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# Meeting Minutes, 17 August 2020

Beirut, Lebanon

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<b>LOCATION</b>	Beirut, Lebanon - Online
<b>DATE</b>	17 August 2020
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Sector
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), HOPE Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion / Atlas Logistique, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Logco, Médecins du Monde (MDM), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Plan International, Project HOPE, Rebuild Beirut/ Live Love Beirut, Relief International, ShelterBox, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP).
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Logistics Sector to update partners once the procedures of the decree on tax exemptions are clarified.</li><li>• Partners to send information on their incoming cargo through <a href="mailto:Lebanon-logs@logcluster.org">Lebanon-logs@logcluster.org</a> with <a href="mailto:Cyril.martin@wfp.org">Cyril.martin@wfp.org</a> in copy.</li><li>• 15 minutes bilateral discussions to be held this week with partners that have registered to the mailing list.</li><li>• The Logistics Sector to update partners on the common services that will be provided once the discussions with donors are completed.</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. Cargo Pipeline</li><li>4. AOB</li></ol>

## 1. Situation Update

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- The port of Beirut is operational at 50 percent of its capacity.
- Tripoli Port is completely functional, there are no bottlenecks to report at this level.
- The main point of attention is the access to Beirut's points of entry: at the moment access is limited due to the state of emergency.
- The Lebanese Army Forces control the point of entry of Beirut's port and airport.
- Last week, partners reported that their cargo had been offloaded from the plane and mistakenly taken directly to the Lebanese Army Forces' warehouses; they have now recovered it.

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- 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.
- The Logistics Sector has a meeting tomorrow 18 August at Beirut airport with the Director of the Civil Aviation and the General of the Security at Beirut Airport to discuss the organisations' access to their cargo.
- The goal of this meeting is to agree on the establishment of a focal point for partners at Beirut's airport. The role of this focal point would be to identify cargo from partners coming-in, put it aside and liaise with the Lebanese Army Forces.

## 2. Customs Procedures

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- The Logistics Sector – together with the focal point regarding the importation of goods: Virginie Bohl from OCHA ([bohl@un.org](mailto:bohl@un.org)) – has been in contact with the Lebanese Customs. A meeting with the Lebanese Customs initially scheduled on 17 August has been postponed.
- On Saturday 15 August, the question of customs was raised with the Humanitarian Country Team and the Humanitarian Coordinator. It is a priority and will be addressed with the Deputy Prime Minister.
- A decree on tax exemptions was signed by Lebanon's Ministry of Finance. This decree officialises the exemption of taxes for relief items coming in the country. Questions remain, however, to clarify whether this decree applies to NGOs or only to the relief addressed to entities related to the Lebanese government. Partners will be updated once these procedures are clarified.
- A list of questions was addressed to the customs officials, with a proposal for the creation of a one-stop-shop for humanitarian agencies to accelerate the process of custom clearance.
- It is unlikely that tax exemptions will be put in place for local procurement by the Ministry of Finance.

## 3. Cargo Pipeline

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- In order to facilitate the work and liaison with the Lebanese Army Forces; partners are requested to send information (Air Way bill) on their incoming cargo through [Lebanon-logs@logcluster.org](mailto:Lebanon-logs@logcluster.org) with [Cyril.martin@wfp.org](mailto:Cyril.martin@wfp.org) in copy. The information must be sent at least 48 hours before its arrival so that the Logistics Sector has time to inform the authorities and make sure that the cargo will be put aside.
- The Logistics Sector also encourages partners to be present at the airport for the arrival of their cargo.
- 15 minutes bilateral discussions will be held this week with partners that have registered to the mailing list. The topic of these discussions will be partners' cargo pipeline and their gaps and needs.
- The proposal submitted for the Flash Appeal included common services (e.g. transport from point of entries to common storage space). Discussions with donors are ongoing on these points and partners will be updated on the common services that will be provided.

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## 4. AOB

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- Partners are invited to access the [online spreadsheet](#) compiling information from the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).  
A Rapid Joint Assessment on the Impact on MSMEs is led by Mercy Corps to assess the current needs of local businesses that were affected by the Beirut Port blast. Its main focus is on MSMEs that operate within the most basic needs of the community.
- Information can be found on the [Humanitarian Response Lebanon webpage](#).
- Partners are invited to share their upstream cargo needs on the [CHOCOLAT](#) platform.
- Partners can sign up for the Lebanon mailing list through the button on the bottom of the [Lebanon country page](#).

**The next meeting will take place on Thursday 20 August at 11:00 Beirut time.**

### Contacts

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Logistics Sector

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