

LOCATION: Beirut, Lebanon
DATE: 28 August 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Officer
PARTICIPANTS: IMC, MERLIN, Mercy Corps, Premiere Urgence, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP

Follow-up on Previous Action Points

- Participants requested that the meeting be held once a month, as per a fixed date if possible – **Done. The current schedule is to hold the meeting on the last Wednesday of every month at 10.00 hrs.**
- Participants to send any specific requests for IM/Mapping to the Cluster IM focal point – **No specific IM and mapping requests received. Regular IM products produced during this time period.**

Situation Update

Corridors Update

Lebanon

- The Lebanon/Syria 'Al-Arida' border crossing is currently open. The crossing was temporarily closed on 05 August due to a security incident. The Border Crossing subsequently re-opened on 08 August and remains operational.
- The Lebanon/Syria 'Al Masnaa' border crossing is operational and working normally at present.
- The Lebanon/Syria 'Abboudieh' border crossing is currently open, and is the main commercial entry point to Syria from North Lebanon.

Syria

- Currently, access to Deir ez Zor, Ar-Raqa and Al Hassakeh is sporadic due to the security situation.
- The Damascus to Homs Highway continues to experience sporadic openings and closures due to the prevailing security situation.
- Movement to Aleppo is currently restricted due to security and political constraints.
- Damascus, Homs, and Lattakia remain accessible at present.

Jordan

- Currently, the Jaber/Naseeb 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.
- WFP achieved its maximum tonnage of Food transport via the Jordan corridor to Syria in July 2013 (over 1,700 mt) – indicating improved access for this corridor into Syria. (Overall since Sept 2012 – July 2013, over 5,000 mt have been transported by WFP from Jordan to Syria).

Regional Port Updates

- **Beirut Port** is being utilized by WFP more as the operation progresses. Initially, the general breakdown of arrivals for WFP cargo for the Syria response was: 60% arrivals at Tartous Port; 40% at Beirut Port. Currently the ratio is 50/50, and this is expected to increase to 70% Beirut and 30% Tartous, if the situation continues.
- **Aqaba Port** is busy currently (but not yet congested), with incoming shipments of WFP food (primarily for Jordan and Iraq Operations). It is not being used currently for Cluster operations. It may become congested in the coming months, as a large influx of refugees into Jordan is expected, requiring increased supplies.
- **Lattakia and Tartous Ports** are functioning normally at present.

Common Services Update & Cargo Tracking

Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- A Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Aleppo has been planned for the coming week, but due to the tense situation in Syria at present, truck movements are severely limited.
- The destinations and types of cargo for Joint Humanitarian Convoys are being prioritized by the inter-sector coordination group in Damascus, which meets every Thursday at the OCHA Office in Damascus.

Transport

- The Logistics Cluster continues to offer free-to-user transport services from anywhere to anywhere inside Syria, security and access permitting.
- The Cluster has received all administrative approvals required for transport to **Aleppo**. However, currently it is proving challenging to find drivers willing to make the journey.

Storage

- Common warehousing capacity has been increased in Safita and Damascus, which are the two primary storage hubs for the Cluster in Syria. 15 Mobile Storage Units have been erected recently in Safita for storage augmentation (10 m X 32 m each). Warehousing space can also be provided at other storage locations in Syria upon request (Qamishli or Lattakia).
- WFP is currently renting a warehouse at Beirut Port (2,000 m²). This storage space could be shared with the humanitarian community upon request (depending on available space). The facility is currently being used only by WFP, and not part of common Cluster storage as there is no storage gap in Lebanon. Hence space availability will be considered on a case-to-case basis.

Airlift to Qamishli

- The humanitarian airlift to Qamishli planned for 19 August 2013 was 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.

Fuel

- As a contingency measure, the Logistics Cluster has established a fuel depot in Damascus. The Logistics Cluster may provide fuel to partners, on a cost-recovery basis, in the event of increased needs. Currently, there is no fuel shortage in the country.

Cargo Tracking

- The Cargo Tracking Officer provided an update on the volume of cargo transported (over 15,000 m³) and of cargo stored (over 18,000 m³) since January 2013, with a breakdown by cargo type and organization.
- Participants were informed that, since January 2013, the Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) has tracked cargo for 14 organisations via over 250 service requests. All Service Request Forms (SRFs) must be sent to syria.cargo@logcluster.org
- Participants were encouraged to use RITA more to track their cargo (For information on cargo status e.g. in transit, in storage, transport completed, etc.).

Beirut Port Assessment and Northern Jordan Warehousing Assessment

Beirut Port Assessment

- Beirut Port is a hub for Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf States. It contains a General Cargo Terminal, a Container Terminal, a Passenger Terminal, a Free Zone and a Silo area.
- The container terminal is being expanded to meet growing demand. Its current capacity is 745,000 TEU per year. Via its first expansion (Sept 2013), the capacity will be increased to 1.5 million TEU per year. Via its second expansion (2016/2017) capacity is expected to reach 2.1 million TEU per year.
- Further details are available at:
http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a/snapshot-beirut_port_assessment/view

Northern Jordan Warehousing Assessment

- The Jordan to Syria Transport Corridor is one of the major logistics routes for the transport of supplies into Southern Syria and upwards. Due to its location, Northern Jordan has become a transit hub for transport to Syria, and therefore includes a variety of storage options (Covered storage, open storage, cool and cold chain, Mobile Storage Units, etc.).
- Currently, at the Jordan Silos and Supply General Corporation (JSSC) in Irbid, there are 3 general warehouses available (one of 2,250 m² capacity, and two of 2,700 m² capacity – with total costs of 54,000 and 62,500 Jordanian Dinars per year respectively). Cold chain warehouses are available at 6,000 JD per month. Contact information can be provided to interested organizations upon request. The assessment will

also cover bonded and free zone warehouses on the Jordan/Syria border (Jordanian side).

User Survey Results and Information Management (IM) Update

- The Logistics Cluster presented some of the findings and analysis from the recent User Survey conducted to assess the first 6 months of services. 26 people-completed the survey (50% UN, 43% INGOs, and 8% Other). The results were very positive overall, and the analysis will assist the Cluster in streamlining its services moving forward. A detailed User Survey Report will soon be shared with participants. Highlights:
 - **Road Transport:** 19 out of 26 respondents used road transport services regularly and sometimes. The majority of ratings were from Good (5) to Very Good (5) to Excellent (1). 3 ratings were Average.
 - **Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA):** Out of these 19 organizations sometimes and regularly using road transport, 8 organizations never used the Relief Items Tracking Application (RITA) and 11 used it regularly & sometimes. However, the 11 organizations that used RITA were generally very satisfied with the system: Good (2), Very Good (3), and Excellent (3). 3 no response.
 - **Coordination:** 24 of the survey respondents indicated that they attend Meetings regularly and sometimes. 15 organizations responded to the question 'Did you find the Logistics Cluster meetings useful and inclusive?' with 80% answering Yes.
 - **Information Management:** 15 respondents used IM products regularly and sometimes. Majority ratings were from Good (5) to Very Good (7) to Excellent (3). The top five products are 1) Situation Reports, 2) Meeting Minutes, 3) Maps, 4) Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCAs), and 5) Snapshots.
- The latest Regional Roads and Border Crossings Update Map (as of 25 August) was shared with participants. Participants were informed that the map is based only on logistical access constraints, and not meant to serve as a security map for the region.
- Participants were advised to contact the IM Officer and/or GIS Officer, for any updated specific information products and/or Maps. All IM products are available at Cluster website: www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a

Round Table

- UNICEF has a contingency plan for increased needs in Lebanon (for up to 50,000 people).
- UNRWA is currently able to meet the level of requests (manageable at present) but is monitoring the situation in case needs increase rapidly.

AOB

- An inter-agency convoy to Dara'a is planned soon, in order to conduct a needs assessment.
- The next Lebanon Logistics Forum (LLF) Meeting will be held on Wednesday 04 September at the UNCHR Office in Beirut. The forum is currently working on receiving a government waiver to import goods into Lebanon (at least for registered organizations in the country if possible).
- The Cluster clarified that the Logistics Cluster has been activated **for Syria, for activities with final destination Syria (transport, warehousing, so on)**.
- At present, WFP co-chairs the LLF Meeting to benefit organizations on issues purely related to Lebanon, and will assist to the extent possible.

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