SYRIA – MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Damascus
DATE: 06 June 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: ACF, DRC, FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNRWA, WFP and WHO.

Situation Update

Border Crossings:

- The Jordan/Syria official border crossing point ‘Al-Naseeb’ faces intermittent opening 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 highway is closed. Participants are advised that the highway continues to face intermittent closure and opening as per the changing situation on the ground. Organizations travelling or sending relief cargos via this route are advised to check on the status beforehand and consult with their respective security units.

In-country:

- Al-Hassakeh governorate is currently accessible; the Logistics Cluster has successfully delivered relief items to Hassakeh on behalf of ACF.
- The Damascus-Homs highway faces intermittent opening and closures due to the unstable security situation in Nabek area.

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 at least end-June 2013 after which the situation will be re-assessed.
- The Logistics Cluster also offers free overland transport (not inclusive of custom clearance) from Lebanon/Jordan to Syria.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently facing difficulties in accessing some areas: Raqqa, Aleppo, Hassakeh and Daraa. The Logistics Cluster is also facing challenges in sending medical items across the country.

Storage

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide free temporary storage services to all humanitarian organisations responding to the Syria crisis. WFP has allotted storage spaces to the humanitarian community inside Syria, specifically in rural Damascus, Tartous (Safita), Lattakia, and regionally in Irbid (Jordan).
- Due to the current situation in the Kisweh area of Damascus, the Logistics Cluster cannot ensure adequate warehouse management and access to the JAD common storage facility. In this regard, the Logistics Cluster is looking for alternative storage locations in Damascus.
- 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 participants. It is estimated that this facility will be ready for use by the end of June/early July.
- The Logistics Cluster is ready to provide a number of MSUs (via a loan agreement) to humanitarian organizations who are facing challenges in locating suitable storage capacity. Training on setting up the MSUs can also be provided. The area for the erection and security of the MSUs will remain the responsibility of the organization that is leasing the MSU. The Logistics Cluster will be responsible only for transport and installation of the MSU assets.
- Participants agreed that special attention should be given to logistics capacity building in the coming months. The Logistics Cluster expressed its readiness to prepare for joint training on logistics in general, and warehouse management/transport in particular.

www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- Part of the Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Daraa, supported by the Logistics Cluster, and transporting over 220 m³ of WASH, health and education items on behalf of IMC, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO, successfully reached the final destination on 6 June, 2013. More trucks will be sent early next week.
- Three additional Joint Humanitarian Convoys to Rastan, Moaddamy and Idlib will be sent during the next two weeks.

Organizations’ Update

- DRC has a small warehouse in Jaramana, and currently distributes NFIs in Homs, Daraa, Aleppo and rural Damascus.
- WHO and ACF reported a detention of their drugs shipments sent to Homs last week.

AOB

- The Logistics Cluster Meeting in Damascus will continue to be held once every two weeks.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting in Damascus will be held in two weeks. Participants will be informed prior to the meeting.

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