
Meeting Minutes, 29 September 2020

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



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LOCATION	Gaziantep, Turkey
DATE	29 September 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Americares, Big Heart, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Humanity & Inclusion, Ihsan for Relief and Development (IHSAN), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Malteser International, Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), Saed Charity Association, Save the Children International, Shafak, Solidarités International (SI), Syria Relief, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 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), Violet Organization, Welthungerhilfe, World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisations encouraged to register with the Access Working Group (link below).• Partners to provide input into the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Road rehabilitation spreadsheet○ Road technical assessment spreadsheet○ Road works service provider spreadsheet• Interested partners to reach out to the cluster for more information on the access data collection tool.• Partners interested in becoming members of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) must submit their names for candidacy before 20 October.• Partners to share capacity building needs with the logistics cluster.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Access2. Coordination3. Cross-border operation4. AOB

1. Access

Update from OCHA Access

- OCHA Access encourages all organisations to register to the Access working group via [this link](#).

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- OCHA Access provided an update on administrative and physical access, as well ongoing and planned rehabilitation works in northwest Syria that ensure continued access during the winter months. More detail on these are below.
- OCHA informed the participants that only one document is required for truck transit inside the northwest.
- Organisations were asked to inform OCHA if the document is not issued.

Updates on rehabilitation works

- Rehabilitation works have been initiated along a 21 km stretch of road between Deir Samaan /Al-Ghazawiyah crossing points and Afrin, with funding from the Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) in the form of a grant to UNDP, with the technical partnership of Bonyan Organization and Imaar Organization.
- Works are anticipated to be completed before the onset of winter.

Physical Access

- The Logistics Cluster is working alongside the Early Recovery and Livelihood Cluster (ERL), the OCHA Access Unit and Coordination Units on physical access assessments and information management.
- To inform urgent/medium term rehabilitation needs and improve operational decision-making, the ERL and Logistics Clusters collaborated on the development of some data collection tools.
- These tools will be shared via the mailing list for partner inputs for the below listed information:
 - Ongoing/planned rehabilitation works.
 - Technical road assessments.
 - Physical road access rapid assessments.
 - Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) on service providers for rehabilitation works.
- These tools are in addition to the rapid road assessments app presented during the last cluster meeting.
- Partners are strongly encouraged to download the app and to provide inputs for the timely reporting of access constraints, rehabilitation works and assessments.
- In parallel, ERL and Logistics clusters, and OCHA Access/IM are jointly assessing viable alternative routes to the Bab al-Hawa - Azaz (via Daret Azza) axis.
- Finally, the ERL and Logistics Clusters have also been working in collaboration with the CCCM and Shelter clusters to identify access needs to the IDP sites most at risk of floods in northwest Syria.

Mapping

- The abovementioned information collected from partners will be consolidated and used for the production of various different GIS products such as this latest Physical Road Access Constraints map [linked here](#).

Further advocacy

- The amount of traffic using a given axis will help with monitoring the quality of a certain route.
- Other organisations have also advised that traffic and accessibility more broadly can inform their programmes/operations (such as price changes of certain commodities in the market).

- In response to these needs and partner requests, the Logistics Cluster will resume advocacy for the collection of traffic data.

2. Coordination

Procurement Working Group (PWG)

- The NGO Forum called its first PWG meeting on 22 September and subsequently shared the draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) via the mailing list.
- Organisations interested in becoming co-leads should write an expression of interest, specifying the nominee (individual and organisation names) and a short supporting statement to outline the reasons for your application and describe the skills and qualities you will bring to the PWG. These should be submitted to Iyad Agha: I.Agha@hihfad.org.

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)

- The partners validated the ToRs of the SAG during the meeting.
- Organisations interested in becoming members should write an expression of interest, specifying the nominee (individual and organisation names) and a short supporting statement to outline the reasons for your application and describe the skills and qualities you will bring to the SAG. These should be submitted to christophe.vial@wfp.org.
- The deadline for submitting names for candidacy to the SAG is 20 October.
- The names will be compiled and put forward for election.

Preparedness

- One organisation raised that the SAG might be a good forum to discuss contingency plans in preparation for any potential changes in situation and/or scale-up.
- In the same vein, the Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to share any capacity building needs.
- As part of broader preparedness, partners agreed that a Lessons Learned document could be drafted together to better inform future decision-making based on previous experience.

3. Cross-border Operations

- In September to date, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated the transshipment of 804 Syrian trucks, facilitating the delivery of 20,090 mt of assistance. For further info, please see [here](#).
- The Bab al-Hawa transshipment hub expansion works have been completed. The expansion has doubled the office space available to meet increased staffing needs and ensure continued compliance with COVID-19 physical distancing measures.
- UN agencies have shared their transshipment forecast with the Logistics Cluster:
 - October: 1111 trucks
 - November: 1309 trucks
 - December: 1257 trucks

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4. AOB

- Partners noted that a recent change in official regulation for export might lead to an increase in the cost for certain types of PPE. The Logistics Cluster and OCHA will further look into the matter.

Logistics Cluster IM product updates

- [Monthly UNSCR cross-border infographic \(August\).](#)
- [Travel times and road conditions map – 22 September.](#)
- [COVID-19 hub mitigation measures.](#)
- [UNSCR Transshipment Standard Operating Procedures.](#)

Contacts

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