GAZA EMERGENCY – Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: WFP office in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem with video link to Logistics Cluster Gaza City
DATE: 02 September 2014
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: WFP (Gaza), WFP (Jerusalem), ACTED, ACU, Mercy Corps, OCHA (Gaza), USAID, UNDP, UNRWA, WHO (Gaza)

ACTION POINTS:

- Partners were reminded to inform the Logistics Cluster of their current and planned pipelines;
- The Logistics Cluster to investigate holding the next coordination meeting in Ramallah;
- The Logistics Cluster to collect and consolidate available historical and current data on the crossing and share it with partners.

AGENDA:

1. Brief on current humanitarian situation
2. Logistics gaps and bottlenecks
3. Logistics Cluster services Update
   - Future options for Logistics Cluster Gaza Emergency Operation
4. AoB

1. Brief on current humanitarian situation

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator introduced the meeting and welcomed participants in Jerusalem and Gaza City. The meeting began with an overview of the agenda and the need to discuss future options and phase out timeline for the Logistics Cluster Gaza Emergency operation.

2. Logistics gaps and bottlenecks

- The key constraint remains the capacity of the Betunia crossing with a number of trucks continuing to be diverted to alternative crossings or delayed. Discussions to increase opening hours are planned as a total of 30 trucks per day (private and commercial) are able to cross during the current opening hours which is below WFP and the Logistics Cluster requirement. No major issues have been reported at Kerem Shalom crossing and it is absorbing the Logistics Cluster requirements.

- Alternative options to extending the opening hours of Betunia were discussed, however extending the hours is the most suitable option. The major issue is the trucks having to leave Betunia in order to be at Kerem Shalom before 13h30 to cross into the Gaza Strip. If the crossing was open earlier, trucks would have more time to process through the crossing and reach Kerem Shalom in time.

- The crossing points from the West Bank into Israel are the major bottlenecks, however it is important to follow the situation at Kerem Shalom as we see the increasing volume moved by the private sector, the reopening of markets and the need to move in more varied types of relief items in the coming period.

- In order to assess the trends and future options for crossing points, the Logistics Cluster will gather available historical and current data on the crossing and share it with partners. As the situation develops and new items and materials require transportation into the Gaza Strip, the effect on the processing time and number of trucks able to cross will be important to assess.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
• Analysis on the dormant crossings as alternatives to the Rafah crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip would also be very useful in assessing the options and could be fed into logistics data collected by the humanitarian community. OCHA Gaza advised that they are currently compiling information on the crossings and once complete, will share it with the Logistics Cluster. The ACU is able to provide information on Kerem Shalom and Rafah.

• 18 WFP trucks crossed from Egypt into the Gaza Strip via Rafah crossing last week and an additional 10 trucks are planned to cross this morning (2 September). If successful, the Logistics Cluster will investigate future options for pipeline and procurement in Egypt. Partners were advised that the situation is very complicated and is based on discussions with relevant authorities.

• The Logistics Cluster can assist partners with requests and can negotiate on partners’ behalf whilst a window of opportunity for transporting non-food items via the Rafah crossing is available. However, it would need to be discussed together as the capacity of Rafah is limited and requests should be channelled through a limited number of organisations.

• UNRWA has purchased 10 water trucks through a donor and are now in negotiations with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society to ship the trucks from Egypt into the Gaza Strip via Rafah. WHO Gaza coordinated the delivery of relief items with Egyptian Red Crescent and the shipping company. When the cargo reached the Gaza side, it was handed over directly to the Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip.

3. Logistics Cluster Services

• The Logistics Cluster cargo movements are increasing, more than 4,500 pallets have been transported via 184 trucks since the activation of the Logistics Cluster on 30 July. Approximately 20% of cargo moved has been food, 40% WASH and 40% shelter. The majority of WASH items have been water bottles and shelter items have varied. By organisation, the highest number of pallets has been moved on behalf of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Ministry of Social Affairs and local and international NGOs.

• Partners asked if the Logistics Cluster had transported any medicine. Very few requests have been received for facilitating the transportation of medicine and the Logistics Cluster is coordinating with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The ICRC and Jordanians are reported to be moving medicine directly into the Gaza Strip.

• Partners were presented with the new Logistics Cluster Access Constraints maps which show the crossing and access points: http://logcluster.org/map/gaza-access-constraints-25-august-14. The majority of cargo being transported into the Gaza Strip originates from the West Bank and is transported through Israel. Kerem Shalom crossing is the only available crossing for humanitarian cargo from Israel into the Gaza Strip.

• The Logistics Cluster Coordinator updated partners on the financial status of the operation. The Special Operation (SO) was planned for a three month period with an original budget of USD$2.4m. So far, we have received approximately USD$1m in contributions. The original budget covered the moving of approximately 200 trucks into

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
the Gaza Strip. However, the Logistics Cluster has moved over 180 trucks in the first month of the operation. To continue according to the initial plan of providing free services until October including Information Management and Coordination, the Logistics Cluster requires an additional USD$300,000.

- Diverse options were discussed with partners including extending the provision of free services for six weeks and moving to full cost recovery in mid-November with the possible deactivation of the Logistics Cluster subject to the recommendations by the HCT as per standard deactivation procedures. Another option could be to provide free services until the end of the year, after which services could be offered on a full cost recovery basis. All options will require additional financial contributions.

- Partners were asked to assess the options and the Logistics Cluster performance so far during the operation. Discussions should be had on what services to keep and what should be provided on full cost recovery and when the change should be done. The Logistics Cluster remains open and flexible, however partners are encouraged to share requirements as the Logistics Cluster needs to plan accordingly.

- The role of the LC as a service provision cluster was highlighted. Partners also added that the deactivation of the Logistics Cluster should be based on a realistic assessment of the situation.

- Information Management is an important aspect of the Logistics Cluster services and it will continue to be required for some time in the future of the Gaza Emergency Operation. Coordination, especially considering the traditional chaotic nature of the sector, is vital once the commercial market returns and cargo volumes increase.

- An option is to have an interagency coordination system whereby partners were able to consult the Logistics Cluster when required and meetings held when the need arose. Information Management and coordination would continue to be provided.

- The situation remains to be very hard to predict, including the relief and early recovery phase due to begin. Although the needs of partners is unclear, coordination and information sharing regarding the crossing points is required.

- The standard cost recovery service that is implemented by the Logistics Cluster is based on negotiating to get the most cost effective price including the addition of a minor administration fee to ensure Logistics Cluster costs are covered. It would however, be more difficult to consolidate cargo, prioritize and ensure cost efficiency. Therefore it could be beneficial to extend free services and coordination until the end of the year. Free services could be provided for at least another six weeks after the current date of transition to cost recovery and reviewed as the situation develops.

- It was suggested that a normal Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting take place next week and then we scale down to one meeting every two weeks. If possible, the next meeting will take place in Ramallah with links via video to meetings in Jerusalem and Gaza City.

http://logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a
4. AoB

- Partners requested information on the pipeline from Jordan to the Gaza Strip. Very few requests have been received by the Logistics Cluster, however there have been requests for information regarding importing humanitarian relief items from outside of Israel into the Gaza Strip. It was advised that the OPT Logistics Capacity Assessment has been updated and provides detailed information on the corridors and options for bringing cargo into the Gaza Strip. The updated LCA can be found on the Logistics Cluster Gaza Emergency Operation page: http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/DLCA/Occupied+Palestinian+Territory%2C+OPT.

- Questions were asked regarding the possibility of the Logistics Cluster bringing in-kind donations through Ben Gurion Airport. The Logistics Cluster has not received any requests as no bottlenecks at the airport have been reported. A Logistics Cluster staging area is located in Ashqelon, the cargo can be delivered there and will be consolidated, palletised and shipped to the Gaza Strip by the Logistics Cluster.

- The ACU advised that they are expecting more humanitarian shipments to be crossing via the Allenby Bridge crossing from Jordan into Israel.

- The Logistics Cluster continues to receive the majority of requests from smaller NGOs and the Palestine Authority and as most items are procured in the West Bank, the additional pressure this has caused on the relevant crossings, bottlenecks are to be expected.

- There appears to be a lack of awareness of the procedures for shipping into the Gaza Strip. It was reported that many organisations investigate the use of air transport but sea and road transportation are good options. UNRWA advised that they have been providing assistance to smaller agencies with smaller loads and critical items. Procurement in the Middle East is not cheap especially for food. Turkey is a faster and cheaper option and easier to transport via sea.

- Partners were advised that the next Logistics cluster meeting will take place at 11am next week, Tuesday 9 September. The location will be confirmed.

- 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>Position</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