

LOCATION: WFP Office, Gaziantep

DATE: 14 December 2016

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS: Solidarites International, IMC, WeltHungerHilfe (WHH), OCHA, IOM, Violet, UNHCR, Global Communities, Mercy Corps, FAO, TRC, Big Heart, WHO, People in Need, Hand in Hand for Syria

ACTION POINTS:

- Logistics Cluster to circulate Turkish Red Crescent documents on cross-border and import procedures to partners.
- Partners to share January transshipment plans.
- Partners to continue to share their transporters and suppliers list for the Logistics Capacity Assessment compilation.
- OCHA to liaise with Deputy Governor to check possibility to increase capacity at the border points.
- Logistics Cluster to organize an emergency preparedness meeting for the eastern Aleppo city population outflow.

AGENDA:

1. Introduction
2. Regional access constraints
3. Update on Logistics Cluster activities
4. Customs
5. A.O.B.

1. Introduction

- A logistics contact list is being drafted by the Logistics Cluster and will be sent to humanitarian partners.
- Updated Standard Operating Procedures on the transshipment process will be published soon on the Logistics Cluster website.
- It was announced that Logistics Cluster meetings will be conducted in both Antakya and Gaziantep on a monthly basis. The meetings will have a similar content.

2. Regional Access Constraints

- Regional access: all border crossing points from Lebanon to Syria are operational, Tartous and Lattakia ports are functioning, and cross-border operations from Jordan via Ramtha are ongoing.
- In Turkey, both Bab Al-Salam (BAS) and Bab Al-Hawa (BAH) crossings are open and operational for commercial and UN cargo crossing.

- Airlifts from Damascus to Qamishly continue as Nusaybin border from Turkey is still closed. The Logistics Cluster has conducted more than 200 rotations so far. A second aircraft has been positioned in Damascus on 12 December and as of 13 December three rotations per day are being conducted.
- Eastern Aleppo city is still inaccessible; a preparedness plan for a four day-window of access has been prepared. However this plan might need to be re-assessed if access is granted with new conditions. Cross-line convoys will also be on standby in case the necessary clearances are granted.
- The Karkamis - Jarabulus border is open for commercial and humanitarian shipments. For NGOs registered in Turkey, transshipments of humanitarian cargo should be done through the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).
- Partners were encouraged to share information on the possible opening of new border crossings with Logistics Cluster, OCHA and TRC.

3. Update on Logistics Cluster activities

- Activities in BAH and BAS are continuing. In BAH around 4,450 Syrian and 4,450 Turkish trucks were transhipped so far in 2016. In BAS around 255 Syrian trucks and 255 Turkish trucks were transhipped this year.
- A Logistics Cluster meeting for the current East Aleppo city outflow emergency should be organized in a week time. Partners highlighted the need to increase the current capacity at the border crossings. OCHA will liaise with the Deputy Governor on this request.
- Partners were reminded to share their January transshipment plans.
- A Warehouse Management Training took place in November, over three days. Partners were encouraged to share further training needs. The Logistics Cluster will then organize trainings accordingly starting from mid-February 2017.
- Partners were briefed on the Logistics Capacity Assessment compilation and its current status. Lists of transporters and suppliers are being received and will be compiled in a single document. Partners have discussed the sharing of some information, for example the informal sharing of market prices for different items.

4. Customs

- The Logistics Cluster has compiled a list of requests and common concerns from NGOs on tax exemption, customs, crossing of humanitarian personnel. The list has been sent to OCHA, who will liaise

with the authorities. TRC highlighted that for the tax exemption process, it is currently preferable that NGOs apply directly to the Ministry of Finance, and not through TRC.

- NGOs should send their annual plans for tax exemption to the Government by 24 December – the approval process usually takes up to one or two months.
- The need to have a list of humanitarian items was highlighted. TRC is currently following guidance from the Government Customs website and will work to obtain more guidance. The Logistics Cluster can explore the possibility to obtain a list of prohibited items.

5. A.O.B

- The current fuel waiver is in place until end of 2016. IOM in coordination with OCHA and the Logistics Cluster will proceed with a shipment trail of 10,000 litres of diesel. This transshipment will take place in the BAH hub in Reyhanli.
- Some partners have enquired on the crossing of humanitarian personnel for trainings purposes. The system is facilitated by OCHA; the Logistics Cluster has re-circulated the official procedures to the concerned organization. Usually the process of approval takes up to four-six weeks.

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