COVID-19 Mitigation Measures – Bab al-Hawa Transshipment
Syria Operation, 9 April 2020

OVERALL

The Logistics Cluster provides coordination support and facilitates common services for cross-border operations from Turkey into Syria. WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, coordinates the cross-loading of cargo from Turkish to Syrian trucks inside the transhipment hub. Transhipment operations are supervised by the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM).

HUB CAPACITY

The Logistics Cluster has set up a transhipment hub at Bab al-Hawa to avoid congestion at the border and ensure the quick transfer and delivery of humanitarian cargo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical capacity</th>
<th>Staff numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max. capacity (trucks daily)</td>
<td>110 Logistics Cluster staff 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest number transshipped</td>
<td>106 UNMM staff 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average daily trucks in 2019</td>
<td>27 Labour and truck drivers 6 per truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average daily trucks in 2020</td>
<td>43 Customs 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max. trucks/convoy</td>
<td>22 Security 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At Bab al-Hawa, a total of 360 UN staff, workers, drivers, customs and security are required to make five convoys of 22 trucks. There are a maximum of five convoys in one day, and it takes two hours to complete the transhipment of one convoy.

MITIGATION MEASURES IN PLACE

As per the latest WHO guidelines (here), the Logistics Cluster has put in place health and safety protocols, such as:

- Defined cycles for frequent cleaning and disinfection of floors, work surfaces and other targeted areas.
- Easy access and increased availability of alcohol-based hand sanitizer, tissues and disinfectant wipes in high-contact areas.
  - Installation of extra hand washing facilities.
  - Hand sanitizer bottles are regularly filled, and tissues and wipes are regularly replaced.
  - Located at all areas of the hubs, including at the entrance.
  - Hand washing is mandatory upon entrance to the hub. Truck drivers must do so once parked inside the hub.
  - All are requested to wash their hands periodically once inside.
- Avoid gathering and respect one metre physical distancing:
  - Extra office space for the staff.
  - Resting areas have been specifically allocated, including a dedicated area of 400 m² for workers.
  - Truck drivers may not gather with others. They must stay inside or stand in front of their truck for the full duration of the transhipment operation. Food and drink must be delivered and consumed inside the truck.
  - Transporter companies have been briefed and drivers will be denied entry in case of non-compliance.

https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
• Increase the distance between the trucks when parked during operations to 1.5 meters.
• Increased the number of bins and the frequency of rubbish removal services.
• Checking temperature at the entrance.
• Only allowing authorised personnel to enter the hub (registry upon entrance).
• Workers are requested to refrain from leaving the hub during working hours. To facilitate this, the cluster will ensure that food and drink will be delivered and accommodate for any special requirement.

In addition to these, the cluster will raise awareness on preventive actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as:
• Inviting the Turkish Red Crescent to come to the hub on a regular basis to raise awareness of the workers and staff on COVID-19.
• Promotion and monitoring of regular and thorough handwashing of all those inside the hubs.
• Promotion of proper respiratory hygiene inside the hubs.
• Requesting staff to self-monitor their health, and stay at home even with minor symptoms.
• The Customer Service phone number of the Turkish Ministry of Health that can be called 24/7 in case of a suspected case of COVID-19 is 184.
• Workshops and trainings for the team leaders of the workers and truck drivers to strengthen the awareness of workers.
  o Workers must now wash hands before and after the transhipment of each truck.
  o Communication sent to truck companies briefing them on the new measures and facilities.
• Posters and visibility items from the Health Cluster in English, Arabic and Turkish on hygiene.

These measures are in addition to the checks made by Turkish authorities at the border, which check the temperature of drivers upon entry to Turkey.

MITIGATION MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE

To further improve the measures that have already been taken, the cluster will also apply the following:
• Provide masks if locally available in quantity and quality.
• Wash down of the hub parking space (if requested or recommended by authorities).
• Explore the option of expanding the transhipment yard once truck numbers reach a certain daily threshold.
• Schedule daily truck bookings and implement a shift system to reduce the number of people present at the hub.

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christophe Vial</td>
<td>Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christophe.vial@wfp.org">christophe.vial@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halil Cepoglu</td>
<td>Logistics Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:halil.cehoglu@wfp.org">halil.cehoglu@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a](https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a)