

- LOCATION:** Beirut, Lebanon
DATE: 25 September 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Officer
PARTICIPANTS: DRC, IMC, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Premiere Urgence, Red Cross France, Secours Islamique France, UNRWA, WFP
- ACTION POINTS:**
- **The Logistics Cluster will work on a Warehousing Assessment for specific locations in Lebanon (border areas in the north, Bekaa, Tripoli, South)**
 - **Participants taking part in the Humanitarian Convoys to locations in Northern Syria should send more relief cargo to Tartous/Safita in preparation.**
 - **The Syria Logistics Cluster Meeting will be merged with the Lebanon Logistics Forum (LLF) Meeting in Lebanon – (Last Wednesday of every month).**

Situation Update

General

- For the planned UN Hub in Tartous (for 120-150 staff) the Logistics Cluster is taking the lead on implementation/construction. The Cluster Coordinator will therefore travel to Tartous in the coming months to support this project.
- The Logistics Cluster operation for Syria is 100% funded.
- The Special Operation (SO 200477) covering both the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters is currently scheduled to end on 31 December 2013; However, the duration of the project should soon be extended through to 31 December 2014, with no increase in the budget anticipated.
- Limitations on the ability to implement activities, related to insecurity and inaccessibility have resulted in lower than expected costs for current Logistics Cluster activities, meaning the current total budget should be adequate to support activities in 2014. If access improves or the situation changes significantly the budget may require additional revision.

Lebanon

- All Lebanon to Syria Border Crossings (Al Arida, Al Masnaa, Abboudiyeh) are operational.
- Beirut Port is not facing any congestion at present, with vessels berthing within 24 hours. It is currently (As of September) receiving more WFP cargo than Tartous.
- **New rule at Beirut Port** - Trucks are now allowed to transport cargo at night (previously banned), so as to minimize congestion. Trucks can operate from midnight to 06:30 am.

Syria

- Road access is an issue in the North-East (Hassakeh, Qamishly). Access to Ar-Raqa is sporadic. A Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Ar-Raqa is on standby waiting for facilitation letters.
- Access to Aleppo and Idlib is also challenging due to insecurity. However, the recent Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Idlib was completed successfully.
- In the South (Dara'a region), access is sporadic due to security constraints.
- Lattakia Port is operating normally, but not heavily used by WFP; UNICEF is using Lattakia for approximately 80% of its pipeline into Syria; UNRWA also uses Lattakia Port as a major entry point. Once the storage capacity at WFP's Safita facility is augmented via additional MSUs, cargo can be transported from Lattakia to Safita as well, for onward dispatches.

Jordan

- Aqaba Port is being used more for WFP Jordan and Iraq operations at present.
- UNICEF and UNHCR regularly use the Jordan-Syria Corridor for transport of relief cargo (however it is not their main route for supplies). Difficulties are being experienced by partners related to customs clearance for pharmaceuticals (as the processes and requirements change constantly).
- Warehousing at the Zarqa Free Zone is being used by UNHCR for Jordan-Syria Operations.

Common Services Update

Transport & Storage

- **Transport inside Syria** – Free-to user common transport by the Cluster to locations inside Syria continues,

security & access permitting.

- **Transport from Lebanon to Syria** continues (with 8 consignments so far this year). Jordan to Syria transport continues to be offered (however no requests for this route have been received by the Cluster so far).
- **Storage** – The primary hubs for Cluster storage are Damascus and Safita. Space can also be offered at Qamishli and Lattakia as per participants' requests. Regionally, the Cluster offers warehousing space in Irbid (Northern Jordan).
- The current utilization of Cluster storage at the Safita facility is approximately 40% (Total Cluster space is about 2,000 – 2,500 m² in Safita). Each Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) is 32 m X 10 m.
- Further expansion is planned for Safita storage via 29 MSUs (majority for WFP, however Cluster storage will be expanded as per requirements).
- WFP is waiting for 29 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to be cleared by customs at Tartous Port. The MSUs will be transported to the Safita Storage Facility and erected to augment storage capacity. The storage situation is therefore expected to improve by middle-to-end October.

Joint Humanitarian Convoys

- A Joint Humanitarian Convoy, supported by the Logistics Cluster to deliver assistance to Idleb, successfully dispatched all supplies from Lattakia and Tartous, between 18-23 September, with supplies to meet emergency food, water, sanitation, hygiene, education and recreation needs provided by WFP, UNICEF and IOM.
- The planned Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Ar-Raqa on 23 September (supported by the Logistics Cluster) was delayed due to non-issuance of a required facilitation letter. The Convoy of 8 trucks is on standby to depart (partly from Tartous, partly from Damascus). UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, and WFP are sending relief items via this convoy. These include WASH items, medicines, and food.
- A Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Mua'dhamiya (Rural Damascus) is planned for the next two weeks, pending security and access.
- The Logistics Cluster is planning to increasingly use Tartous as an origin point for upcoming Joint Humanitarian Convoys to locations in Northern and Central Syria. This is due to shorter distances and quicker administrative procedures. In addition, the Cluster's augmented storage space in Safita (30 km from Tartous), allows for increased storage of participants' relief items for onward transport. The planned set-up of the UN Hub in Tartous, led by the Logistics Cluster, is another driving factor in using Tartous as an important staging area for the response in the coming months.
- To mitigate the challenge of finding drivers willing to transport items to particular locations, the Cluster/WFP has registered additional transport companies in Syria. The companies being used by WFP inside Syria include Gezaeri, LTI, STC, and DHL.
- Qamishli has generally been very difficult to access in the past months. The Cluster completed a Joint Humanitarian Airlift to Qamishli in end-August (on behalf of several organizations). Then, in early September, the Cluster transported items from Qamishli to Hassakeh for the first time (on behalf of ACF). Hassakeh is accessible by road from Qamishli, but difficult to reach from other governorates in Syria.

Cargo Tracking

- Over 17,000 m³ of relief cargo have been transported, and over 22,000 m³ stored on behalf of 14 organizations (January – August 2013).
- Mercy Corps is a new addition to the list of organizations served by the Cluster's common transport and storage services (September 2013).
- The majority of the cargo type transported so far is 1) Shelter, 2) Food, and 3) WASH. (Note: The data on food transported does not include WFP Food).

Information Management (IM) Update

- The Northern Jordan Warehousing Snapshot Assessment has been completed, and is available on the

Cluster website. It includes Irbid, the Syrian Jordanian Industrial Free Zone, the Zarqa Free Zone, and Mafrq. The Cluster specified that a similar snapshot assessment could be done for Lebanon based on participants' feedback on areas of interest. Participants mentioned that this would be very useful for border areas in the north, Tripoli, Bekaa Valley, and some areas in the south. **The Logistics Cluster will work on a Warehousing Assessment for specific areas in Lebanon.**

- Two new maps have been produced, as per request from Lebanon participants – For Homs, and Rural Damascus (will soon be available on the website).
- An updated infographic showing overall volume transported (January – August 2013) has been shared on the Cluster website.
- WFP's GIS unit in Amman can produce maps as per requests from participants. Requests may be sent to the Information Management Officer.

AOB

- The Cluster proposed that from now onwards, the Syria Logistics Cluster and Lebanon Logistics Forum Meetings could be merged, with a small section in the meeting pertaining to Cluster operations for Syria, and the majority for logistics issues inside Lebanon. Participants agreed to this proposal. **The Meeting will be held as per the same schedule (last Wednesday of the month).**
- The upcoming Lebanon Logistics Forum (LLF) Meeting in Beirut will be held next week.

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