GAZA EMERGENCY – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: WFP office in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem with video link to Logistics Cluster Gaza City

DATE: 19 August 2014

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: WFP (Gaza), WFP (Jerusalem), ACF, ACTED, ACU, ACU/OCHA (Gaza), CRS, CHF International (Gaza), Global Communities, Handicap International, IMC, Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) (Gaza), NRC, OCHA (Gaza), OXFAM (Gaza), PARC (Gaza), Relief International, Save the Children, UNDP, UNFPA, UNRWA, World Vision International

ACTION POINTS:
- The Logistics Cluster to provide an overview of its services offered in the EOC Meeting
- Partners to share information on their current and planned pipelines
- The Logistics cluster to share partner contact details via the mailing list

AGENDA:
1. Brief on current humanitarian situation
2. Logistics gaps and bottlenecks
3. Logistics Cluster services Update
4. AoB

1. Brief on current humanitarian situation

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator introduced the meeting and welcomed partners and including partners present in the Gaza City office, who provided introductions.

- OCHA Gaza provided a brief overview of the current humanitarian situation. It was confirmed that the short-term ceasefire is making the planning of operations complicated; only the most urgent operational activities are able to take place. Due to the current emergency situation, only limited repairs to damaged infrastructure within the Gaza Strip can occur.

- It was advised that the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Gaza has commenced a rapid needs assessment (MIRA).

- The current security situation is hindering the ability of organisations to confirm their relief item requirements, through the necessary assessments. Reconstruction materials, Non Food Items (NFIs) and water have been highlighted as urgent, however, guidance is required in order to ensure their efficient importation. It was advised that food supplies are currently sufficient and food pipelines are reported to be functioning well.

- No reports of fuel supply issues have been received, however this remains dependant on the continued accessibility of the Kerem Shalom Crossing, which is currently functioning well.

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator enquired whether water requirements were for water bottles or water systems. It was confirmed that the WASH Cluster priority is to repair water infrastructure and systems. Issues have been reported regarding the importation of water storage and tanks however; these issues are currently being addressed to the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Unit (COGAT).

- The number of registered Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) was confirmed to be approximately 250,000 people, most of which are living in UNRWA and government shelters. These numbers are increasing, as people are unsure about the stability of the ceasefire, and due to the lack of public services available. The Shelter Cluster is currently working on IDP option papers in order to provide possible solutions.

- Partners were advised that UNRWA will be sending in food parcels for at least the next three months as food assistance will be a long term requirement.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator advised that the dedicated mailing list is available for sharing information between Logistics Cluster Partners. The Logistics Cluster enquired with partners whether they would agree for their contact details to be shared via the mailing list; no objections were received.

2. Logistics gaps and bottlenecks

• The issue was raised that some small amounts of WASH cargo is failing to be sent on time, due to trucks not reaching full capacity in a timely manner. It was emphasised that the role of the Logistics Cluster is to ensure cargo consolidation in order that transportation can be facilitated quickly and efficiently; therefore, partners were requested to use the Logistics Cluster services as appropriate.

• It was highlighted that focus should be on improving links with other Clusters to advocate the Logistics Cluster services and provide support. It was requested that the Logistics Cluster join the Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) meeting to provide an overview of what services and support can be offered to the humanitarian community.

• Partners were advised that key constraints remain the same. The Logistics Cluster is continuing to liaise with relevant authorities regarding the bottlenecks at the Betunia crossing point. As a result of the delays, additional cargo has been sent via the Tarqumia crossing point.

• Additional details on the delays reported at the Betunia crossing point were requested. Delays of up to 24 hours have been reported. The lack of cargo processing capacity was highlighted as being a possible reason, which has led to the diversion of cargo to the Tarqumia crossing point, and is thus increasing transportation prices and raising the likelihood of bottlenecks at Tarqumia.

• Partners were advised that there are currently no additional updates on the accessibility of the Rafah crossing. WHO remains the only humanitarian organisation to have succeeded in facilitating transportation of relief items through the crossing, and approval for other humanitarian organisations is pending political negotiations. Partners were advised to remain cautious on pipeline plans for the Rafah crossing.

• Partners enquired whether it was possible to send generators through the West Bank crossing points for transportation into the Gaza Strip. It was advised that the Logistics Cluster has only transported generators via the Kerem Shalom crossing on one occasion. However, other organisations have sent generators following an agreement between UNSCO and Israel, in order to avoid coordination issues. It was advised however, that the required generator specifications should be confirmed prior to purchase. Partners were also advised that generator suppliers are currently available within the Gaza Strip.

• Partners requested information on priority items including medical equipment, as their plans to send medical items to hospitals are in already place. Cargo prioritisation is an issue that should be raised at Cluster meetings and will be clarified following the completion of assessments, which are currently underway. It was advised that WHO and the Ministry of Health are working on their own supply chains. The Logistics Cluster advised that it has received limited requests to transport medical items, but is not aware of significant issues. The Logistics Cluster can facilitate the transportation of medical equipment and medicines and can offer storage of these items in a refrigerated warehouse (40m² capacity) in Rafah.

• Partners were given an update by the Gaza Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). The need to ensure smooth movement from the Kerem Shalom crossing into the Gaza Strip was highlighted as a priority and it was thus requested that organisations should advise MoSA in Gaza 24 hours in advance of cargo that will be transported into the Gaza Strip, including consignee information.

• The Logistics Cluster and UNRWA are already coordinating with and liaising with MoSA regarding cargo transportation into the Gaza Strip, however other humanitarian organisations are not utilising this mechanism.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
Organisations were requested that all cargo be sent using the services offered by the Logistics cluster, who can carry out the necessary coordination with MoSA on their behalf.

3. Logistics Cluster Services

- An action point raised during last week’s Coordination Meeting regarding sector prioritization, was advised to be a decision to be made by individual Clusters. However, the Logistics Cluster is coordinating with OCHA and the Access Coordination Unit (ACU) to address which Cluster cargo is the priority; it needs to be ensured that non-urgent cargo is not transported prior to that which is urgent. Cargo prioritisation decisions are to be made by the HCT. The priorities will be revised and updated on weekly basis as the situation and humanitarian needs change.

- It was advised that the cargo prioritisation issue is being addressed and will be discussed at the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) Meeting tomorrow. An email has been sent out to clusters requesting priority items to be submitted.

- Partners were informed that contact details for the broker for the Jordan to Gaza corridor have been provided by UNRWA and subject to approval, will be shared with partners.

- Following last week’s request for Logistics Cluster daily updates, a cargo movement report has been shared each day. The document regarding the Humanitarian Organisation Procedures for Using the Rafah Border, provided by the Egyptian Authorities is now available on the Logistics Cluster website http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a and was shared via the mailing list. It was also advised that acknowledgments for Service Request Forms (SRFs) are being sent once the Logistics Cluster receives SRFs.

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator provided a brief presentation on the Logistics Cluster cargo movements since activation. The number of requests received is increasing, with a significant proportion of WASH items being transported. The Logistics Cluster is providing services to a range of organisation types including NGOs, private donors and the Public Authorities.

4. AoB

- UNRWA advised that they require volunteers for packing boxes. Partners were requested to contact the Logistics Cluster or UNRWA should they know of any suitable contact details.

- Partners enquired regarding the status of the Logistics Cluster pipeline. It was confirmed that although issues regarding entry points and bottlenecks are reported, the pipeline is functioning well. The Logistics Cluster has approximately 15 trucks entering the Gaza Strip daily; UNRWA reported to have approximately 80 and WFP has between 15 - 20. With a significant number of commercial trucks entering as well, possible bottlenecks could occur, which will require the prioritisation process to be confirmed.

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator advised that Logistics Cluster free services will be provided for a initial period of two months as per the Concept of Operations (ConOps). This will be reviewed as required, however free services will be available for the months of August and September. Implementing services on a cost recovery basis could be an option if required.

- UNRWA enquired as to whether, following a large amount of donations, the Logistics Cluster would be able to facilitate transportation on their behalf. The Logistics Cluster confirmed they would be able to; however, the Logistics Cluster would first need to check with the relevant Cluster to confirm whether the donation item types are priority items and then would be able to facilitate transportation accordingly.

- The current Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting schedule was agreed to be suitable and the next meeting is scheduled to take place next Tuesday 26 August 2014 at 11am.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
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](http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a)

**Contacts**

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