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# Meeting Minutes, 26 November 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.*

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<b>LOCATION</b>	Damascus, Syria
<b>DATE</b>	26 November 2020
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Cluster
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	German Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 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).
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UNRWA to provide further details regarding vehicle and generator basic repair and maintenance module and fuel storage facilities.</li><li>• Logistics Cluster to share OCHA's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for humanitarian assistance to North East Syria (NES).</li><li>• Logistics Cluster to share its fuel SOPs once cleared internally begin sharing diesel prices on weekly basis.</li><li>• Logistic Cluster to share its airlift SOPs once cleared internally.</li><li>• Logistic Cluster to contact organisations bilaterally on training needs.</li></ul>
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Operational Updates</li><li>2. Logistics Gaps and Needs</li><li>3. Fuel</li><li>4. AOB</li></ol>

## 1. Operational Updates

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- Based on partner requests, the Logistics Cluster submitted a request for a no-cost extension (NCE) to OCHA for the COVID-19 allocation of the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF). The extension is for six months and would run until 25 May 2021.
- The allocation of USD 200,000 was for the implementation of a free-to-user air cargo transport service from Damascus to Qamishli in the northeast (NES). This service is separate from UNHAS.
- The Logistics Cluster has identified different aircraft options for this service that can transport up to 30 mt. Each aircraft will be chartered on an ad-hoc basis based on partners' transport needs and according to the nature of the cargo (weight, volume and type).
- Organisations who wish to transport items from Damascus to Qamishli by air or simply wish to obtain further information on the service can contact: [Syria.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:Syria.clustercargo@wfp.org).

## 2. Logistics Gaps and Needs

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- Organisations advised that their transportation costs have increased following the fuel shortages experienced in September.
- If required, the Logistics Cluster can look into facilitating access to common transport options and encouraged partners to share any gaps and needs with the cluster.
- Organisations raised challenges relating to administrative access constraints and delays to NES.
- OCHA recommends that cleared facilitation letters intended for Al-Tabqa are shared via email and WhatsApp with OCHA Qamishli.
  - Email: [moteran@un.org](mailto:moteran@un.org).
  - Copying OCHA Damascus on [ochasyriaaccess@un.org](mailto:ochasyriaaccess@un.org).
- OCHA will also share a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with the Logistics Cluster that lays out in detail what is required to reach NES and best practices to avoid unnecessary delays and challenges. The Logistics Cluster will share this via its mailing list.
- UNRWA advised that they have a workshop for mechanical repairs for vehicles and generators. For further information on accessing the services provided by UNRWA, partners can contact: [peter.liddiard@wfp.org](mailto:peter.liddiard@wfp.org).

## 3. Fuel

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- The Logistics Cluster conducted a more detailed fuel needs assessment in October and presented its findings.
- According to partner inputs, overall humanitarian average monthly requirements are:
  - Diesel: 243,00 litres;
  - Petrol: 135,000 litres.
- Further details from the assessment can be shared upon request.
- WFP Vulnerability Assessment and Monitoring unit (VAM) monitors diesel prices on both the retail and parallel markets. The Logistics Cluster will start to share this data on a weekly basis via the mailing list.
- The Logistics Cluster is also updating SOPs and other documentation regarding fuel provision. Once cleared internally, the cluster will compile and share these with partners for feedback and suggestions.
- The Logistics Cluster encourages organisation to share their contingency plan in case of potential future shortages, if any.
- UNRWA informed attendees that it has just finalised a project for maintaining a strategic fuel stock in its compound in Damascus, capacity 80,000 litres. This capacity could be split to accommodate both diesel and petrol according to needs.
- UNRWA invites other organisations to use its facilities to maintain a contingency stock of their own.

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- UNRWA to share details on the project and how organisations take advantage of this via the Logistics Cluster.

## 4. AOB

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### Training in 2021

- The Logistics Cluster will contact organisations bilaterally to obtain information on training needs.
- Training needs voiced by partners should show a clear link to identified gaps in the organisation's logistics capacity. The trainings would help to fill the gap and improve the overall performance of the organisation.

### Strategic Advisory Group

- The Logistics Cluster suggested establishing a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for within Syria. The SAG would act as a consultative body to the Logistics Cluster made up of technical experts in the field of humanitarian logistics, and it would represent the community of cluster partners in Syria.
- An ad-hoc meeting on the SAG will be called at a later stage for further discussion.

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## Contacts

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