

**LOCATION:** GOAL Office, Antakya

**DATE:** 01 December 2016

**CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster

**PARTICIPANTS:** Big Heart, Syria Relief, GOAL, CRS, PAH, SAMS, Solidarites, Save the Children, OCHA, UNHCR

**ACTION POINTS:**

- Logistics Cluster to share procedures for crossing of humanitarian personnel in coordination with OCHA.
- Logistics Cluster to share information on Jarablus border crossing in coordination with OCHA.
- Partners to share their suppliers and transporters lists with the Logistics Cluster.
- Logistics Cluster to work on a contact list of Logistics Focal points per organization.
- OCHA and Logistics Cluster to check with Customs if a list of allowed humanitarian items for the transshipment operations can be provided.
- Logistics Cluster to collect info on training needs of partners.
- Logistics Cluster to collect requests and major issues from partners.
- OCHA to check if fuel waiver is working in practice also for NGOs.

**AGENDA:**

1. Introduction
2. Regional Access Constraints
3. Cross-border Operations (via BAH)
4. Trainings
5. A.O.B.

### Introduction

- Most of the participants affirmed to be already familiar with the concept of Logistics Cluster and with the current operations. The last meeting conducted with the NGOs in Antakya was in July 2016.
- A briefing was given on current Logistics Cluster activities in Syria, Jordan and Turkey, where the Logistics Cluster provides coordination, information management and transshipment services.

### Regional Access Constraints

- Both Bab Al-Salam (BAS) and Bab Al-Hawa (BAH) crossings are open and operational for humanitarian, commercial and UN Cargo crossing.
- Airlifts from Damascus to Qamishly continue as Nusaybin border is still closed.

- SAMS noted that Karkamis - Jarabulus border is also open for commercial and humanitarian shipments. For NGOs registered in Turkey, transshipments of humanitarian cargo should be done through Turkish Red Crescent. Those NGOs who want to implement humanitarian projects/activities in Jarabulus directly and have their staff cross the border, will need to liaise with the Governorate of Gaziantep. The Deputy Governor advised that for registration, organizations are to go to the Executive Office of the Governor in person and submit their application on paper there. The Logistics Cluster will share details of focal points separately.
- Airdrop operations are continuing in Deir Ez Zor. No airdrops are currently planned for Eastern Aleppo City.
- Humanitarian convoys inside Syria have been fewer in comparison to previous months. Eastern Aleppo City is currently inaccessible and convoys remain a challenge due to security reasons.
- The humanitarian community in Gaziantep and Damascus are currently working on response plans for Eastern Aleppo City and Raqqa.
- Partners noted that they are not receiving anymore IM products on border crossings from OCHA. Partners can subscribe to the mailing list of OCHA IM products [here](#) to receive updates on border crossings as well.

#### Cross Border Operations (via BAH)

- An update on Cross-border operations was presented to the participants.
- Currently, as per UNSC 2165, 2191, and 2258, only UN and its Implementing Partners are allowed to use the border crossings through BAH and BAS. Discussions are on-going on the inclusion of NGOs.
- Main bottleneck for BAH cross –border operations is the x-ray machine. Customs can only do up to 400 trucks per month which includes commercial and humanitarian shipments. IOM and the Logistics Cluster are looking into the possibility of procuring an x-ray machine. Until and unless there is a separate x-ray machine for the humanitarian agencies, expansion of the cross border operation would be a challenge.
- Partners raised the need to have a list of humanitarian items that can be transhipped to Syria. Currently there is not an official list. OCHA and Logistics Cluster to check with Customs if a list of allowed humanitarian items or prohibited items can be provided.

#### Trainings

- A Warehouse Management Training has been conducted in Gaziantep; about 45 participants from different UN Agencies and NGOs attended. There is a plan to conduct the same training in mid-February in Arabic and potentially in Turkish, depending on the need. NGOs have requested to be informed in advance for this training so that they can plan accordingly and bring their staff from Syria.
- Some participants noted that it would be useful to have a training room at the Zero Point at the Reyhanli border crossing. OCHA has specified that permission from the Turkish Government still has to be granted in this regard.
- Participants highlighted that there is a procedure for Syrian staff to cross into Turkey to attend trainings; at least one month notice should be given. The Logistics Cluster will liaise with OCHA in order to share the necessary documents for humanitarian staff crossing procedure.
- Trainings proposed by the participants include Procurement (Basic or Advanced), Convoy Training, and Defensive Driving (in coordination with UNDSS). The Logistics Cluster will check how many organizations are interested in each training. If there is a sufficient number of interested organizations, trainings can be organized.
- As suggested by other participants, trainings and short courses are also available from [Fritz Institute](#), [Logistics Learning Alliance](#) and [RedR](#).
- The Logistics Cluster emphasized that a Logistics Operational Guide is also available on the Logistics Cluster website [here](#).

#### A.O.B

- The Logistics Capacity Assessment (**LCA**) for Southern Turkey has started. Participants were briefed on the LCA and were encouraged to share their transporter and supplier lists. The lists need to include company name, contact name and phone number, plus items that can be supplied; the Logistics Cluster will not collect rates, and they will not be included in the LCA. The Logistics Cluster will contact partners on this.
- A **Logistics Cluster Lessons Learned** exercise was done last July/August, and one of the major suggestions was also to strengthen the coordination tasks of the Logistics Cluster and the relationship with the NGOs. The final report is available [here](#).

- An **Emergency Preparedness Mission** was recently undertaken in November. The mission also suggested that more Information Management products should be developed and shared with the partners. The final report will be shared with the partners.
- **Fuel** – Currently there is no need for fuel inside Syria, except for Eastern Aleppo City. The current waiver is in place until February 2017 and will be renewed if there is a need. GOAL mentioned that in the past it had attempted to apply to local authorities for the shipment of fuel from Turkey to Syria through BAH, with no success. OCHA will look into the issue. It was mentioned that IOM might do a test to tranship fuel from Turkey into Syria. Participants agreed that there will still be a need to renew the fuel waiver in 2017, in case there will be a fuel emergency in the future.
- **Tax exemptions.** – Currently only NGOs registered in Turkey may apply for tax exemptions, however it is a long and complicated process and it is not granted that tax exemptions will be approved. Some NGOs (among which GOAL, Mercy Corps, CRS) are currently operating under tax exemptions. The Logistics Cluster is compiling a list of issues and requests of the NGOs; another email will be sent to the NGOs in Antakya to ask to spell out their concerns and major issues related to this and other topics.
- **Frequency of Meetings** – Currently, monthly meetings are being held in Gaziantep and ad-hoc meetings were organized in Antakya. It was agreed that monthly meetings will be held in Antakya as well for the partners that are based there. The next meeting in Antakya will be scheduled for January 2017.
- **Contact List** –The Logistics Cluster is working on a contact list of Logistics Focal Points in country and will share it once complete. NGOs were encouraged to circulate information and meeting invitations also to other National and International NGOs.

### Contacts:

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