LOCATION: Damascus, Syria
DATE: November 28, 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Officer/OIC
PARTICIPANTS: ACF, German and Norwegian Red Cross, GOPA, IMC, IOM, OCHA, SARC, UNRWA, WFP, and WHO

ACTION POINTS:
- The Logistics Cluster to send an update on the Al-Arida border crossing point.
- The Logistics Cluster to send an update on alternate routes for Damascus-Homs-Tartous access being used by commercial transporters.
- The Logistics Cluster to share the contact list with participants via email.
- The Logistics Cluster to carry out average transport and warehouse rates analysis for all humanitarian partners’ use. This will help in regulating the relevant market segment. All participants to share their transport and warehousing average rates by COB 03 December as per shared format.
- All organisations to share their logistics/warehouse training needs by 03 December as per the shared format.

AGENDA:
1. Situation Update
2. Common Services Update
3. Joint Humanitarian Convoys
4. UN Hub in Tartous
5. Roundtable
6. AOB

1. Situation Update

Syria
- Inaccessible areas at present include Hassakeh, Deir Ezzour, and some parts of Rural Damascus. Raqqa and Aleppo are now accessible.
- The Damascus-Homs Highway is currently closed.

Neighbouring Countries
- The Jordan/Syria official border crossing point ‘Al-Naseeb’ is open. After completing customs clearance in Naseeb, trucks can proceed to onward destinations via Sweida city.
- The Lebanon/Syria border crossing ‘Al-Masnaa’ is operational.
- Access to the Lebanon/Syria ‘Al-Arida’ crossing point depends on the security situation along the Northern Highway to Tripoli. As of 27 November, the northern highway is closed.

2. Common Services Update

The Cluster informed participants that all Logistics Cluster common service activities will continue into 2014.

Transport
- The Logistics Cluster provides, and will continue to provide through 2014, free-to-user transport of humanitarian relief items inside Syria.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to offer free overland transport (excluding customs clearance) from Lebanon/Jordan
Storage

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide **free temporary storage** services to all humanitarian organisations responding to the Syrian crisis. WFP has allotted storage spaces to the humanitarian community in Rural Damascus and Safita.

- The Logistics Cluster’s new warehouse in Sahnaya is fully operational with increased storage space of 6,300 m². Shifting the stored stock from the previous warehouse in Kisweh is on-going. Organizations that have been using Cluster storage services for more than one month are encouraged to dispatch their cargo from Sahnaya warehouse ASAP.

- The Logistics Cluster is increasing storage space in Safita, by setting up five additional Mobile Storage Units (MSUs). The additional 1,200 m² will bring the total capacity to 2,720 m² for storing partners’ cargo. The setup of these MSUs is expected to be complete by mid-December. Due to the challenges faced in hiring sufficient numbers of trucks from Damascus, the Cluster recommends that participants increase their stock of NFIs in Safita and Tartous.

3. Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- The Logistics Cluster, during the last three weeks, supported inter-agency convoys to Aleppo, Daraa and different areas in Homs governorate. Approximately 3,622 m³ of food, wash, shelter, health, and other Non-Food Items (NFIs) were delivered by the Logistics Cluster using approximately 78 trailers.

- An inter-agency convoy to rural Homs (Hola) is planned on 02 and 05 December. Organizations that would like to participate are requested to submit their requests as soon as possible. Two inter-agency convoys to rural Damascus (Nabek and Ghoutal) are under discussion.

4. UN Compound in Safita

- The Logistics Cluster is leading the construction of the UN Hub in Tartous (for 120 – 150 staff), as per the decision of the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Syria. The plot for construction has been identified, and the Cluster is awaiting the UNDSS Security Assessment report of the area, as well as final clearance from the UNCT, before initiating construction activities. The estimated time of completion is three months from the start date of construction.

5. Roundtable

- UNRWA is purchasing items internationally - a large consignment of rice is expected shortly. UNRWA has outsourced its distribution of food baskets for all areas except for Damascus.

- IMC’s clinic is Daraa is fully operational; A Tartous clinic is planned to open soon.

- WFP is scaling up its operations by looking to increase both its storage and transport capacities in-country.

- SARC extended its thanks on the receipt of the 20 trucks in-kind donation from the Logistics Cluster.

- DRC is moving to a new warehouse in Dimas area.
6. AOI

- In terms of capacity building, WFP advised participants that trainings could be conducted in different technical areas such as surface transport contracting, warehousing, etc. Participants are encouraged to send their areas of interest to the Logistics Cluster as soon as possible, for the planning of such trainings.

Contacts:

Syria
Massimiliano Cosci Logistics Cluster Coordinator massimiliano.cosci@wfp.org
Abdullah Zaman Logistics Officer / OIC abdullah.zaman@wfp.org
Rajaa Baddour Logistics Assistant raja.baddour@wfp.org

Lebanon
Matteo Perrone Logistics Officer matteo.perrone@wfp.org
Hamza Mohmand Information Management Officer hamza.mohmand@wfp.org

Jordan
Mattia Pinzone GIS Officer mattia.pinzone@wfp.org

Website:
http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
Cargo Requests: syria.cargo@logcluster.org