

LOCATION: Amman, Jordan
DATE: 29 January 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: ADRA, FAO, Handicap International, IMC, IOM, Johanniter International Assistance, Medair, German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THWA), UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNICEF, WFP

- ACTION POINTS:**
- Participants to provide the Logistics Cluster with their estimated monthly fuel requirements (for generators, light vehicles)
 - Participants to inform the Cluster of their pipelines

Situation Update

- As per the recommendation of the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator, the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication Clusters for Syria have been activated. These are the two Clusters activated so far.
- For Jordan and Lebanon, additional staff members are arriving and the Cluster is looking at expanding warehouse capacities inside Lebanon and Jordan. The Cluster will be providing participants with support services in these two corridors. Logistics Cluster planning also includes Turkey, but this corridor is not being used yet. Some interfacing with the Turkish Red Crescent is underway. However, this will be facilitated at the OCHA level.
- There is a bottleneck at the Masnaa border crossing point (Lebanon Border Crossing into Syria), leading to expected delays for cargo transport to Syria and passengers crossing from Syria to Lebanon. This is partly due to the fact that land transport regulations to Syria have been changed to allow 50% Lebanese owned trucks & 50% Syrian owned trucks, resulting in a big discrepancy in volumes as there is low availability of Lebanese trucks (limited in numbers).
- WFP is currently assessing increased use of Tartous Port, and is also planning to secure a warehouse there. Use of Tartous Port would also be a good alternative to Tripoli Port (Lebanon) due to lower costs. There are concerns that the withdrawal of the international company managing the port could have an effect on container cargo, however at present the port is operating normally. Once sufficient assessments are completed, information on the port's realistic capacity will be shared with the group.
- As per the ongoing assessment in Turkey, the logistics capacity in Turkey is excellent. As per current needs, a Logistics Cluster presence is not required. This will be re-assessed as the situation evolves.

Transport Corridor Information:

- **Turkey:** The overland corridor is not operational for WFP at present due to the current situation. Current plans are to purchase in Turkey and then ship to Lebanon.
- **Jordan:** Continues to be a viable corridor for commercial transport (but not for WFP staff at present). On occasion the Damascus-Jordan highway is experiencing cuts due to security.
- **Lebanon:** Due to congestion and lack of fuel in the coastal area of Syria (Tartous & Lattakia) WFP is mostly diverting all vessels to Beirut. The Lebanese corridor is become increasingly important for overland transport to Tartous and Damascus.
- The Special Operation (SO 200477) which supports Cluster activities has been extended into 2013, and a second Budget Revision is currently underway. The SO is funded at around the 30% mark so far. This would allow the Cluster to continue activities, if volumes remain stable, up-to June 2013, but more funding will soon be needed.

Common Services Update

Transport

- Free transport, handling and warehousing services continue within Syria to other humanitarian organisations.
- 7 humanitarian organizations have been provided with free transport/handling/storage so far: FAO, UNICEF, UNRWA, UNFPA, WHO, DRC and Première Urgence.
- Cross-border transport for the corridors is being planned for. The Logistics Cluster advised participants that transport/storage requests would only be accepted if organizations had their customs papers in order (e.g.

Authorizations from the Syrian Government to import). If any of the Cluster-coordinated trucks are stopped and incur demurrage costs due to incomplete/incorrect paperwork, the relevant organization will be charged for this.

- The Cluster will provide organizations with Customs information/guidelines, but organizations will be responsible for their own customs clearance.
- A dedicated email for cargo requests has been created: syria.cargo@logcluster.org
- A Service Request Form (SRF) will be circulated to the group, and also be made available on the website.
- The Logistics Cluster will review the SRFs received, and if there is missing information, the SRFs will be sent back to the sending organization with questions/comments.
- In response to a question from participants, the Cluster confirmed that the form was for both transport and storage requests.
- For the corridors (Jordan/Lebanon to Syria), overland transport/storage will be free-to-users.

Fuel

- The fuel depot in Damascus is operational. Diesel from Lebanon has been imported as per permission received by the government.
- Syria currently has to import fuel, and this is a problem that is expected to persist for some time. WFP has had some success in receiving fuel from the government and has also received clearance to import additional diesel. A cost-recovery mechanism for fuel availability for partners' needs (generators, light vehicles) is being worked on.
- Organisations who would like to utilise the fuel services should sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with WFP. Signing the SLA does not imply any financial commitment. It is only a legal framework between organizations (like an MOU) that allows WFP to provide a set of services when organizations require them. The actual cost will be shared and agreed using Pro-Forma invoices.
- The tentative price per litre of diesel will be 1.45 USD.
- For the time being, the Cluster has 450,000 litres storage capacity of diesel, and 50,000 litres of storage capacity for petrol.
- WFP is able to avail petrol from the Syrian Company for Storage and Distribution of Petroleum Products (SADCOP) at a subsidized price.
- The Cluster is exploring the option of having fuel reserves across the country, with potential locations including: Damascus, Deir Ez-Zor, Aleppo, and Homs.
- **Organizations to inform the Logistics Cluster of their fuel monthly needs.**
- The system will work as follows: The Cluster obtains fuel and stores it in Cluster warehouses. It will be transported in small quantities to Damascus from where organizations can buy the fuel at cost-recovery from WFP.
- A 'Fuel Committee' will be formed from amongst Cluster participants. This committee will set priorities for the provision of fuel.
- The Cluster Coordinator will visit Damascus this week to finalize the mechanism for fuel provision.
- If fuel availability improves in Syria, the Cluster will purchase the fuel in-country.
- A Logistics Officer is arriving in Syria next week to support fuel and inter-agency cooperation.
- A recent Syrian government decree, with immediate effect, increased fuel prices from 25 to 35 SYP/litre. Diesel for public passenger service increased by 12% of the value of the tariff, while cargo transport increased by 9.6%.

Storage

- Inside Syria, currently warehouse capacity has been made available in Damascus (4 warehouses, over 15,000 m²), Aleppo (1,500 m²), Lattakia (4,150 m²), and Qamshli (1,640 m²). Storage of inter-agency cargo in these warehouses will depend on the access and security situation.
- Cold chain options are available in Syria (not considered a gap).
- Regionally, warehouse capacity is available in Irbid (2 warehouses, 6,300 m²).
- In addition, warehouses for Lebanon have been identified in Beirut, Zahle, and Tripoli and are expected to be contracted soon. Space will be available for partners only on a short term basis

Round Table and Emergency Telecommunications (ETC Cluster) Update

- Several organizations are currently trying to bring armoured vehicles into Syria via Jordan (FAO, IOM, UNRWA) and are facing challenges in obtaining clearance/exemptions. Organizations will discuss this issue on a bilateral basis.

ETC Cluster Update

- The ETC Cluster Coordinator informed participants that the ETC team in Damascus is using localized solutions (ISPS, 3G) for connectivity. The ETC Cluster is facing access and licensing challenges in Syria, and is trying to strengthen V-SAT solutions. Equipment can be brought in after the necessary permission is received. The plan is to eventually have 4 to 5 communications hubs.
- At present, satellite phones are restricted, and even repeaters for radios are not allowed.
- Regular ETC Cluster Coordination Meetings are being held in Amman.
- Under the ETC mandate, WFP is providing common telecommunications services in Syria, Turkey and Iraq, and UNHCR is providing services in Jordan and Lebanon.
- Humanitarian organizations facing any telecommunications gaps may contact the ETC Cluster for assistance.

Information Management Update

- Communication guidelines are being set up and once finalized, documents will be shared on a dedicated Logistics Cluster Webpage for Syria. The page is now operational and documents will be added gradually. The Logistics Cluster webpage for Syria is www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
- The General Logistics Planning Map for Syria has been shared on the Syria webpage for download. A new regional overview logistics map has been shared on Dropbox and via the mailing list, along with Meeting Minutes (Beirut, and Damascus). This map includes refugee camps in the region and border crossing point names on both sides of the border, as requested by participants.
- The Logistics Cluster is preparing a customs snapshot for Lebanon with lists of required paperwork (including in transit, import) for NFIs, Medicines, Telecommunications Equipment, and Food.
- Currently, relevant logistics information products are being produced and distributed through a regulated mailing list and products are also archived on a web shared folder. To gain access, organisations are requested to send in their contact details to the IMO.
- Meetings are currently being held once every 2 weeks in all 3 locations (Beirut, Amman, Damascus).
- The next Logistics Cluster Meeting in Amman will be held in two weeks. An email will be sent out with the confirmed date/time/venue.
- The next Logistics Cluster Meeting in Beirut is scheduled for 04 February.

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