
Meeting Minutes, 25 August 2020

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



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LOCATION	Gaziantep, Turkey
DATE	25 August 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Ahl Horan Association, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Global Communities, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), Ihsan for Relief and Development (IHSAN), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), Mercy Corps, Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), People in Need (PIN), Shafak, ShelterBox, Solidarités International (SI), The Ayadee Foundation, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Welthungerhilfe, World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision (WVI).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN Agencies to share their transshipment pipelines.• The cluster to share:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Presentations on Physical Road Access data collection tool;○ The excel spreadsheet with lead times between towns/cities;○ Presentation on the cluster user satisfaction survey results;○ The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) Terms of Reference (ToRs) for partner feedback.• Interested partners to reach out to the cluster for more information on the access data collection tool.• Partners to provide inputs to the lead times excel spreadsheet.• Partners to share capacity building needs with the logistics cluster.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cross-border updates2. Access3. Gaps and Needs4. AOB

1. Cross-border updates

- In August to date, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated the transshipment of 107 Syrian trucks, facilitating the delivery of 2,499 mt of assistance. For further info, please see [here](#) (mt) and [here](#) (number of trucks).

- The Logistics Cluster has requested UN agencies to share their pipelines for the next three months to ensure appropriate plans are in place in advance to meet demand and need.

Bab al-Hawa (BAH) transshipment hub

- The BAH hub has a physical capacity of transshipping 3,000 trucks per month.
- Ground preparations for the expansion of the hub have started and are expected to be completed in September 2020. The hub has been augmented by 5,000 sqm.
- The expansion will double the office space available to meet increased staffing needs and ensure continued compliance with COVID-19 physical distancing measures.

2. Access

- Bab al-Salam (BAS) closure has led to a significant change in the logistics operating environment.
- Limited access to Afrin and A'zaz, and to the Jarablus area of northern Aleppo will lead to an increase in humanitarian traffic via fewer access points and axes.
- To reach these areas via BAH, humanitarian shipments will have to travel a longer distance.
- Some UN agencies have reported to the Logistics Cluster that they estimate the increased distances will lead to an overall increase in transportation costs by 40-60%, and cause delays.
- Post meeting addendum: WFP advises that to date, they have not noted an increase in transport costs but continue to monitor.
- The cluster will continue to monitor the effect of inflation on logistics-related costs.
- Risk of increased access constraints at internal crossing points and associated routes, especially during emergencies, may limit overall logistics capacity.

Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation and road accessibility is a critical issue and requires an inter-sector response.
- Some roads deteriorate significantly in winter or are already in poor condition, which may be exacerbated by increased use by large vehicles.
- With thanks to partner inputs, the Logistics Cluster has worked alongside the Early Recovery and Livelihood Cluster (ERL), the OCHA Access Working Group and OCHA's Civil-Military Coordination Unit to identify critical segments of road that require urgent rehabilitation ahead of the winter months.
- Advocacy for rehabilitation of these critical segments is being undertaken.
- UNDP, as lead agency of ERL, submitted a proposal for rehabilitation of the axis Ghazawiah – A'zaz.

OCHA Civil-Military Coordination Unit (CM Coord.)

- CM Coord. reported that the light rehabilitation works from BAH to Ghazawiyah are expected to be completed within the next two weeks.
- They advised that the Ghazawiyah and Deir Ballot internal crossing points require widening. Advocacy in this regard has started.
- Besides the work related to physical access inside the northwest, CM Coord. is working closely with local authorities to facilitate administrative access into the northwest.

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- CM Coord. informed partners that a single facilitation letter will be issued to allow passage for humanitarian trucks heading to areas previously served from BAS (Afrin, A'zaz and northern Aleppo).

Physical Road Access Assessment data collection tool

- The Logistics Cluster and WFP have developed a phone application designed for collecting physical road access information inside the northwest.
- The cluster will map/report the information, and advocate for rehabilitation where required.
- The Logistics Cluster explained to the participants how to download and use the tool. The presentations will also be shared via the mailing list.
- Partners are strongly encouraged to download the app for the timely reporting of access constraints.
- Any interested organisations may get in touch with Christophe Vial: christophe.vial@wfp.org.
- An excel spreadsheet with lead times between main towns/cities has been developed. The cluster will share the spreadsheet via the mailing list and partners are requested to provide their inputs.

Warehousing in northwest Syria

- The cluster has collected warehouse information inside the northwest from partners.
- Participants are encouraged to keep sharing this information to ensure the database is kept to date.
- If partners require additional storage space inside the northwest, they may contact the cluster for information on available warehouse facilities inside the northwest.

3. Gaps and Needs

Procurement Working Group (PWG)

- The NGO Forum informed partners present that the first PWG meeting will be held in the second week of September. Exact date and location will be shared closer to the time.
- The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the PWG will be agreed upon during said meeting.

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)

- Responding to partner feedback, the Logistics Cluster is working towards the formation of a SAG.
- The SAG will be formed of a diverse group of partners who together will shape and guide the cluster's overarching strategy.
- The group will be responsible for ensuring proper and fully representative implementation of the strategy. This will include the development of a co-facilitator role for the cluster.
- The Logistics Cluster is finalising the first draft of the SAG's ToRs and these will be shared via the mailing list for feedback and input.

4. AOB

- As part of a wider contingency plan in preparation for a potential change in the situation and expected scale-up, the Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to share any capacity building needs.

Logistics Cluster Mid-Year User Satisfaction Survey

- The cluster briefly presented the results from the Logistics Cluster's mid-year user satisfaction survey.

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- The cluster received an 89% overall satisfaction rating.
- The cluster will share a more detailed report on the findings, however, key recommendations include:
 - Encourage the establishment of working groups.
 - Implementation of training/capacity building.
 - Stronger communication on logistics challenges and issues.

Contacts

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