LOCATION: WFP office in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem
DATE: 12 August 2014
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

ACTION POINTS:
- The Logistics Cluster to share a daily Logistics Cluster Service Update
- The Logistics Cluster to share information on the humanitarian items as defined by the Egyptian authorities.
- Partners to share information on their current and planned pipelines
- The Logistics Cluster to provide an acknowledgment following the receipt of a Service Request Form (SRF).
- The Logistics Cluster to follow up with relevant authorities on the bottleneck at the Betunia and Tarqumia crossing points.

AGENDA:
1. Brief on current humanitarian situation
2. Logistics gaps and bottlenecks
3. West Bank into Israel at Betunia and Tarqumia crossing
4. Logistics Cluster services Update
5. AoB

1. Brief on current humanitarian situation

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator introduced the meeting and updated partners on the status of the action points that arose from the previous meeting. It was confirmed that a meeting calendar has now been developed and shared by OCHA.

- Partners were advised that the Logistics Cluster is unable to take liability for the transportation of cargo on behalf of partners and organisations will be required to organise insurance for all cargo that is transported by the Logistics Cluster. This is clearly stated in the documentation for Logistics Cluster Service Provision.

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator requested that all partners provide a brief introduction and share any expectations, suggestions or feedback regarding the Logistics Cluster services and activities since activation on the 30 July.

- In general, partners agreed that the key was ensuring effective coordination and information sharing particularly regarding constraints, gaps and pipelines. The WASH Cluster highlighted that partners and Clusters should work together to ensure effective collaboration.

- The Access Coordination Unit (ACU) advised partners that they are able to provide support and advice to partners regarding accessing the Gaza Strip.

- The restrictions on the importation of certain items and alternating standards for priority items was highlighted as a key constraint. The Logistics Cluster and the ACU advised that support can be provided, however the situation is rapidly changing and closely linked to the developments of political negotiations.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• It was advised that a list of importation restrictions is available at the following link: http://www.cogat.idf.il/Sip_Storage/FILES/4/4014.pdf

• Partners highlighted the need for improved coordination with organisations regarding market mapping in order to gather information on available suppliers.

• FAO advised that they were currently managing to procure fodder within the Gaza Strip, however, they expect an increase in supplies requiring delivery in the near future and thus, may need to coordinate with the Logistics Cluster.

2. Logistics gaps and bottlenecks

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator advised that currently, a key bottleneck is the crossing points between the West Bank and Israel at Betunia and Tarqumia. Following the delay of a Logistics Cluster truck for 24 hours at Betunia, it was re-directed to Tarqumia. However, delays are also now being reported at the Tarqumia crossing point.

• It was highlighted that due to the bottleneck, the cargo prioritisation procedures have become unpredictable and urgent humanitarian relief supplies have been delayed with less urgent cargo being transported across the border.

• Partners were advised that in order to help reduce the bottleneck, more coordination is required between organisations, especially regarding the transportation of priority cargo and how organisations are facilitating their transportation and supply chain. It was advised that humanitarian organisations channel their requests and use the Logistics Cluster pipelines for coordination and facilitation of their transportation.

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator reminded partners that the Kerem Shalom crossing from Israel to the Gaza Strip is reported to be operating without significant delays.

• The issue regarding the bottleneck and prioritisation of supplies will be raised at the Inter Cluster Working Group (ICWG) meeting and the Logistics Cluster will follow up with relevant authorities regarding decisions made regarding the set cargo priorities. However, partners were reminded that coordination and sharing of pipeline information is key to improving the current constraints.

• Partners were advised that the Logistics Cluster Coordinator will be travelling to the Gaza Strip in the coming days to provide support and assess needs and current constraints. Information will be shared with partners once available.

• An update on the current situation and accessibility of the border crossing at Rafah between Egypt and the Gaza Strip was provided. It was confirmed that WHO were able to move humanitarian relief supplies across the border from Egypt on 11 August. WFP will try to access the crossing within the next 48 hours, following which, there will be more information regarding the security and accessibility for the Logistics Cluster and the humanitarian community.

• Partners were reminded that the situation is complex and in preparation for the use of the border, it was requested for the Logistics Cluster to share the list of humanitarian items as defined by the Egyptian authorities in the ‘Rafah Crossing Guidelines for Humanitarian Assistance’.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• Partners enquired as to the possibility that should the Rafah border become accessible, the Logistics Cluster would secure a warehouse for use by the humanitarian community for their storage needs. The Logistics Cluster Coordinator advised that this option would be assessed. Should there be a need, the Logistics Cluster would begin the process of finding a suitable location.

3. Logistics Cluster Services

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator advised partners that the recently updated Concept of Operations Map (ConOps) is available at the Logistics Cluster website: http://logcluster.org/map/concept-operations-map-04-august-2014. Additional updates are being carried out in order to reflect the new staging areas. It was confirmed that the Ramallah and Nablus staging areas are now functional and available for partners to use. Once available, the updated ConOps map will be shared with partners.

• Following the request by partners for information sharing regarding the Logistics Cluster Services, the Logistics Cluster Coordinator proposed and it was agreed upon, that a daily report showing a summary of cargo movements and important updates would be shared via the dedicated Logistics Cluster mailing list.

• Partners were reminded that all Logistics Cluster services are provided free-of-charge to the user. Logistics Cluster Service Requests should be completed on the Service Request Form (SRF) http://logcluster.org/document/service-request-form-5 and sent to the Logistics Cluster (gaza.cargo@logcluster.org) a minimum of 48 hours before the intended date for arrival of cargo at final destination. Once received, the Logistics Cluster will communicate with requesting organisations directly.

• Handicap International requested information on a service request submitted. The Logistics Cluster advised that the cargo is ready for transportation, however additional cargo is required before it is able to depart. Handicap International advised that additional cargo is in the pipeline and requested that the Logistics Cluster provide them with an acknowledgment of receiving the SRF.

• Partners requested the period of time expected for cargo delivery. The Logistics Cluster advised that it can take up to two days if it requires crossing the border from West Bank into Israel. Transportation from Jerusalem or Ashqelon can take less than 24 hours. Partners were advised that once cargo has been received into a designated Logistics Cluster staging area, it should be delivered within 48 hours.

• Partners were advised that based on number of requests received, the Logistics Cluster is moving approximately 14 trucks per day into the Gaza Strip.

4. AoB

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator reminded partners that updated information is available on the Gaza Emergency operations page on the Logistics Cluster Website: http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• Partners requested information on the possibility of the Logistics Cluster providing support for transportation from Jordan as many organisations have warehouses in the country. The Logistics Cluster has not yet received any requests for services. It was also advised that the Logistics Cluster is unable to provide assistance with customs clearance. Partners advised however, that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is able to provide transportation and assistance.

• Partners confirmed that the meeting schedule is currently suitable and therefore the next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held at 11am on the 19 August 2014.

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