operational; Crossings are fairly straightforward. Coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is strongly recommended to speed up the process.
- Access to the Lebanon/Syria 'Al-Arida' crossing point depends on the security situation along the Northern Highway to Tripoli. Currently, the northern highway is closed. Participants were informed that the highway continues to face intermittent closure and opening as per the changing situation on the ground. Any organization travelling or sending relief cargo via this route is advised to check on the status beforehand and consult with their respective security units.

Common Services Update (Transport, Storage, and Fuel)

Transport

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide free transport of humanitarian relief items inside Syria, and plans to continue to do so until the end of the year after which the situation will be re-assessed.
- The Logistics Cluster also offers free overland transport (not inclusive of customs clearance) from Lebanon/Jordan to Syria.

Storage

- The Logistics Cluster has agreed to continue providing free temporary storage services to all humanitarian organisations responding to the Syrian crisis. WFP has allotted storage spaces to the humanitarian community inside Syria, specifically in rural.
- Due to the current situation in the Kisweh area of Damascus, the Logistics Cluster's common storage warehouse (JAD warehouse for Non-Food Items (NFIs) has been deemed too at risk to hold cargo. Therefore, the Logistics Cluster informed participants, that it is looking at options for alternate storage in Damascus. In the meantime, organizations will need to accept liability for requesting warehouse space in at the JAD warehouse.
- The JAD warehouse in Kisweh Damascus will become for the coming weeks the single loading point for the Logistics Cluster until the warehouse strategy of the Cluster will be finalized. Logistics Cluster participants with limited capacity to transport cargo to the warehouse in Kissweh will continue to receive common transport services from the Cluster.
- In addition, the Logistics Cluster is in the process of preparing land for the erection of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs)/Wiikhalls in Safita (20 minutes from Tartous in the direction of Homs), to be used by Logistics Cluster participants. It is estimated that this facility will be ready for use by the end of the month.
- The chlorine storage issue was raised during the meeting; the Logistics Cluster should be notified at least one week before in order to accommodate proper storage space, due to the specific storage conditions needed.
- The Logistics Cluster informed participants that it is not providing cold chain services.

Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- The Logistics Cluster informed participants about the planning of the next Joint Humanitarian Convoys:
 - 1- Aleppo: estimated time for departure is 10 July 2013.
 - 2- Rastan: waiting for final approval of Homs governor and SARC.
 - 3- Rural Damascus, Daraa and Hamah: under discussion.

A new plan for harmonisation of convoys is under finalization and will be submitted to Logistics Cluster participants shortly.

***The next Logistics Cluster meeting in Damascus will be held In two weeks.
Participants will be informed of the venue and time prior to the meeting.***

Contacts

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