LOCATION
Damascus, Syria

DATE
7 March 2021

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East (GOPA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

ACTION POINTS
- OCHA and relevant organisations to touch base bilaterally with regards to movement approvals.
- Logistics Cluster to follow-up with UNRWA on fuel storage proposal.
- Logistics Cluster to share OCHA survey on exchange rate and fuel impact.
- Logistics Cluster to share warehouse and transport market survey template via mailing list for partner inputs.
- Partners to provide feedback to the Logistics Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Terms of Reference (ToRs).

AGENDA
1. Logistics Gaps and Needs
2. Operational Updates
3. Fuel
4. AOB

1. Logistics Gaps and Needs

- Several organisations expressed difficulties in obtaining approvals for cargo and people movement from Damascus to Deir ez-Zor. OCHA will follow up bilaterally with organisations to address issues.
- Members raised there is an overall shortage of petrol, with continued reports of long queues at fuel stations for the purchase of petrol.
- Fuel shortages and exchange rate developments have led some suppliers to cancelling contracts with humanitarian organisations.
- Partners recommended the establishment of common fuel storage facilities open to all partners to try to address the fuel issue.
- The Logistics Cluster will follow up with UNRWA bilaterally to obtain updates on their common fuel storage proposal.
The Logistics Cluster informed partners that OCHA will launch a survey to gauge the impact that the exchange rate and fuel shortages are having on organisations’ implementation of programmes and operations. The Logistics Cluster will share the link to the survey via the mailing list once it is available.

2. Operational Updates

- The Logistics Cluster is undertaking a Gaps and Needs Analysis in-country.
- The Logistics Cluster will be undertaking a warehouse and transport market survey. A template will be sent out via the mailing list for partner inputs.
- A no-cost extension has been secured for the air cargo transport route from Damascus to Qamishli funded through the Syria Humanitarian Fund. The free-to-user air cargo transport is available until 25 May.

**Note Verbale – Import and Movement requests**

- In December 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) sent a Note Verbale (NV) to the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, which requested that all international humanitarian organisations operating inside Syria follow the already existing movement and import approval mechanisms that are in place.
- The Logistics Cluster called a meeting to address the issue raised in the NV and minutes can be shared upon request. Based upon this meeting, the organisations present agreed to communicate with their suppliers to ensure compliance, and OCHA responded to MoFA accordingly.
- In March 2021, MoFA sent a second NV again requesting organisations to follow procedures in place. OCHA will follow up with both the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and their focal point at MoFA, before providing a second response to MoFA.
- Partners will be kept informed of developments and whether any action is required on their part.

3. Fuel

**Diesel Prices**

- The Logistics Cluster presented national diesel price trends over 2020/21 and prices by governorate.
- National Formal Market Average up to mid-February 2021 stood at **SYP 174 per litre**.
- National Informal Market Average up to mid-February 2021 stood at **SYP 1,165 per litre**.
- For a full breakdown, please refer to the WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) data [here](https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a).

**Ongoing activities**

- As part of its contingency plan, WFP as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, sent a NV to MoFA requesting a high-level meeting with the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPRM) to raise the issue of recurring shortages, present the impact it has on partner operations, and look for a joint solution to ensure a consistent and uninterrupted humanitarian fuel supply.
- MoFA is yet to respond, and the Logistics Cluster will keep partners updated with any news.
4. AOB

COVAX
- UNICEF and WHO have carried out a country-wide assessment which includes cold chain capacity in-country. The Logistics Cluster will try to obtain the assessment for information sharing.

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)
- In December 2020, the cluster shared a draft ToR for the SAG, which was shared again in March 2021.
- Partners are encouraged to read the documents and provide feedback.

Contacts

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