
LOCATION	Beirut, Lebanon - Online
DATE	8 October 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Sector
PARTICIPANTS	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Action Against Hunger (ACH), CARE International, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), INTERSOS, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Relief International, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes Italia (TDH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision.
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free-to-user Hamburg-Beirut Airbus flight: Interested partners can make their interest known by sending an email to lebanon-logs@logcluster.org or cyril.martin@wfp.org.• The Logistics Sector will keep the partners informed with further information on the Hamburg-Beirut flight.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Situation update on the importation procedures2. Deactivation of the Logistics Sector3. AOB: Hamburg-Beirut free for user flight4. Questions

1. Situation Update on the Importation Procedures

- OCHA has submitted several documents to different entities involved in importing humanitarian goods to Lebanon in order to inquire about the tax exemption promulgated in mid-August through the decree 6850.
- Following the recommended procedure by the customs administration, UNFPA sent a letter to the High Relief Commission (HRC) asking for tax exemption based on the decree 6850 and enclosed the shipment's documentation. The request was refused by the HRC on the basis that UN agencies and humanitarian goods procured by international organizations are not covered by the decree.
- The Logistics Sector raised the issue with:
 - OCHA
 - the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Deputy Prime Minister
 - the customs administration's focal point

- the IMPACCT focal point in Geneva who will raise the issue to the World Customs Organisation.
- The Logistics Sector is expecting feedback from the different administrations and will report to partners once received.
- UNFPA is seeking support for the facilitation of a dignity kits shipment entering Lebanon. It is not possible under Lebanese law to alter the consignee information after the arrival of a shipment, which means tax exemption cannot be obtained and the cargo has not been cleared. The Logistics Sector and OCHA are seeking to facilitate access to the shipment. One possible solution would be for UNDP to step in and ensure the customs clearance of the shipment, as has been done previously. This situation will be further discussed bilaterally.

2. Deactivation of the Logistics Sector

- The Logistics Sector operation was activated 2.5 months ago by OCHA after the Beirut blast. After assessment, it appeared there was no need for common support services and therefore the Concept of Operations (Conops) focused on Coordination and Information Management. The Conops was submitted during the flash appeal for a three-month operation with a budget of USD 200,000. Unfortunately, it received no donor contribution.
- Facilitation of importation and customs procedures have been managed by the Logistics Sector in collaboration with OCHA. Though this task would normally fall under the OCHA portfolio.
- As agreed between the WFP country office and the Logistics Sector, if there is no financial support, the Logistics Sector will be deactivated at the end of October, unless specific logistics needs are expressed by partners.
- As the main focus in the past six weeks has been on importation facilitation and customs procedures, it has been proposed to transition to a Logistics Working Group (LWG) which will continue to work on these specific topics.
- The next meeting will focus on identifying partner appetite for the creation of a LWG that would act as a task force on the issues organisations are facing. The meeting would also focus on defining Terms of Reference (TORs) for this LWG and assigning a lead.

3. AOB: Hamburg-Beirut free for user flight

- Airbus is organising a free-to-user flight ex-Hamburg to Beirut before the end of the year. For now, the estimated date of departure will be around the 26 October 2020 (date TBC).
- Only the flight is covered by Airbus Foundation. Pre-carriage, clearing, and handling upon departure and arrival remain the responsibility of partners.
- Load capacity is to be confirmed. More information will be shared when available by email and WhatsApp.

- Interested partners can make their interest known by sending an email to lebanon-logs@logcluster.org or cyril.martin@wfp.org.

4. Questions

Fuel shortages

- One partner asked about the fuel shortage. Many partners have reported frequent fuel shortages in BeKaa fuel stations, the latest reports indicate that the situation is still unstable as fuel flows are unpredictable.
- One partner asked about the option of storing fuel. However, fuel cannot be reserved, and storing is risky.
- Following internal procedures is recommended (carpooling, using online communication, and limiting unnecessary travel).
- Upon discussions with leading petroleum companies, they have recommend specific stations and can facilitate refuelling methods.

The next Logistics Sector coordination meeting will take place online on Thursday 15 October at 16:00 Beirut time.

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