
Meeting Minutes, 11 June 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	11 June 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), German Red Cross, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Secours Islamique France (SIF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), World Food Programme (WFP).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster to follow up with UNFPA on the PPE shared tender and share any updates with the mailing list.• Logistics Cluster share the VAM presentation via the mailing list.• The Logistics Cluster to follow up with other organisations regarding impact on logistics activities in-country.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. COVID-19 Updates2. Markets, Prices and Impact on Logistics Activities3. Gaps and Needs Analysis4. Operational Updates5. AOB

1. COVID-19 Updates

Global

- To date, no COVID-19 related items are in the pipelines for Syria through either [WHO's Supply Portal](#) or [WFP's Emergency Service Marketplace \(ESM\)](#).
- In April, the Logistics Cluster shared all guidance documents on the subject via the mailing list.
- For a good summary of the whole system, partners can watch the video on the following [link](#).

Inside Syria

- The Resident Coordinator has designated a Supply Chain Coordinator from WHO, who will be responsible for validating all COVID-19 related requests made by organisations on the WHO Supply Portal. The Logistics Cluster will provide direct support.
- The cluster reminded participants that each and every organisations should sign up to WHO's Supply Portal and to WFP's ESM, and make requests for their own organisations.
- The cluster advised that partners wishing to make requests coordinate with the Health Sector to ensure these requests be in line with the Health Sector's COVID-19 response plan.

- The Supply Coordinator for the Syria response will validate the request before it reaches the Control Tower in Geneva. For further information on the process, please see [this flow-chart](#).
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-operations>

PPE Procurement

- UNFPA with support from UNICEF and UNHCR finalised the evaluation and contract award for the joint procurement of PPE covering the needs of several organisations operating inside Syria.
- The Logistics Cluster shared an email on behalf of UNFPA with all guidance documents required for organisations to benefit from the tender.
- Organisations during the meeting inquired as to whether there would be a possibility to extend the validity of the tender. The Logistics Cluster will follow up with UNFPA for further details.

2. Markets, Prices and Impact on Logistics Activities

Presentation: Vulnerability, Analysis and Mapping (VAM)

- WFP VAM is a unit in WFP which analyses and monitors food security to inform WFP on needs. This relies to some degree on market analysis.
- VAM gave partners a short presentation focusing mainly on market monitoring inside Syria and provided analysis on the price trends. The Logistics Cluster will share the presentation via the mailing list.
- The following public link denotes price trends in Syria, with reference to WFP's food basket prices: https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/prices
- One particular area of discussion was regarding the recent changes in the informal exchange rates for the Syrian Pound (SYP) in the last week. These have impacted some organisations' logistics operations, mainly in terms of transport contracting.

Impact on logistics activities

- WFP Logistics confirmed that the recent fluctuations in the informal exchange rate are impacting their contractual agreements with transporters.
- They added that although diesel price did not increase, transport prices have increased by approximately 25%.
- The most notable factor for the increase in price is the maintenance of trucks.
- Spare parts for trucks are imported, which has led to an increase in price for these.
- WFP broadly estimates that maintenance makes up around 30% of the total transportation cost.
- PUI echoed this and advised that their LTA with their transporter increased by 10%, where the transporter noted the same concerns on maintenance.
- UNHCR on the other hand has to date not noted an increase in transportation costs.
- UNFPA bilaterally communicated before the meeting that market volatility has led to a lack of commitment in supplier prices, noting an increase in prices in general.

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- More broadly, organisations - both during the meeting and bilaterally with the Logistics Cluster prior to the meeting - noted that in the past week, suppliers are in some cases withdrawing offers and that there is a general lack of commitment to prices due to uncertainty on the market.
- The Logistics Cluster will follow up with other agencies to further understand the effects of the recent changes.

3. AOB

- The final two agenda points of the meeting were not covered due to insufficient time. These will be discussed at a following meeting.

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