
Meeting Minutes, 6 July 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	6 July 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), German Red Cross, International Medical Corps (IMC), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster to follow up with the Emergency Service Marketplace (ESM) to get an update on the status of one organisation's request.• Organisations to revert as to whether they have signed up to ESM and Supply Portal.• The cluster to share the following with partners:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Externally available logistics trainings with partners.○ Mid-year user satisfaction survey.○ WFP COVID-19 mitigation measures during logistics activities.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. COVID-19 Updates2. Operational Updates3. Gaps and Needs Analysis4. AOB

1. COVID-19 Updates

Global

- For a good summary of the whole system, partners can watch the video at the following [link](#). For further information on the process, please see [this flow-chart](#).

Inside Syria

- The Logistics Cluster reminded organisations that they may all sign up to both:
 - [WHO's Supply Portal](#); and
 - [WFP's Emergency Service Marketplace \(ESM\)](#).
- Some organisations reported signing up to these and are submitting requests.
- Organisations were requested to check internally with relevant units whether they are signed up to the portal and input requests.

Meeting Minutes, 6 July 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.

- WHO informed partners that they are expecting a shipment of three month's worth of PPE (masks, gloves and hand sanitizer) to arrive in Beirut from Dubai next week. The items are being shipped by air through WFP.
- WHO to revert on whether this shipment includes requirements for NGOs.
- Some organisations present reported using the local market for the procurement of between three to four months' worth of PPE requirements for their staff (non-health response related).
- One organisation reported having COVID-19 related items in Dubai ready for transport to Syria. The request has been submitted to the ESM, but to date no feedback has yet been provided. The Logistics Cluster to follow up with the ESM to get an update on the status of this request.

PPE Procurement

- At the request of organisations from the previous meeting, the Logistics Cluster sent an email to partners informing them that UNFPA successfully extended the validity of the shared local PPE tender to 10 August 2020.

2. Operational Updates

UNHAS

- UNHAS undertook its first flight to Qamishli on 2 July 2020.
- The next flight scheduled for 5 July was rescheduled for 9 July.
- UNHAS Standard Administrative and Operating Procedures registration and booking forms can be found on the Logistics Cluster website [here](#).

Logistics Cluster air cargo transport service to northeast Syria

- The Logistics Cluster received USD 200,000 from the OCHA Syria Humanitarian Fund COVID-19 reserve allocation for the implementation of an air cargo transport service from Damascus to Qamishli.
- The service will be free of charge to humanitarian organisations registered with the Government of Syria.
- Organisations are now able to submit Service Request Forms to syria.clustercargo@wfp.org. As flights are organised on an ad hoc basis, requests will be compiled ahead of organising a flight. A date for the rotation is set in coordination with the requesting organisations.
- Organisations are required to obtain all necessary transport approvals prior.

Import approvals

- The import approval process has reportedly changed, whereby now import approvals are only valid for three months. Prior to this, import approvals were valid indeterminately.
- Extensions may be only granted after the approval has been obtained by the importing entity, during the three month period.
- There are concerns from some organisations that this could make the importation of sensitive items more challenging, particularly with regards to insulin.

- Organisations present at the meeting are yet to import insulin into the country. The cluster encourages organisations to share their experience with importing insulin to ensure all organisations can benefit from each other's experience.

3. Markets, Prices and Impact on Logistics Activities

Markets, Prices and Impact on Logistics Activities

- WFP conducted a survey with transporters to further understand the impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian supply chains in-country.
- Although an impact to logistics activities as a result of COVID-19 measures - such as movement restrictions and curfews - was noted, most concerns were related to recent economic developments.
- Key findings from the survey:
 - An ageing truck fleet.
 - Costs for spare parts increased by 100 percent since March.
 - Labour costs increased by 50 percent.
 - Above factors have led to an increase in the cost of fleet maintenance.
 - 28 percent increase in overall transport costs noted over the period between April and May. This is mostly down to costs related to maintenance.
 - No significant impact to fuel to date, however, concerns over future fuel price and availability were recorded.
 - No perceived shortage of trucks.
- Some organisations during the meeting confirmed that similar discussions are taking place with their respective transporters.
- In response to transporter concerns around fuel, WFP will further study the fuel market in-country, fuel requirements and solutions in preparation for any potential challenges that might arise in the future.

3. AOB

- The Logistics Cluster will share its mid-year user satisfaction survey via the mailing list. This will allow organisations to provide feedback on the cluster's performance in 2020 so far, and provide the space and opportunity for suggestions to improve and tailor its strategy.
- One organisation suggested making online logistics trainings available to the humanitarian community in Syria, especially with recent restrictions resulting from COVID-19. The Logistics Cluster will explore the idea, and share any training links externally available via the mailing list.
- WFP asked about partner experience with regards to COVID-19 measures for logistics operations.
- The Logistics Cluster will share WFP mitigation measures for its logistics activities via the mailing list to facilitate discussion with partners on the topic.

Meeting Minutes, 6 July 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.

Contacts

Christophe Morard	<i>Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	christophe.morard@wfp.org
Najd Alchaar	<i>Logistics Associate</i>	najd.alchaar@wfp.org
Dima Salloum	<i>RITA Tracking Officer</i>	dima.salloum@wfp.org
Peter Liddard	<i>Information Management Officer</i>	peter.liddard@wfp.org