LOCATION: WFP Country Office Jerusalem
DATE: 09 October 2014
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS: ACTED, UNRWA, WFP Gaza, WFP Jerusalem

ACTION POINTS:
- The Logistics Cluster will coordinate with other agencies to ensure correct information on the cargo transported to Gaza is shared;
- The Logistics Cluster will continue to analyse crossing constraints;
- The Logistics Cluster and partners agreed to gather information on options for procurement and import of cement;
- Logistics Cluster will send a reminder to all partners to send feedback on Logistics Cluster Evaluation.

AGENDA:
1. Overall Supplies transported into the Gaza Strip
2. Logistics Cluster Evaluation
3. AoB

1. Overall Supplies Transported into the Gaza Strip

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator informed participants that the Logistics Cluster de-escalation plan for the period until the end of the year had been presented and endorsed by the Gaza Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The plan is attached in Annex 1 at the end of the document.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator presented an overview of the quantity of trucks crossing through Kerem Shalom crossing: in the week of 28 September to 3 October, 24 trucks entered the Gaza Strip. Fewer trucks crossed the border in the week of 5-10 October due to limited crossing operating hours because of religious holidays.
- The Palestinian Authority (PA) continues to submit requests for movement of cargo from West Bank into Gaza.

2. Logistics Cluster Evaluation

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator shared an evaluation survey with partners during the previous meeting and asked them to help evaluate the Logistics Cluster by providing input and feedback. The survey can be found at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/user-survey-gaza.
- Five organisations had responded to the survey request and expressed that the main strengths were good coordination, effective communication, and timely delivery of transported goods. Weaknesses were information sharing of the services offered by the Logistics Cluster.
- The main suggestions were to expand the capacity and coordination with the local authorities, and to enhance the level of support for cargo transported to Gaza from outside Israel.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator reminded partners that the online survey was still open and asked for feedback.
- It was noted by participants that the survey is long and not all questions seem relevant to individual partners.
3. AoB

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator informed partners that information on the crossings is being shared in the weekly Situation Updates which can be seen on the Logistics Cluster website: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) noted inaccuracies amongst information collected and disseminated by other agencies and partners on cargo crossing into Gaza. The issue will be raised at a meeting between UNRWA, OCHA and the Access and Coordination Unit (ACU) to set a system that would ensure that information collected and shared is accurate.
- No updates could be provided on progress with Tarqumia and Betuniya crossings. UNRWA informed that it has not used the two crossing points in the past two weeks. It will resume its shipments from Jordan with its first cargo its crossing through Az-Zaáyyem.
- ACTED will be receiving shelter cargo from Ben Gurion airport, including non-food items (NFIs), and will direct it to the warehouse in Ashkelon as of Friday 10 October.
- Major gaps for shelter have been identified for the non-refugee members of the population in the Gaza Strip.
- Majority of the cargo for the Gaza response was procured in the West Bank which was most economically suitable but highlighted the capacity constraints at Israeli crossings for goods from the West Bank.
- The issue on procuring cement was raised. Currently all cement purchased is from Israel. In view of stimulating the Palestinian economy, it is not clear how that could be achieved. The advocacy group and Shelter Cluster are looking into the different options and will make recommendations.
- ACTED asked the Logistics Cluster about the cost for the transportation of cargo after the end of October. The Logistics Cluster coordinator recommended partners to send quotation requests for their transport/warehousing and WFP would issue a proforma that partners should review and agree upon accordingly.
- It was agreed to change the frequency of the Logistics Cluster meeting to monthly and for the meeting to be held on the first Tuesday of each month.

The next Meeting will take place on 11:00 on Tuesday 4 November 2014 at the WFP office in Jerusalem.
Annex 1

Logistics Cluster Gaza Emergency Cluster Proposal

Background

On 7 July 2014, against a backdrop of heightened vulnerability and instability, hostilities following the launch of a military operation in the Gaza Strip had a massive humanitarian impact and led to the declaration of an emergency.

The Logistics Cluster was formally activated on 30 July 2014 to facilitate, coordinate, and ensure delivery of life saving humanitarian assistance to the affected populations in the Gaza strip. The Logistics Cluster planned to provide the above mentioned services at no cost for the user for a period of two months.

After the ceasefire on 26 August 2014, the Logistics Cluster observed a slowdown in services requests it received. A preliminary scale down plan was presented to partners on 9 September 2014. Following discussions with partners at the end of September 2014 regarding ongoing logistics gaps, constraints and needs, an operational exit strategy was agreed upon.

Achievements since activation (30 July-30 September)

- Eight weekly coordination meetings held simultaneously in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Gaza City via video link.
- 47 information management products shared including meeting maps, meeting minutes, daily reports, weekly situation updates and other relevant logistics information.
- Delivery of 8,024 pallets of humanitarian relief supplies to Gaza via 301 trucks was coordinated on behalf of 48 humanitarian organisations.
- Five staging areas made available in Jerusalem, Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus and Ashqelon for cargo consolidation, palletisation and loading prior to transportation.
- Three dedicated warehouses secured for use as common storage for the humanitarian community located in Middle Area/Gaza City (800 m2 capacity), Khan Younis (600 m2 Capacity) and Rafah (450 m2 Capacity) where an additional refrigerated warehouse (40 m2 capacity) is available.
• Coordination with relevant authorities to address constraints, including bottlenecks at crossings and cargo prioritisation procedures.

Graph 1: Number of pallets transported per day since activation (30 July), facilitated by the Logistics Cluster for distribution within the Gaza Strip (daily average - 220)

(Source: Logistics Cluster, 2014)

**Logistics Cluster Proposal**

The operational exit strategy consists of the following:

- Provision of free-to-user logistics services until 30 October 2014. Afterwards, services will be provided to users on a cost-recovery basis.
- Provision of information management support until the end of 2014. This will include publishing weekly reports, holding coordination meetings and sharing relevant logistics related information via the dedicated Logistics Cluster Gaza Emergency operations webpage.
- The Logistics Cluster coordination services will continue to be provided until the end of 2014. This includes monitoring of operational constraints and liaison with partners and relevant authorities to address issues, particularly regarding ongoing crossing bottlenecks.
- After 31 December 2014, the service provision by the Logistics Cluster will phase out and a decision concerning deactivation of the Logistics Cluster will be taken by the Humanitarian Country Team.
- This plan can be reviewed and amended as required should circumstances change.

This proposal was endorsed by the Gaza Inter Cluster Coordination Group on October 2 and by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) on 8 October 2014.

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