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# Meeting Minutes, 13 August 2020

Beirut, Lebanon

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<b>LOCATION</b>	Beirut, Lebanon - Online
<b>DATE</b>	13 August 2020
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Sector
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Action Against Hunger, Caritas, Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), Concern Worldwide, HOPE Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion, IFRC, International Rescue Committee, Medair, Médecins du Monde, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Relief International, Save the Children, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Terre des Hommes, UN OCHA, Welthungerhilfe, WFP, World Vision
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Logistics Sector will share the warehouse assessment conducted in partnership with WFP soon.</li><li>• Partners are requested to fill in the survey on customs challenges, which will be shared through the mailing list.</li><li>• Partners are requested to share their upstream cargo needs on <a href="#">CHOCOLAT</a>.</li></ul>
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Situation Update</li><li>2. Customs Procedures</li><li>3. AOB</li></ol>

## 1. Situation Update

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- It was confirmed as of yesterday that five out of 16 cranes are functional at Beirut port. Two more cranes will be structurally assessed, with the aim to be functional by Friday.
- There is a customs office at Beirut port. Vessel traffic can be tracked via the Beirut Container Terminal Consortium [website](#).
- The Logistics Sector conducted an assessment of Tripoli port yesterday, finding the port fully functional. There has been a 50% increase in traffic but no congestion issues. The [Logistics Capacity Assessment \(LCA\)](#) will be updated accordingly.
- The Logistics Sector together with WFP is conducting a warehouse assessment. Ten warehouses have been assessed, with three of them matching the requirements for common storage. More information on warehousing will be shared soon and a map will be produced and uploaded on the [webpage](#).
- Coordination is ongoing with the Lebanese Army Forces for access to Beirut port and airport. Partners are advised to contact Cyril Martin ([Cyril.martin@wfp.org](mailto:Cyril.martin@wfp.org)) for any access requirements or questions.

## 2. Customs Procedures

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- A Customs WhatsApp group has been established, and a contact from the customs administration is part of the group to answer any customs related queries. Partners can register for the WhatsApp group by sending an email to Virginie Bohl from UN OCHA ([bohl@un.org](mailto:bohl@un.org)) with their mobile phone number.
- Customs administration systems are up and running, with customs officers able to work remotely. Clearance can be provided from any city in Lebanon where a customs official is present.
- A tax exemption decree has been issued but not signed yet. The decree will apply to humanitarian imports, will be valid for one year, and will apply to all points of entry.
- A list is to be made available soon, detailing which items (including national HS codes) and organisations will be exempt. National HS codes should be included on the shipping documents to identify priority items that are eligible for tax exemption.
- Partners are advised to verify their selected customs broker has access to ASYCUDA, as the customs broker is otherwise not allowed to work with customs administration. A list of authorised brokers is not available.
- Questions on procedures such as prohibited items, one stop shop to speed up clearance, etc. have been collated and will be shared with the government soon. Partners will be informed of any outcomes.
- A questionnaire with seven short questions has been drafted in order to assess partners' challenges regarding customs matters. The survey will be circulated through the Logistics Sector mailing list.
- Partners are recommended to share their pipeline planning (estimations in terms of 20" containers/TEU) with the Logistics Sector ([lebanon-logs@logcluster.org](mailto:lebanon-logs@logcluster.org)) and Virginie Bohl ([bohl@un.org](mailto:bohl@un.org)), in order to inform the customs administration and prioritise accordingly. Cold storage requirements should be indicated to ensure sufficient storage space.

## 3. AOB

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- Caritas Switzerland will be conducting a market assessment to inform cash for shelter rehabilitation projects. The focus of the assessment will be on essential items to provide protection from the elements such as windows and doors.
- There will be an activation of the Logistics Sector rather than Cluster, as the sector structure was already in place at country level. A flash appeal proposal has been shared with OCHA last night. Logistics Sector services to be provided are currently being discussed.
- Partners are requested to share their upstream cargo needs on the [CHOCOLAT](#) platform.
- The Logistics Capacity Assessment will be updated to reflect an up to date list of suppliers and resources for partners to plan their operations. Partners are requested to share any information with the Logistics Sector.
- Partners can sign up for the Lebanon mailing list through the button on the bottom of the [Lebanon country page](#).

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**The next meeting will take place on Monday 17 August at 11:00 Beirut time.**

## Contacts

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Logistics Sector

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