

LOCATION: IRC Office, Antakya

DATE: 14 February 2017

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS: Big Heart, GOAL, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Syria Relief, UNMM, WFP

ACTION POINTS:

- Logistics Cluster to share information on renewal of regular staff crossing lists from Bab al Hawa and Bab al Salama.
- Organisations interested in taking part in the convoy to Afrin to contact the Logistics Cluster.
- Partners to communicate their training needs to the Logistics Cluster.
- Logistics Cluster to share the partial list of prohibited and limited items.

AGENDA:

1. Regional Access Constraints
2. Turkey Cross-border Operations
3. Trainings
4. A.O.B.

1. Regional Access Constraints

Turkey

- Both Bab Al Hawa (BAH) and Bab Al Salama (BAS) crossing points from Turkey to northern and north-western Syria are operational. However, due to insecurity in Idleb Governorate, the movement of trucks through BAH has been temporarily interrupted at the end of January as partners in Syria were not in a position to receive items.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator in Damascus has sent a request to MOFA for approval to use the Nusaybin-Qamishli crossing-point. Partners will be updated on the progress.

Lebanon

- All official crossing-points from Lebanon to Syria are operational.

Jordan

- Operations at Ramtha border crossing are temporarily suspended due to insecurity in Syria's Dara'a Governorate.

Syria

- Tartous and Latakia ports are fully operational.
- Humanitarian organisations are now able to provide assistance to affected populations in Eastern Aleppo City through normal operations.
- The Logistics Cluster has recirculated recently the assessment done for Fishkhabur/Semalka crossing point in July 2016. There have been no major changes since that assessment.

- Inter-Agency convoys: since the beginning of 2017, three interagency convoys to hard-to-reach and besieged areas have taken place to Moadamiyeh (Rural Damascus Governorate), Talbiseh and Rastan (Homs Governorate).
- Air operations:
 - The airlift operation from Damascus to Qamishli (on a free-to-user basis) as well as the airdrops operation from Amman to Deir-ez-Zor (on a full cost-recovery basis) are proceeding smoothly.
 - Organisations interested in transporting supplies via air operations can reach out to the Logistics Cluster.
 - Updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the airdrops as of February 2017 have been published on the website at the following link: www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-airdrops-february-2017

2. Turkey Cross Border Operations

- A final draft document on Preparedness and Operations Recommendations for Turkey has been shared with agencies in Turkey. Updated flowcharts on the transshipment process for BAH and BAS have also been shared.
- Operations in BAS:
 - Some bottlenecks have been experienced due to the problems related to the X-ray machine.
 - The hub owner has agreed to increase the labour workers from seven to eight per truck.
 - The scanning of the Syrian trucks has been suspended since the end of 2016 and so far no updates were received from OCHA in this regard.
- Operations in BAH:
 - Scanning of Syrian trucks has been suspended since the end of 2016 in BAH as well.
 - Over the past week, trucks have been going to Idleb Governorate without bottlenecks, even though the security situation is extremely unpredictable.
 - IOM is planning to procure a mobile X-ray machine. Partners will be kept informed on the developments.
- Over the past two weeks OCHA has been contacting Heads of Agencies on the possibility to deliver commodities to Afrin and eastern areas such as Membij, Kobane and potentially Tell Abiad. Afrin would be done from BAH, Membij and Kobane from BAS.
- The quality of Syrian trucks has sometimes not been of the required standard. Organisations were reminded to raise the issue also with their Implementing partners.
- Organisations were reminded to comply with the transshipment SOPs and to avoid as much as possible requests for last minute transshipments that put a strain on the relationship between the Logistics Cluster and Turkish authorities.

3. Trainings

- The Logistics Cluster is organising two trainings during March:

- A Warehouse Management training will be conducted in Arabic on 13-14 March in Antakya. Organisations will be able to bring attendants from Syria following the procedures for the crossing of humanitarian personnel provided by OCHA and already shared with partners.
- A Basic Procurement Training will be conducted in English in Gaziantep on 16-17 March.
- Participants will be responsible for organising travel and accommodation for their staff, while the Logistics Cluster will provide lunch and coffee breaks.
- Organisations are invited to raise additional training needs with the Logistics Cluster.

4. A.O.B

- No news has been received on the fuel waiver from OCHA or IOM so far. A certification from the supplier was missing so IOM could not proceed with the trial.
- Custom authorities provided the Logistics Cluster with a partial list of prohibited and limited items that is being translated in English and Turkish and will be shared.
- The logistics focal point list has been updated and will soon be shared.
- The Logistics Cluster will share a matrix on road conditions and average time of travel between locations in northern Syria. Partners are invited to fill the matrix with the information they have available – this will be compiled by the Logistics Cluster.
- Implementing partners are encouraged to be present at BAH during transshipment operations.
- IRC is looking for information on transfer of agricultural seeds, fertilizers and agricultural products. The Logistics Cluster will provide them with an FAO contact.
- Regular staff crossing lists are being renewed at both BAH and BAS. Communications and guidelines have been shared by the Logistics Cluster. For further issues and questions, partners may also contact OCHA, who facilitate this process.
- IMC is working on a market survey and suppliers list and has reached out to various NGOs but only a few have responded so far. The Logistics Cluster is also working on the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) that will be shared as soon as ready.

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