
Meeting Minutes, 11 May 2020

Syria Operation, Damascus



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LOCATION	Damascus, Syria
DATE	11 May 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, International Medical Corps (IMC), Intersos, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), ZOA International.
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster will share the PPE tender SOP via the mailing list on behalf of UNFPA.• The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, will explore possibility of monitoring incoming international/commercial cargo flights into Damascus.• The Logistics Cluster to share UNHAS Standard Administrative and Operating Procedures (SAOPs) via the mailing list.• The cluster to send update regarding points of entry via the mailing list.• The cluster will share further details regarding the ECHO flights via the mailing list.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. COVID-19 Updates2. UNHAS Updates3. Operational Updates4. AOB

1. COVID-19 Updates

Global Response

- All documents relating to the COVID-19 Global Supply Chain System have been shared via the mailing list.
- The cluster reminded partners that any humanitarian organisation may sign up to WFP's [COVID-19 Emergency Service Marketplace](#). All service are provided on a free-to-user basis.
- Partners are invited to contact the cluster for any further information if required by contacting Peter Liddiard at: peter.liddiard@wfp.org.

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Inside Syria

- The Health Sector inside Syria has compiled a list of COVID-19 health related requirements for the next three to six months for the Syria response. This list has been submitted to Whole of Syria (WoS) Health Cluster.
- This list will be submitted to the [Supply Portal](#) and the Logistics Cluster has been informed by the WoS Health Cluster that it will be notified once these items are purchased by the consortia and are in the pipeline for Syria.
- WFP Headquarters will notify WFP Syria Country Office as and when COVID-19 related items are in the pipeline for Syria. The Logistics Cluster will act as focal point for receipt of these notifications and will hence have full visibility on all incoming dispatches.
- Some organisations informed the cluster that they are already taking advantage of WFP's Emergency Service Marketplace.
- WFP will not be able to act as consignee and each organisation will have to undertake their own customs clearance.
- For additional visibility on incoming consignments, the cluster, through WFP, will explore the possibility of monitoring incoming cargo flights into Damascus.

PPE Procurement

- UNFPA informed the Logistics Cluster that the tender closing date for the procurement of PPEs for Damascus-based NGOs (DINGOs) closed on 10 May.
- The bid receipt, opening and evaluation is scheduled for this week.
- The contract award and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on how the DINGOs may be able to use the tender will be shared by UNFPA with the Logistics Cluster by next week. DINGOs will have to follow the instructions outlined in the SOPs once these have been shared.
- The Logistics Cluster will share the SOPs on UNFPA's behalf via the mailing list.

2. UNHAS Updates

- UNHAS will charter Aircraft CRJ200 (50-seater). However, due to COVID-19, only up to 25 pax will be allowed to board to allow for physical distancing.
- Deployment is pending confirmation of COVID-19 testing protocols for passengers and crew.
- Fuel and ground handling will be ensured by commercial providers.
- Registration of user organisations has commenced. Booking requests by email to start. E-booking training and implementation scheduled for the coming weeks.
- UNHAS SAOP was approved by its Steering Committee on 24 April 2020 and was shared by UNHAS via its User Group mailing list.
- The Logistics Cluster will share the SAOP via the mailing list for all partners.

- Any organisations that do not receive updates directly from the UNHAS mailing list are encouraged to join the User Group mailing list. Interested parties may contact Peter Liddiard at: peter.liddiard@wfp.org.

3. Operational Updates

- The last border update was presented to partners.
- WFP informed the Logistics Cluster that cargo flights (both commercial and humanitarian) between Damascus and Qamishli have started again. The Logistics Cluster will send a points of entry (POE) update to partners.

Convoy to Atareb

- The convoy has been put on hold until further notice due to COVID-19 cases being reported in A'frin.
- SARC and ICRC are continuing to explore options for undertaking a crossline delivery to Atareb.

4. AOB

OCHA request for facilitation letter approvals

- The Logistics Cluster, at the request of OCHA, has sent an email to UN agencies requesting information on all stock movement inside Syria since January 2020.
- In addition to the above, OCHA Access would like to begin monitoring the approval frequency and period required to receive approval for both importation and transportation of all organisations acting inside Syria. This is to support advocacy for access to benefit all organisations.
- OCHA Access and the Logistics Cluster will meet to discuss what the data collection tool will include and pitch it to cluster partners.
- Before finalising the collection tool, it will be shared with all partners for feedback on the ease of use of the tool.

ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB) initiative

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that ECHO has recently launched the Humanitarian Air Bridge (HAB) initiative which has as objective to support the transport of humanitarian workers and emergency supplies for the COVID-19 response to some of the most critical areas around the world. Partners have been encouraged to share any needs with the Logistics Cluster to ensure these are relayed to ECHO.
- The cluster will share further details regarding the HAB via the mailing list.
- Some organisations requested further details on flights to allow the movement of staff and personnel.
- WFP advised that WFP Aviation provides air transport capacity for humanitarian staff to ensure movement of personnel. However, currently there are no flights planned for the region. The cluster will keep partners informed regarding updates on international movement of personnel.

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- UNHAS is exploring opening an airbridge from Damascus to Doha. Further details will be shared as they become available.

Shipment delays to Deir-ez-Zor

- One organisation advised that they have been facing delays in delivering items by road to Deir-Ez-Zor.
- OCHA Access will follow up bilaterally to investigate the issue and support with expediting the shipment.
- Organisations that wish to have more information on Logistics Cluster services and how to access these can consult the website at: <https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a>

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

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