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# Meeting Minutes, 21 May 2020

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



*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>	Gaziantep, Turkey
<b>DATE</b>	21 May 2020
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Cluster
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Americares, Association for Aid and Relief (AAR) Japan, GOAL, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHAD), Humanity & Inclusion, Ihsan for Relief and Development (IHSAN), Malteser International, Muzun for Humanitarian Development (MHD), Saed Charity Association, Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Welthungerhilfe, World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision (WVI).
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Logistics Cluster will continue working closely with partners to understand ways the cluster can further provide support for cross-border operations.</li></ul>
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Impact of COVID-19 on logistics operations</li><li>2. Cross-border updates</li><li>3. UN Security Council Resolution</li><li>4. AOB</li></ol>

## 1. Impact of COVID-19 on logistics operations

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- Travel restrictions continue to impact humanitarian operations as movement of staff is more difficult and lead times have increased.
- All documents relating to the COVID-19 Global Supply Chain System have been shared via the mailing list.
- The cluster reminded partners that any humanitarian organisation may sign up to WFP's [COVID-19 Emergency Service Marketplace](#). All services are provided on a free-to-user basis.
- Partners are invited to consult the Logistics Cluster website which has a dedicated page for COVID-19: <https://logcluster.org/COVID-19>

## 2. Cross-border updates

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- While the cluster noted a decrease in commercial truck crossing figures, humanitarian transshipment figures have continued to increase. This is due to the fact that most UN agencies are planning to preposition two months' worth of stock inside Syria before 10 July.

- In May to date, 1,197 UN trucks were transshipped through Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salam, averaging at around 80 trucks daily.
- The Logistics Cluster has begun sharing weekly reports with UN agencies to track their transshipments against their forecasts to ensure a steady rate of trucks through both crossing points and facilitate planning. All agencies are fully on target to reach their forecasted figures.

### 3. UN Security Council Resolution

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- The first discussions at the United Nations Security Council on an extension of the cross border resolution have begun.
- Partners advised that they do not have the capacity (financial and technical) to absorb the current UN transshipment traffic which accounts for 60% of cross-border humanitarian traffic.
- In case of non-extension, it was advised that a major bottleneck is with regards to the zero-points at Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salam border crossings where the transshipment would have to take place which are already at full capacity and cannot be expanded to absorb the same kind of traffic as the current transshipment hubs.
- The lack of a dedicated transshipment hub for I/NGOs is considered to be a gap and will further prevent a potential non-UN scale-up.
- Partners voiced concerns over the vulnerability of the commercial transshipment modalities to external factors.
- In case of renewal of the mandate for UN transshipment operations by the UNSCR, partners expressed the wish to extend hub use to I/NGOs.
- In case of non-renewal, partners expressed the need to have access to a humanitarian transshipment hub to facilitate their operations.
- In addition to transshipment hub services, storage capacity would be required for cargo consolidation and is being discussed with partners.
- Partners advised that a common storage services would allow them to benefit from economies of scale and to avoid competition over limited resources. It was advised that such a service would be key to keeping down overall costs of logistical aspects of the emergency response.
- Partners also voiced a need for capacity enhancement through technical logistics trainings.

### 4. AOB

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- The Logistics Cluster put together a document on Turkish export procedures with a particular focus on COVID-19 related items which has been shared with partners and with OCHA (IMPACCT) prior to the meeting.
- This document is a living document and will be updated as and when there are updates to the procedures.

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- The document goes alongside the list of Restricted and Prohibited items for import which is also shared with partners. The cluster noted that this list changes on a very regular basis.
- Organisations are encouraged to share their feedback on the document.
- Partners are encouraged to voice any concerns, challenges or areas that require advocacy to resolve humanitarian logistics problems with the Logistics Cluster.

## Contacts

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