
Meeting Minutes, 30 August 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	30 August 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (ACF), International Medical Corps (IMC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OCHA to contact UN agencies bilaterally regarding administrative delays at Tabqa.• OCHA will share a shortened version of the operational plan to Atareb.• The Logistics Cluster to share the presentation of the mid-year user satisfaction survey.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Beirut Port Status Update2. Operational Updates3. Gaps and Needs4. AOB

1. Beirut Port Status Update

- Beirut port is operational for both commercial and humanitarian cargo movements. Customs operations and offloading capacity are at 50 per cent, with delays of between four to five days.
- 15 per cent of all UN imports for Syria come through Beirut port.
- WFP imports through Beirut account for between 20 and 30 per cent.
- After the explosion at Beirut port on 4 August, 29 WFP containers were diverted from Beirut port to Tripoli port.
- No further WFP cargo has been diverted and all WFP cargo is being offloaded at Beirut port.
- UNHCR advised that prior to the explosion, they used Beirut port as a transit point to deliver shipments to Syria, however since the explosion, shipping lines changed the transit point from Beirut port to other ports in the region.
- UNHCR reports that this change is leading to increased lead times for the arrivals of their shipments to Syria from seven to ten days.
- No other organisations present at the meeting reported an impact to their operations so far.
- Tartous and Lattakia ports are now operating at full capacity. Staffing numbers returned to normal at the beginning of August.

2. Operational Updates

UNHAS

- UNHAS is planning a mission to Deir-Ez-Zor at the beginning of September.
- UNHAS will conduct an aviation assessment, as well as continuing access negotiations with authorities.
- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in September. UNHAS will share further details ahead of time.
- Flights from Damascus to Qamishli continue to operate normally. The schedule can be found on the Logistics Cluster website [here](#).
- UNHAS Standard Administrative and Operating Procedures and registration and booking forms can be found on the Logistics Cluster website [here](#).
- UNHAS cargo transport capacity is limited. For organisations wishing to use an air cargo service, please see below.

Logistics Cluster air cargo transport service to northeast Syria

- This service is a separate activity from UNHAS.
- The Logistics Cluster received USD 200,000 funding from the OCHA Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) 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 will be set in coordination with the requesting organisations.
- Organisations are required to obtain all necessary transport approvals prior to departure to ensure timely release.

Access

- UN agencies present at the meeting reported delays of up to ten days at Tabqa.
- OCHA will contact UN agencies bilaterally for further details to advocate with relevant authorities for the expedition of humanitarian cargo crossings at Tabqa.

Inter-agency crossline mission to Atareb

- OCHA informed the participants that high level discussions on plans for a crossline mission to Atareb, rural Aleppo are ongoing.
- OCHA advised that a shortened version of the operational plan will be submitted to involved parties.
- The mission is planned for mid-September.

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3. Gaps and Needs

- Some organisations have voiced the need for additional storage space in Deir-Ez-Zor. Organisations are encouraged to share storage requirements with the cluster.
- Partners were informed that to date, no organisations have submitted requests for the air cargo service to Qamishli.
- If no needs are expressed, the cluster will return the SHF COVID-19 grant.

4. AOB

- The Logistics Cluster presented the results of its mid-year user satisfaction survey. The presentation will be shared via the mailing list.
- The overall satisfaction rate as reported in the survey is 89 per cent.
- Partners agreed that regular cluster meetings can continue to be held on a monthly basis.
- Additional ad hoc meetings can be held where needs arise and upon request.

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