
Meeting Minutes, 24 November 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.

LOCATION	Gaziantep, Turkey
DATE	24 November 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Ahl Horan Association, Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), BINAA, Ghiras Al Nahda, Global Communities, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), Ihsan for Relief and Development (IHSAN), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Malteser International, Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), Mercy Corps, Mercy USA, Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), POINT, Qatar Charity, Qatar Red Crescent, Relief International (RI), Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Welthungerhilfe, World Vision (WVI).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster to send invite for physical access assessment tool via the mailing list.• The Logistics Cluster to share contacts of cold chain facilities suppliers to requesting organisation.• The Logistics Cluster to obtain feedback from Health and Food Security Clusters on export limitations.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Physical Access2. Coordination3. Cross-border operation4. AOB

1. Physical Access

- The Logistics Cluster is providing technical GIS support inform operational decision-making and avoid duplication of effort. For example:
 - Road physical access constraints map has been developed and [published](#);
 - Road Rehabilitation works (ongoing and planned) inside North West Syria (NWS) is being developed.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to advocate for commercial traffic figures by entry point and axis.
- Partners are strongly encouraged to engage and submit information into the data collection files shared by the cluster to support the overall humanitarian logistics response.

Winterisation Activities

- As part of its winterisation activities, the Logistics Cluster is collecting, monitoring and analysing physical access information based on inputs from partners.
- The Logistics Cluster advocated with OCHA for emergency road rehabilitation funding for its winterisation plan. So far, precise details on roads and axes that required this kind of work have been scarce.

Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA)

- Continued inputs from partners to the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) on the latest information on technical capacities inside NWS will be key, such as: warehousing facilities, road rehabilitation actors, cold chain assets, suppliers etc.
- With thanks to partner inputs received so far, the cluster has started compiled information on warehousing, cold chain (inc. dry ice supply), transporters and other assets.
- One organisation requires temperature controlled storage facilities in NWS. The Logistics Cluster to share contacts for providers.
- Partners interested in logistics capacity information inside NWS can contact Halil CEPOGLU halil.cepoglu@wfp.org.

Update on road rehabilitation

- UNDP Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) rehabilitation works on the Al-Ghazawiyeh route (Deir Samaan – Turanda) are expected to be completed by 28 November. Currently, the Deir Samaan – Ghazawiyeh section is closed due to works, and trucks must follow an alternative route. Details were shared via the mailing list.

2. Coordination

Capacity Building

- Partners have submitted logistics training and capacity building needs to the Logistics Cluster. However, the cluster requires more information on humanitarian organisations' future plans and programmes to understand more precisely the kinds of capacity building activities it should facilitate.
- In order to do so, the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) at the cross-border level will be key in guiding the cluster's capacity-building strategy. ACTED and Maram Foundation volunteered to be SAG members.

Co-facilitation

- ACTED volunteered to temporarily take the role of co-facilitator for the Logistics Cluster. The cluster will advocate for dedicated funding for the position.
- The SAG will work on the ToR and election process.

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Pooling of Resources

- Partners have agreed that there are no logistics gaps inside NWS.
- The cluster recommends to partners to pool resources, such as warehousing, cold chain and transport to help decrease the overall cost of the logistics response for NWS. The Logistics Cluster offered to act as the coordination platform to facilitate this effort.

Procurement Working Group (PWG)

- The PWG informed participants that the procurement mapping exercise should begin in December. Programmatic participants were encouraged to engage in the PWG as topics are cross-cutting.
- Any questions on the PWG and should be directed to Iyad Agha: I.Agha@hihfad.org.

3 Cross-border Operations

- In October, the Logistics Cluster coordinated the transshipment of 943 Syrian trucks, facilitating the delivery of 22,814 mt of assistance. For further info, please see [here](#).
- The UN-cross border operations infographic has been posted [online](#).

4. AOB

- Meeting participants did not raise any issues regarding a recent change in official regulation on the export of certain types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Exportation to NWS

- One organisation raised an issue relating rice export limitations from Turkey to NWS, limiting the amount of rice that each supplier can export only through commercial means to 20 mt per month. Similarly, there are limitations to the amount of sugar that can be exported.
- The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) informed participants that suppliers must register with the Exporters Union to increase the ceiling.
- The Logistics Cluster will get in touch with Food Security Cluster on exportation of food items and revert. Organisations facing similar challenges can contact the cluster at: halil.cepoglu@wfp.org.
- Another organisation raised challenges relating to exportation of medical items, including liquid oxygen. The Logistics Cluster will liaise with the Health Cluster to find a common solution.

Contacts

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