
Meeting Minutes, 1 April 2020

Syria Operation, Damascus



This is an unofficial UN meeting record and should not be considered as a verbatim account of the UN meeting or position.

LOCATION	Damascus, Syria
DATE	1 April 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster will share the list of PPE suppliers compiled by the Procurement Working Group (PWG).• I/NGOs to share more details on how they expect their logistics activities to be impacted by COVID-19.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Whole of Syria Update2. COVID-19 preparedness3. Operational Updates4. AOB

1. Whole of Syria Update

Whole of Syria update

- In February, the Logistics Cluster received 2,012 m³ (equivalent to 67 x 20' containers) of WASH, Food Security and Health items on behalf of FAO, UNFPA and WHO into common storage in Rural Damascus and Qamishli.
- All Service Request Forms (SRFs) for long-standing cargo in common storage have been re-submitted and are within the 90-day period.
- To prepare for a potential scale-up in activities due to COVID-19, the Logistics Cluster has collected partner warehousing and transportation capacity in-country and mapping is ongoing.

Crossborder, Turkey hubs

- In March, the Logistics Cluster coordinated the transshipment of 1,405 Syrian trucks: 1,233 through Bab al-Hawa; and 172 through Bab al-Salam, transporting 30,000 MT of assistance into the northwest.
- Conditional approval to allow transshipment operations to be undertaken in the dedicated transshipment hub in Kilis has been granted. Conditions: all Syrian trucks crossing into Turkey must have insurance in Turkey
- Mapping of warehousing space inside the northwest is ongoing to coordinate any gaps in storage.

2. COVID-19 Preparedness

- The Logistics Cluster has set up a Supply Chain Working Group with participation from the UN agencies, ICRC and SARC to:
 - Map overall existing Logistics Capacity of the UN, SARC and ICRC in-country and identify logistics gaps in relation to the needs expressed by WHO/Health Cluster.
 - Map supply routes into Syria and monitor these to quickly identify any potential supply bottlenecks.
 - Streamline access related concerns through the Logistics Cluster for OCHA to advocate for fast-tracking of approval processes.
- The Logistics Cluster is sharing daily updates on the status of Points Of Entry (POE) and checkpoints via the mailing list.
- In addition to common warehouse services, the cluster is exploring the possibility of facilitating access to free-to-user transportation for items related to the COVID-19 response. This will be dependent on funding.
- I/NGOs are encouraged to inform the cluster on any current logistics needs, or predicted needs as a result of COVID-19, to allow for the cluster to have a clear picture on how it can strategise its response.
- Gruppo Volontariato Civile (GVC), which mostly works in the education sector, advised that it is not yet clear how COVID-19 will impact their activities.
- Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH) are in touch with donors regarding their WASH activities in Rural Damascus. Main challenges lie in the procurement of certain critical items, and currently there are no options for international procurement.
- WFP Supply Chain and WFP Programme met to discuss and plan for the possible different scenarios that could unfold at governorate level because of potential future preventive measures taken by government against COVID-19. WFP agreed to share the different observations and considerations made with partners.
- WFP also advised that it is making secondary transportation options available. These are small trucks that could be used by other humanitarian organisations on a cost-recovery basis. Practical modalities are detailed in WFP SLA.
- The Procurement Working Group (PWG) has compiled a list of PPE suppliers, and the Logistics Cluster will share this list via the mailing list.
- For a global view on activities related to responding to COVID-19, the following Global Logistics Cluster page has a lot of logistics related resources: <https://logcluster.org/COVID-19>.

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3. Operational Updates

Convoy to Atareb

- A convoy is being planned to Atareb with a tentative date of 13 April.
- A meeting with OCHA, SARC, ICRC and the Logistics Cluster was held last week to discuss initial steps and items that would be sent. A follow-up meeting will be held on 2 April. Once the technicalities are finalised, the Logistics Cluster will contact UN agencies for their lists of items.

4. AOB

- The Logistics Cluster will begin posting Information Management Products and Meeting Minutes to the website, to make information more readily available.

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place in two weeks' time by teleconference. Details will be communicated at a later date.

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