
Meeting Minutes, 14 April 2020

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



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LOCATION	Gaziantep, Turkey
DATE	14 April 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Big Heart, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Global Communities, GOAL, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), Ihsan for Relief and Development (IHSAN), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Malteser International, Qatar Red Crescent, Saed Charity Association, 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 Population Fund (UNFPA), Welthungerhilfe, World Vision (WVI).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster will share via the mailing list:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The new cross-border infographic.○ TRC transshipment figures.○ The list of prohibited and restricted items for importation into Turkey.• The Logistics Cluster to request OCHA to advocate for the free movement of NGO staff and any personnel essential to the running of any humanitarian logistics activities.• Partners encouraged to share information on the impact of the UNSCR on humanitarian activities with the Logistics Cluster. Once consolidated it will be shared with OCHA.• OCHA is advocating to local authorities to share commercial cross-border figures.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Impact of COVID-19 on logistics operations2. Cross-border updates3. Gaps and Needs4. UN Security Council Resolution5. AOB

1. Impact of COVID-19 on logistics operations

- The Logistics Cluster sent a survey to all partners via the mailing list to understand the impact COVID-19 is having on partner logistics operations.
- Most difficulties expressed by partners were related to:

logcluster.org/ops/syr12a

- Movement restrictions, the impact this has on organisations' staff and by extension on the whole operation. This includes warehouse running, quality control and hub inspection.
- Increase in the lead time for service provision from subcontractors and logistics costs rising.
- Future potential issues voiced among others included increased lead time for in-transit goods, future availability of medical items and other goods on the market at both the local and international levels, and border crossing uncertainty.
- The Food Security Cluster raised a concern related to the exportation of sugar. The Logistics Cluster clarified that commercial trucks are restricted to exporting 3 mt of sugar per truck.
- One organisation reported that during one of their cross-border operations at Kilis, they were requested by the authorities to unload the NFIs from the trucks being delivered onto smaller trucks. The Logistics Cluster will contact the border authorities to understand whether this relates to a new procedure.
- The cluster reminded partners of WHO's document on the rational use of PPEs which can be accessed [here](#).
- More information relating to COVID-19 can be access via the [Health Cluster's dropbox](#).

Advocacy

- Based on the above, the Logistics Cluster will request OCHA to advocate for all NGO and humanitarian movements to be exempted from travel restrictions in order to facilitate all humanitarian operations, including the movement of any suppliers essential for the running of humanitarian operations.
- Some partners requested the cluster to explore the possibility of extending hub use to NGOs.
- The exportation of medical items from Turkey into northwest Syria is facing some challenges. However, it was advised that imports of origin outside of Turkey in-transit through Turkey may be exported.

2. Cross-border updates

COVID-19 mitigation measures

- The Logistics Cluster has produced a document on the mitigation measures taken by the cluster at the Bab al-Hawa transshipment hub to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the operations. The document outlines all the measures clearly and can be accessed via [this link](#). Please note that this is a living document which will be frequently updated as further measures are taken.
- If organisations require any advice or information regarding the continuation of warehousing activities while following COVID-19 mitigation measures, the cluster can provide best practices.
- The Turkish Government has implemented a curfew this weekend between 17 April Friday midnight and 19 April Sunday midnight. This curfew could be extended to upcoming weekends as well, and would have a major impact on transshipment operations which run on weekends. The cluster is seeking ways to ensure that exemptions to necessary staff is acquired for future weekends to ensure humanitarian assistance does not stop.

Cross-border figures

- March showed a 60% increase in UN transshipment traffic compared to February.
- UN agencies shared their weekly transshipment forecasts with the Logistics Cluster, where in order to meet the target, the cluster assesses that 100 trucks will need to be transshipped per day.
- Turkish Red Crescent transshipment figures will be shared via the cluster mailing list on a weekly basis along with UN transshipment figures to give a clear overview of humanitarian transshipments.
- The cluster also requested OCHA to advocate with local customs authorities to share commercial truck figures.
- A new infographic has been produced on UN transshipment figures, including tonnage, sector and destination and it will be updated monthly. The infographic can be accessed via [this link](#). Partners are encouraged to share their feedback to allow the cluster to tailor the information as per any needs.

3. Gaps and Needs

- The Logistics Cluster compiled a list of prohibited and restricted items as of 1 April. The list will be shared via the mailing list. The cluster will also request OCHA to advocate to the Government of Turkey (GoT) to lift restrictions if the items are for humanitarian purposes.
- Humanitarian organisations have shared rentable warehouses with the Logistics Cluster and this information can be shared on demand to help fill any storage needs in the northwest.
- The cluster can also provide Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) 340m² on loan to organisations for free, provided that any spare storage is shared with the whole humanitarian community free of charge.

4. UN Security Council Resolution

- Organisations present at the meeting have little visibility on how the the non-extension of the UNSCR would impact cross-border operations. There is heavy reliance on this modality.
- The cluster requested partners, wherever they could, to share any future potential needs and any mitigation measures to ensure that all humanitarian operations may continue. This is to allow the cluster to understand more clearly where it can support.
- OCHA encouraged organisations to give feedback on the importance of the resolution to their operations to strengthen any advocacy made to ensure the resolution is extended.

5. AOB

- Partners agreed to keep meetings on a monthly basis.
- The cluster will share the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) transit point mapping via the mailing list.

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