

- LOCATION:** Damascus
DATE: 28 August 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: DRC, IMC, IOM, Oxfam GB, PU, Secours Islamique, UNICEF, UNRWA and WFP
ACTION POINTS:
- The Logistics Cluster will arrange a special meeting in Damascus with participants for improved coordination and allocation of trucks (due to the large number of organizations using a limited number of transport companies at present).
 - Participants will send their contingency plans to the Logistics Cluster.
 - The Logistics Cluster will send a list of NFIs suppliers to Oxfam GB.

Situation Update

Corridors Update:

Syria

- Aleppo city has been inaccessible for the last two weeks due to the security situation.

Neighbouring Countries

- The Jordan/Syria official border crossing point 'Al-Naseeb' is open. Currently, this border crossing is operational, with some changes in administrative procedures. Customs clearance procedures are now taking place regularly in Naseeb. However, trucks still need to proceed to Swaid'a via a military road, under escort. From Swaid'a, trucks can proceed to onward destinations inside Syria.
- The Lebanon/Syria border crossing 'Al-Masnaa' remains operational.
- The Lebanon/Syria border crossing 'Al Arida' remains operational.

Common Services Update (Transport and Storage)

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 continues to offer free overland transport (not inclusive of custom clearance) from Lebanon/Jordan to Syria.

Storage

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide **free temporary storage** services to all humanitarian organisations responding to the Syrian crisis. Storage space has been allocated for the humanitarian community inside Syria, specifically in rural Damascus and Safita.
- The Logistics Cluster has increased its storage space in Safita, by erecting Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) at its warehouse facility there. Currently 2,500 m² of storage space remain available for participants upon request. This capacity can be increased by setting up further MSUs if the need arises.

Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- A Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Aleppo was planned for the coming week, but due to the current security situation, the convoy has been put on hold for the time being.
- The humanitarian airlift to Qamishli planned for 19 August 2013 has been postponed. On 27 August two of three planned rotations to Qamishli took place; the third and final rotation is expected to be completed on 29 August. The participating organizations in this airlift are ACF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP.

UN Hub in Tartous

- In response to the deteriorating situation in Syria, as it is proving challenging to find a suitable safe office space for UN employees, the UN Country Team has made a decision to build a UN compound in Tartous. This common office is planned to accommodate between 120 and 150 staff, national and international.
- As per the decision of the UNCT, the Logistics Cluster is leading the construction and set-up of the compound. The set-up is expected to be completed within three months.
- Starting next week, the Logistics Cluster Coordinator will be in Tartous to prepare for the implementation of the project.

AOB

- UNICEF has established a new warehouse in Kisweh.
- Mercy Corps plans to begin using the Logistics Cluster's common storage services. It will send 2,000 hygiene kits to the Logistics Cluster common warehouse in Damascus next week.
- Premiere Urgence plans to begin using Logistics Cluster common storage services in end-September.
- If the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate, the frequency of meetings may be increased to once per week. This will be evaluated and assessed further in the coming weeks.

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

Contacts

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