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

DATE: 26 August 2014

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: ACTED, ACU (Gaza), CHF International/Global Communities, Handicap International, IMC, Internews, NRC, OCHA (Gaza), OFDA, USAID, UNRWA, WFP (Gaza), WFP (Jerusalem)

ACTION POINTS:
- Partners were reminded to inform the Logistics Cluster of their current and planned pipelines
- The Logistics Cluster and partners to discuss the timeline for the provision of free services
- The Logistics Cluster to share measurements of mobile latrines once confirmed by the WASH Cluster

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 participants. The OCHA representative in the Gaza office provided an update on the current humanitarian situation.

- The emergency has now lasted almost 50 days. According to the Protection Cluster, over 2,000 people have been killed including approximately 1,450 civilians. The increasing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is an issue of concern with approximately 280,000, out of a total of 475,000, living in UNRWA schools and shelters.

- The recent destruction of tall buildings in Gaza City is increasing the probability of even more people moving to the shelters. The attack on the Rafah bombing crossing is also of serious concern and although the authorities are trying to maintain operations, it may impact use of the crossing for humanitarian aid. Following the attack on the Erez crossing, the general situation remains tense and complex.

2. Logistics gaps and bottlenecks

- The main bottleneck continues to be the delays at the crossings between the West Bank and Israel, and the complexities of operating and moving within the Gaza Strip.

- The majority of the cargo facilitated by the Logistics Cluster is being shipped via the West Bank into Israel, before being transported across Israel and entering the Gaza Strip. The two main crossing points, Betunia and Tarqumia are both experiencing delays.

- Capacity for security procedures and equipment at the Betunia crossing is very limited. Overall, 30 trucks are crossing daily. WFP and the Logistics Cluster need at least 15 trucks to cross daily to meet demand and other organisations including USAID and UNRWA also have requirements; these crossings are in addition to the regular commercial transportation crossing through this border.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• Due to delays and limited capacity, the Betunia crossing is unable to meet demand for transporting cargo from the West Bank into Israel. The current capacity of 14-18 trucks, which must be cleared before 11h00 for transportation to the Gaza Strip, is insufficient to meet the humanitarian needs.

• The Betunia crossing is ideally located for transporting humanitarian relief from the north of the West Bank, however delays have resulted in redirecting trucks to Tarqumia. This is increasing costs, lead times, causing cargo spoilage and resulting in delays at Tarqumia. There is an urgent need to prioritise cargo and coordinate activities among humanitarian actors.

• Partners requested information on the spoilage of cargo; WFP advised that a shipment of bread had been wasted due to the delays at Betunia.

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator highlighted however, that all cargo movement requests received have been processed and completed, and the prioritisation system is a plan in the case that not all cargo can be moved. The Logistics Cluster advised that its’ response also includes advocating coordination with Clusters and organisations and raising the issues and any constraints with higher authorities.

• Participants were given an overview of the prioritisation spreadsheet. The final deadline for confirmation from Clusters, of Cluster and Sector item priorities is Thursday afternoon. The Access Coordination Unit (ACU) representative in the Gaza Office confirmed that they were compiling information and would be sharing it with the Logistics Cluster after the deadline.

• The priority system will focus on establishing which Cluster sector should be the priority at the given time, and also the specific requirements within each Clusters, including information on any items that are not required. The list will be reviewed weekly and amended as required.

• Partners enquired about the Logistics Cluster coordination regarding the prioritisation system with the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). MoSA is currently a Logistics Cluster partner and the Logistics Cluster have shared information and supported MoSA with their transportation needs. The Logistics Cluster has been requested by MoSA in Ramallah to assist in collecting and facilitating the transport of donations made to them by local communities and civil society groups, as they are unable to deliver the relief items to the Gaza Strip. The Logistics Cluster also notifies MoSA Gaza of any humanitarian relief items entering the Gaza Strip.

• Partners enquired into the reasons for the bottlenecks at the West Bank – Israel crossing points. The Betunia crossing has very limited capacity (approx. 30 – 40 trucks per day) for security processing and a lack of equipment and space. Currently information on capacity and the prioritisation procedures is not clear at Tarqumia.

• The Betunia crossing is reported to under be under the management of the border police, Check Point Authorities (CPA) and Civil Administration. Management of the Tarqumia crossing is carried out by the CPA.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• The Logistics Cluster is addressing the issue with the crossing authorities. Tarqumia crossing authorities requested the Logistics Cluster to assist by ensuring loading is completed as per the correct requirements; partners were advised that this is a key Logistics Cluster service, which facilitates the transport of relief items.

• To improve coordination between UNRWA and the Logistics Cluster, an UNRWA focal point will be designated.

• The issues regarding operating, and the restrictions of movement, within the Gaza Strip were raised. All efforts to ensure the cargo is received at the final destination and confirmed with the consignee are undertaken and the Gaza City Logistics Cluster team confirmed that they were coordinating to ensure the cargo reaches its consignee.

• The Logistics Cluster temporary warehouses are available inside the Gaza Strip should other storage options become unavailable due to insecurity.

• Developments regarding the accessibility of Rafah crossing between Egypt and Israel are ongoing. It was advised that WFP purchased 25,000 food parcels which were due to cross the Rafah border into the Gaza Strip. Following a lack of clarity over approval procedures, the trucks have been unable to deliver the food parcels to the Gaza Strip (as of 26 August). WFP is working with partners and Egyptian Authorities to coordinate the transportation of cargo through the Palestinian Red Crescent to be distributed by WFP inside the Gaza Strip.

• A WFP staff member will travel to Rafah to ensure all efforts are undertaken in order to transport the cargo across the border. If successful, the Logistics Cluster will assess the option of using the crossing as a possible corridor if partners require. Partners were advised to notify the Logistics Cluster of any requests or cargo in the pipeline from Egypt, so it can plan accordingly.

• All humanitarian aid that enters the Gaza Strip through Rafah requires advance coordination and must be approved by the Palestinian and Egyptian authorities.

3. Logistics Cluster Services

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator confirmed that a new map showing the corridors for cargo will be shared with partners in the coming days.

• The updated graph showing number of pallets facilitated by the Logistics Cluster since the start of the operation was shared with participants, which shows a steady increase in cargo movements facilitated by the Logistics Cluster. The scheduled closure of the crossings on Fridays and Saturdays limits the number of trucks, which is reflected in the graph. UNRWA advised that an exception could be made if there is sufficient cargo to cross; coordination with the Logistics Cluster regarding this potential exception, could be discussed further.

• Partners were reminded to inform the Logistics Cluster of their current and planned pipelines so that it is possible to plan accordingly. If services are requested outside of the current provision, this can be addressed. The Logistics Cluster can provide GIS assistance if partners have mapping requests.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator advised that the operation is now one month into activation and is continuing to provide free services. The plan according to the Concept of Operations (ConOps) was to provide free to user services for two months until the end of September and then to transition to cost recovery. The ConOps will require review by the Logistics Cluster; partners were requested to provide feedback and were advised that there will be further discussions regarding the justification of free services. If required, the Logistics Cluster can provide details on costing.

• Since the start of the operation, the total transportation facilitated by the Logistics Cluster has been approximately 40% private donations, 30% Palestinian Authorities and 30% NGOs. Transportation for NGOs is now increasing as most of the private and Palestinian Authority humanitarian relief cargo has been transported.

• The Logistics cluster has been providing free services to organisations and local communities, who would otherwise likely not have been able to deliver relief within the Gaza Strip. The Logistics Cluster has coordinated with other Clusters and the cargo consignee to ensure the cargo is required, to consolidate cargo and prioritise as required, on a free-to-the-user basis.

4. AoB

• Attendees from Internews advised the meeting participants that they are running a one hour, weekly radio show broadcast to the Gaza population and will share a weekly report with updates on activities. They welcomed partners to submit relevant information and contact Internews if they would like to receive the report.

• Information on taxes for NGOS to import food or WASH relief items from Jordan, was requested by partners. A tax when crossing the Allenby Bridge from Jordan into Israel maybe required, however if the cargo is in transit, or if it is a donation to Gaza, certain taxes may be exempt.

• Questions were raised regarding getting mobile latrines into the Gaza Strip. The Logistics Cluster suggested raising the issue at the WASH Cluster meeting and once confirmed, it will be shared with partners.

• Partners were advised that the next Logistics cluster meeting will take place next week at 9am, Tuesday 2 September.

• 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

Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hien Adjemian</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Hien.adjemian@wfp.org">Hien.adjemian@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sune Kent</td>
<td>WFP Head of Logistics</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sune.kent@wfp.org">Sune.kent@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amjad Ayesh</td>
<td>WFP Logistics Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Amjad.ayesh@wfp.org">Amjad.ayesh@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucy Styles</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster IM Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lucy.styles@wfp.org">Lucy.styles@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a