

LOCATION: WFP Country Office Jerusalem, WFP office Gaza City

DATE: 4 November 2014

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: PARC Interpeoples' Cooperation (PARCIC), Access Coordination Unit (ACU), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), USAID, Secours Islamique France, World Food Programme (WFP Gaza, Jerusalem), World Health Organization (WHO), Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)

ACTION POINTS:

- ACU to provide clarification on the issue of crossings

AGENDA:

1. Current Humanitarian Situation
2. Partner Roundtable
3. Logistic Cluster Activities
4. Crossing issues
5. AoB

1. Current Humanitarian Situation

- All Clusters are still active and working, based on initial assessments carried out.
- The upcoming winter season poses a major concern for the population of Gaza and a challenge for the Clusters, as the import of shelter material, cement and aggregate materials for reconstruction into Gaza proceeds slowly.
- The situation in and around Gaza is still vulnerable. On 1 November Kerem Shalom crossing from Israel into the Gaza Strip was closed for two consecutive days due to the firing of one rocket from Gaza.

2. Partner Roundtable

- PARCIC recently joined the humanitarian community in Palestine in support of Gaza, and is procuring food and medical items. Transportation options into Gaza for those commodities are under consideration.
- ACU continues to monitor the opening and closing hours of Kerem Shalom crossing, and to provide support to partners. ACU also advised that the Rafah crossing on the Egyptian border will be closed until further notice.
- UNRWA indicated that there have been access constraints in terms of transporting commodities from West Bank crossings into Jerusalem.
- Secours Islamique France noted that they have been shipping non-food items (NFIs) to the Gaza Strip such as hygiene kits, mobile kitchens, blankets and prepared shelter kits.
- USAID reported that it is planning a new project in Gaza for water and sanitation.

3. Logistic Cluster Activities

- Between 30 July and 30 October 2014 the Logistics Cluster has provided a range of logistics services at no cost to the user. Within this timeframe, the Logistics Cluster transported more than 8540 pallets (via 322 trucks), and received 151 requests from 48 different organisations.
- The Logistics Cluster transported an average of approximately 205 pallets per day, and most transportation requests were carried out on behalf of private donors.
- The type of commodities transported into Gaza consisted of Wash and Health items (39%), Shelter (36%) and Food (25%).
- Transportation of aggregate and cement via Kerem Shalom started on 2 September, and following the agreements on 16 September, an average of 40 trucks and up to a maximum of 100 per day entered the Gaza Strip.
- The largest actors for the transportation of aggregate and cement items have been UNRWA and UNDP.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator reminded participants that all relevant information on movement of cargo can be found on the Bi-Weekly Situation update shared on the Logistics Cluster Gaza website: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/gaza14a>
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator informed participants that even though Logistics Cluster free to user operational services have ended, and no requests or interest for a cost recovery operation have been received, the Logistics Cluster can continue to provide logistics related information and details for suppliers if needed.

4. Crossing Issues

- During the conflict, the major bottlenecks and constraints involved crossings from the West Bank. Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza remained open throughout the conflict and there were no major issues.
- In the past, UNRWA has been using non-commercial crossings to move cargo from the West Bank to Jerusalem. If all UNRWA cargo is directed through commercial crossings such as Betunia, this could pose an issue, as pressure on this crossing would increase even further.
- In response to the challenge of limited capacity at Betunia crossing, the Logistics Cluster and WFP have held several meetings with focal points for the Israeli Civil Administration, who agreed to consider an expansion of the crossing to ease transportation of cargo on a daily basis.
- There is a lack of clarity on which crossings (commercial crossings or regular checkpoints) can be used for movement of cargo between West Bank and Jerusalem. Hizma crossing has previously been used for movement of cargo but is no longer used. Hizma is a check point which is primarily used for private vehicular movement. UNRWA, however, has managed to pass their trucks through Hizma for years. As negotiations take place, UNRWA is no longer being allowed to do this and commercial/humanitarian cargo has been restricted to pass through. The Logistics Cluster has asked ACU to provide further clarification on the issue of crossings.

- The Logistics Cluster advised that all organisations share with the Israeli Civil Administration a consolidated and prioritized list of cargo to be moved through crossings in order to reduce bottlenecks at commercial crossings and to ensure that the most needed/life-saving cargo reaches Gaza.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator highlighted the importance of prioritization of cargo in times of emergencies: previous arrangements, coordination, and prioritization are necessary in case crossings such as Betunia have a daily limit for the capacity of a maximum number of trucks.

5. AoB

- The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 2 December at 11:00am in WFP office in Jerusalem.**

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