

**LOCATION:** WFP Office, Gaziantep

**DATE:** 16 February 2017

**CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster

**PARTICIPANTS:** Concern, Danish Church Aid, Global Communities, Hand in Hand for Syria, Handicap International, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Khayr, Norwegian Refugee Council, OCHA, Onsur Syria, People in Need, Relief International, Roia, Syrian American Medical Society, Solidarites International, Turkish Red Crescent, UNHCR, UNMM, UNFPA

**ACTION POINTS:**

- Logistics Cluster to share information on renewal of regular staff crossing lists from Bab al Hawa and Bab al Salama.
- Organisations interested in taking part in the convoy to Afrin to contact the Logistics Cluster.
- Organisations to communicate their training needs to the Logistics Cluster.
- Logistics Cluster to share the partial list of prohibited and limited items with OCHA and TRC and then circulate to partners.
- Logistics Cluster to circulate the NGO Profile form provided by OCHA.

**AGENDA:**

1. Regional Access Constraints
2. Turkey Cross-border Operations
3. Trainings
4. A.O.B.

## 1. Regional Access Constraints

### **Turkey**

- Both Bab Al Hawa (BAH) and Bab Al Salama (BAS) crossing points from Turkey to northern and north-western Syria are operational. However, due to insecurity in Idleb Governorate, the movement of trucks through BAH has been temporarily interrupted at the end of January as partners in Syria were not in a position to receive items.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator in Damascus has sent a request to MOFA for approval to use the Nusaybin-Qamishli crossing-point. Partners will be updated on the progress.
- Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) continues to operate through Karkamis-Jarablus border crossing that recently has been used to preposition relief items in Syria (mostly flour and NFIs) for the Ar-Raqqa response. Jarablus continues to be operational also as a commercial border crossing.

### **Lebanon**

- All official crossing-points from Lebanon to Syria are operational.

### **Jordan**

- Operations at Ramtha border crossing are temporarily suspended due to insecurity in Syria's Dara'a Governorate.

**Syria**

- The Logistics Cluster has recirculated recently the assessment done for Fishkhabur/Semalka crossing point in July 2016. There have been no major changes since that assessment.
- Air operations:
  - The airlift operation from Damascus to Qamishli (on a free-to-user basis) as well as the airdrops operation from Amman to Deir-ez-Zor (on a full cost-recovery basis) are proceeding smoothly.

## 2. Turkey Cross Border Operations

- A final draft document on Preparedness and Operations Recommendations for Turkey has been shared with agencies in Turkey. Updated flowcharts on the transshipment process for BAH and BAS have also been shared.
- Operations in BAS
  - The hub owner has agreed to increase the labour workers from seven to eight per truck.
  - The scanning of the Syrian trucks has been suspended since the end of 2016 and so far no updates were received from OCHA in this regard.
- Operations in BAH:
  - Scanning of Syrian trucks has been suspended since the end of 2016 in BAH as well.
  - Over the past week, trucks have been going to Idleb Governorate without bottlenecks, even though the security situation is extremely unpredictable.
  - IOM is planning to procure a mobile X-ray machine. Partners will be kept informed on the developments.
  - The quality of Syrian trucks has sometimes not been of the required standard. Organisations have been reminded to raise the issue also with their implementing partners.
- Over the past two weeks OCHA has been contacting Heads of Agencies on the possibility to deliver commodities to Afrin and eastern areas such as Membij, Kobane and potentially Tell Abiad. Afrin would be done from BAH, Membij and Kobane from BAS.
- A Four Towns convoys is being organised. The convoys to Madaya and Zabadani will depart from Damascus, while the convoy to Kefraya and Foaa will be cross-border from Turkey (through Bab al Hawa). Turkey-based UN Agencies have been invited to coordinate closely with their Syria counterparts and

submit Service Request Forms (SRF) to [Syria.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:Syria.clustercargo@wfp.org) , in accordance with the approved February Inter-Agency Convoy plan circulated. It was stressed that agencies should only submit SRFs for commodities that they have currently available in their warehouses.

- Partners have also been reminded to comply with the transshipment SOPs and to avoid as much as possible requests for last minute transshipments that put a strain on the relationship between the Logistics Cluster and Turkish authorities.

### 3. Trainings

- The Logistics Cluster is organising two trainings during March:
  - A Warehouse Management training will be conducted in Arabic on 13-14 March in Antakya. Organisations will be able to bring attendants from Syria following the procedures for the crossing of humanitarian personnel provided by OCHA and already shared with partners.
  - A Basic Procurement Training will be conducted in English in Gaziantep on 16-17 March.
- Participants will be responsible for organising travel and accommodation for their staff, while the Logistics Cluster will provide lunch and coffee breaks.
- The Logistics Cluster will work with TRC in the spring to organise a half-day workshop on tax exemption, registration, shipment and importing processes.
- Organisations are invited to raise additional training needs with the Logistics Cluster.

### 4. A.O.B

- No news was received on the fuel waiver from OCHA or IOM so far. A certification from the supplier was missing so IOM could not proceed with the trial. OCHA has submitted the request of fuel waiver for 2017 and is still awaiting reply.
- Custom authorities provided the Logistics Cluster with a partial list of prohibited and limited items that is being translated and will be shared with OCHA and TRC before being circulated with partners in both English and Turkish.
- The logistics focal point list has been updated and will soon be shared.
- The Logistics Cluster will share a matrix on road conditions and average time of travel between locations in northern Syria. Partners are invited to fill the matrix with the information they have available – this will be compiled by the Logistics Cluster.
- Regular staff crossing lists are being renewed at both BAH and BAS. In addition to the guidelines shared over the past weeks, NGOs are required to submit an NGO Profile form in Turkish (to be circulated by the Logistics Cluster) to the Deputy Governor.



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## ANTAKYA, TURKEY – Meeting Minutes

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