

- LOCATION:** Amman, Jordan
DATE: 07 August 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Officer
PARTICIPANTS: ADRA, IOM, MEDAIR, OCHA, THW, UNRWA, WFP
ACTION POINTS:
- **The Logistics Cluster will review the new customs rules at Beirut Port, and inform participants if there are any exemptions.**
 - **Organizations in need of Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) training to inform the Cluster.**
 - **The Logistics Cluster will provide Medair with contact information and any warehousing assessments for Irbid (Jordan).**

Situation Update

Border Crossing Points/Ports:

- **Lebanon/Syria Al Arida Border Crossing** – closed as of 12:00 pm on Monday 05 August 2013 until further notice. This is following an incident on Sunday 04 August 2013 damaging the Public Security Centre at Al Arida border. **[Update: The Al Arida Border Crossing re-opened on Thursday 08 August 2013 at 12:00 pm].**
- **Lebanon/Syria Al Masnaa Border Crossing** is operational.
- **Lebanon/Syria Abboudieh Border Crossing** is operational.
- Lebanese roads will be closed for trucks during Eid day on Thursday 08 Aug. Trucks will not be able to travel in the whole country during that day.
- **Jordan/Syria 'Jaber/Naseeb' Border Crossing** – is officially closed. However alternatives are being used by some UN agencies/NGOs (e.g. Using the Swaida'ah option).

Ports

- The two main ports for WFP are Tartous and Beirut (approximately 60%/40% respectively). Organizations are encouraged to use Tartous Port more, as the port has still capacity to accommodate further shipments.

Customs Updates (Lebanon):

- New rule since August: All containers reaching Beirut Port can be randomly checked by customs officers. (Seals can be opened, cargo verified). Customs will then provide a report on the cargo, and once the report is approved, the cargo will be custom cleared. (The process can take an estimated 1-3 days, conceivably impacting on the demurrage charges for cargo). Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) Agents will be informed by customs if any of their containers are to be opened, so that they can be present at the port.
- New Law (Law #193) for medical items. For Imports/Transfers/Local Purchase, all medical supplies will now face a 2% increase in tax charges (This tax will be charged regardless of whether the cargo is intended to stay in Lebanon, or proceed to further destinations).

Funding

- The Special Operation (SO 200477) which supports Cluster activities is now 93% funded. Current activities will continue until end-2013, after which the situation will be re-assessed.

Common Services Update

Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- On 06 August, two convoys left for Aleppo and Idlib:
 - **Aleppo:** 5 trucks - 3 food and 2 non-food items (hygiene) on behalf of WFP, UNICEF and PU.
 - **Idlib:** 10 trucks - 6 with food and 4 with non-food items (medicine, hygiene, recreation and education) on behalf of UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, WFP and WHO.
- A possible destination for future Joint Humanitarian Convoys, coordinated by OCHA and supported by the Logistics Cluster, is Mouadamieah.
- An additional convoy for Idleb is ready to move today - 07 August (Food, NFIs, and Medicines).
- Convoys are currently facing challenges due to insecurity as well as difficulties in permission to move.
- A convoy to Aleppo is planned for 15/16 August, pending security and access. However, access to Aleppo is seen as challenging in the coming weeks, and the Logistics Cluster will closely monitor the situation.
- The Logistics Cluster advised all UN agencies to coordinate humanitarian convoys together from the start, to avoid facing administrative challenges. In the past, some agencies have planned their own convoys and then requested to join the Joint Humanitarian Convoys with very short notice. This leads to delays in planned departure, and necessary permission from the authorities.

- Organizations who are interested in joining future convoys shall follow the below procedures:
 - To send the Service Request Form (SRF) to syria.cargo@logcluster.org
 - To ensure that actual cargo matches the items and quantities mentioned in the SRF.
 - To ensure that their items are received at the Logistics Cluster warehouse at least one day before the loading process starts.

Transport

- **Since 01 August** the Logistics Cluster, via its free-to-user transport service, has transported **234 mt/680 m³** of relief items on behalf of **UNFPA**, from **Tartous Port to Tartous, Hamah, Lattakia, Homs and Damascus**.
- The Cluster continues to provide free transport of humanitarian relief items inside Syria, from anywhere to anywhere, access permitting.
- The Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) has been implemented by the Logistics Cluster. This application will enable accurate data collection/analysis of common services for Syria, and will allow users to monitor their cargo during transport/storage.
- All Service Request Forms (SRFs) must be sent to syria.cargo@logcluster.org

Storage

- **Since 01 August**, the Logistics Cluster has stored **171 mt/500 m³** of health items, on behalf of **UNFPA** in **Tartous and Damascus**.
- Currently, storage space for Cluster participants is available inside Syria in Damascus, Safita, and Lattakia; and regionally in Irbid, Jordan.
- **Safita Warehouse Expansion** – Works are now complete at the WFP compound in Safita; the Logistics Cluster has secured 6 MSUs (each 32 x 10 m) making up approximately 2,000 m² of space for inter-agency usage.
- At the previous Beirut Logistics Sector Meeting (for issues related only to logistics inside Lebanon) participants asked whether the Logistics Cluster could train members in the erection of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs). The Logistics Cluster informed participants that this would be possible and upon request a trainer will be provided for MSU set-up.
- One bonded warehouse has been identified at the Beirut port. Space will be available for the humanitarian community by the end of August upon space availability.

Information Management (IM) Update

- Recent IM updates include:
 - On 05 August the updated Lattakia Port Assessment was updated and published.
 - A Logistics Cluster Coordination Meeting was held Beirut on 25 July 2013. The Meeting Minutes can be found at: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/meeting_minutes_beirut_130725/view
 - The Logistics Cluster posted an article on the Safita Storage Facility on the Blog at http://www.logcluster.org/about/blog/storage_space_in_safita as well as a photo album of the construction process: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/safita-storage-facility>
 - Other IM products are available at the Syria Logistics Cluster website: www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/
 - Currently, relevant logistics information products are being produced and distributed through the mailing list and Logistics Cluster website. Please see www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/
- Meetings are currently being held once a month in Amman and Beirut, and once every two weeks in Damascus.
- The GIS Officer in Amman can produce maps upon request. Maps can also be printed (up to size A0) in Amman. An updated access constraints map is currently under preparation.

AOB

- Medair informed of its current search for a warehouse in Irbid or Zarqa (Free Zone). The Logistics Cluster can provide contact info for the Logistics Officer in Irbid and also any warehouse assessments for the area. A common storage space in Irbid is also available upon request for both Food and Non-Food Items (no cold chain).
- OCHA requested participants for information on Aqaba Port. Snapshot assessments of all the regional ports are available on the Logistics Cluster website including the Aqaba one: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/snapshot_aqaba_port_assessment/view
In addition, participants can send any specific info request concerning the port to the Logistics Cluster, as a WFP Logistics Officer is based at Aqaba Port.

SYRIA – MEETING MINUTES



- The Logistic Cluster plans to provide more Jordan-specific information, particularly concerning the status of the Jordan-Syria corridor (e.g. what other agencies are planning, transport pipelines etc). Currently access is unpredictable, other options result more cost-effective, such as transporting cargo by sea from Mersin to Tartous Port, then by road to Damascus.
- Once the WFP office in Beirut will be relocated, the Logistics Cluster will schedule more regular coordination meetings, owing also to the additional recent presence of a Logistics Cluster Officer in Beirut.

Contacts

Website: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a>

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Syria

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