

LOCATION: PARC Office (Ramallah) WFP Office (Jerusalem) WFP Office (Gaza City)

DATE: 23 September 2014

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED Ramallah), Access Coordination Unit (ACU), Handicap International, International Medical Corps (Gaza), LRC (Ramallah), Ministry of Social Affairs (Ramallah), Muslim Aid (Gaza) Palestinian Agricultural Development Association (PARC Ramallah), PNGO (Ramallah), Shelter Cluster (Gaza), Trade Project (Ramallah), USAID, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), World Food Programme (WFP Gaza, Jerusalem)

ACTION POINTS:

- Logistics Cluster to present future plan to Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) at the next meeting,
- Logistics Cluster to share link for the user evaluation survey,
- Logistics Cluster to share the sources of movement figures reported.

AGENDA:

1. Current humanitarian situation
2. Overall Supplies transported into The Gaza Strip
3. Logistics Cluster Activities
4. AoB

1. Brief on current humanitarian situation

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator welcomed partners in the three meeting locations (Ramallah, Jerusalem and Gaza City) and attendees introduced themselves.

2. Overall Supplies transported into The Gaza Strip

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator presented an overview of supplies transported into the Gaza Strip. The humanitarian cargo that entered Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing since the beginning of the crisis has been primarily UNRWA and smaller amounts from other humanitarian organisations. On 2 September 2014, transport of construction material through the crossing caused an increase in total cargo.
- The Kerem Shalom crossing can handle about 450 trucks per day and with the general increase in cargo entering Gaza, it could reach its maximum capacity soon.
- Information on the opening hours of The West Bank, Israeli and Gaza Strip crossing points for the upcoming holidays has been published on the Logistics Cluster Gaza Emergency operations page, at:
<http://www.logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a>.
- In the meeting a graph was shown with the total number of trucks entering the Gaza Strip via Kerem Shalom, that listed aggregate and cement since 2 September. In regard to a question of the origin of the construction material, UNDP and UNRWA confirmed (after the meeting) Israel as the origin of the cement and aggregate procured.
- Up until 21 September, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the movement of 280 trucks, transporting 7,457 pallets. 44 humanitarian organisations have been supported; the majority were private donors and the Palestinian Authority (PA).

- The Shelter Cluster asked if the figures for general volume moved were available in more detail as they were collecting approximate figures for analysis and future planning purposes. The Logistics Cluster Coordinator responded that for this, additional information was required from the partner organisations that provide the crossing information. A way forward could be to decide on the type of information required and how it can best be collected.
- The end of August was the peak period for the Logistics Cluster to facilitate the transportation of humanitarian relief which has been primarily shelter, WASH and food items.
- The representative from the PA Ministry of Social Affairs asked if the Logistics Cluster had transported medical items on behalf of the Ministry of Health. The Logistics Cluster coordinator confirmed that very limited volumes of medical cargo was transported and it was on behalf of other humanitarian organisations.

3. Logistics Cluster Activities

- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator noted that no reports of any logistical constraints had been reported by partner organization, in response to the request at the last coordination meeting. Transportation and logistics coordination within the West Bank, Israel and the Gaza Strip is functioning.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator shared the proposal of future activities by the Logistics Cluster in response to the Gaza Emergency Operation. The plan is to continue providing free transportation and warehousing services until the end of October. Services will then be provided on a cost recovery basis, through WFP, if required.
- The Shelter Cluster highlighted that they cannot report any constraints because they are awaiting the results of assessments and have no clear information regarding changes to the cargo restrictions.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator clarified that free services by the Logistics Cluster can be provided to support quick humanitarian responses during the most difficult periods. As the current transition to early recovery and rebuilding in the Gaza Strip is focused on medium term support, it is outside of the Logistics Cluster mandate.
- Partners highlighted that many of the population are still living in shelters in the Gaza Strip. Their future needs are currently unclear and access to open markets for minor infrastructure repair projects is limited.
- The Logistics Cluster coordinator suggested that coordination, operational advice and information-sharing continues to be provided until the end of 2014. It would include sharing weekly reports, coordination meetings, statistics and bridging the gap between higher level advocacy and impacts on the logistics operation. The situation would continue to be reviewed as it evolved and the plan revised accordingly. Partners agreed with the outline.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator noted that funding for the above mentioned tasks is currently sufficient, however, if an extension of Information Management and Coordination services is required, additional funds would be sought.

- The ACU confirmed they can assist organisations facing access issues, including for transporting construction material into the Gaza strip.
- The Shelter Cluster highlighted that they expect the workload for coordination and information gathering to increase and accordingly Logistics Cluster staff would be required beyond 2014.
- Partners agreed to the Logistics Cluster proposal and it will be presented at the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) at next meeting.
- The Logistics Cluster Gaza Emergency user evaluation survey is available. Following each activation, an evaluation of Logistics Cluster performance is carried out. Partners were requested to complete the survey before the next meeting when results will be discussed. The survey is accessible at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/user-survey-gaza>.

4. AoB

- USAID introduced the representative from the Trade Project, present at the Ramallah meeting. There have been no developments regarding the Betunia crossing. The Logistics Cluster Coordinator shared that a meeting with the Civil Administration Authority and Erez CLA (Coordination and Liaison Administration), in charge of crossing procedures, had taken place regarding the extension of the crossing opening hours and prioritisation of cargo. Improvements are yet to materialise as additional parties involved are still to reach agreement.
- The measures imposed at the end of last week for trucks no longer able to use the light vehicle crossings from the West Bank into Israel were discussed. Trucks are now only able to use Betunia crossing, which puts increasing pressure on the crossing.
- Reports have been received that cargo transported via Allenby Bridge (Jordan to Israel) will now also have to cross through Betunia before entering Israel. ACU confirmed it is a pre-existing policy but was not previously enforced.
- Information on the current volume of trucks passing through Allenby Bridge, now forced to cross via Betunia was requested. Figures were not available. Partners were advised, however, that the 30 truck crossing per day at Betunia is close to the maximum possible and that any additional volumes would cause a bottleneck. Partners who try to transport cargo via Az Za'ayem were advised that ACU is unable to provide assistance should any issues occur.
- UNRWA asked if any organisations had addressed the issue regarding the new crossing policy with the Israeli Authority as it could contradict UN immunity. ACU confirmed they have spoken with Allenby crossing management and Jerusalem police but they were unable to help.
- Since last week, UNRWA has tried using multiple crossing points but trucks were rerouted to Betunia. Using the crossing limits the cargo that can be transported from the West Bank, forcing a temporary suspension of transportation via Allenby Bridge.

- The sources for the Logistics Cluster cargo movement figures were requested and will be shared in the next report, published on 26 September, at: <http://www.logcluster.org/document/situation-update-19-26-september-2014>.
- Due to the holidays, the next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9 October at 11am. Once confirmed, partners will be notified.

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