Meeting Minutes, 19 January 2021
Syria Operation, Gaziantep

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LOCATION
Gaziantep, Turkey

DATE
19 January 2021

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
• The Logistics Cluster to share the following products via the mailing list:
  o Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) report on commercial cross-border traffic flow;
  o End of year user survey results;
  o Partner cold chain capacity survey.
• Procurement Working Group (PWG) to share the results of the capacity mapping exercise with the Logistics Cluster.

AGENDA
1. Physical Access
2. Coordination
3. Cross-border operation
4. AOB

1. Physical Access

• The physical access reporting app has been updated to include the Arabic language.
• The road conditions map has been updated as of 1 January 2021 and published.
• New data has been received from partners operating in northwest Syria (NWS) regarding future planned road rehabilitation works. Briefly the update includes:
  o 33 km of completed road rehabilitation projects;
  o 14 km of on-going road rehabilitation projects;
  o 560 km of proposed road rehabilitation projects.
Organisations were informed that the Logistics Cluster has a plotter available. Partners may use the plotter for free-to-user map printing and are invited to contact Halil Cepoglu: halil.cepoglu@wfp.org.

HNAP: Commercial traffic flow by crossing point

- Following partner requests, the Logistics Cluster and HNAP have collaborated over the previous weeks on supporting Logistics Cluster partners in understanding the rate of flow of commercial traffic across different transit points from Turkey to Syria.
- The product is called the NWS Vehicles Flow Monitoring Annex and monitors four key border crossing points between Syria and Turkey as agreed upon with the Logistics Cluster as a pilot, namely:
  - Alhamam
  - Bab al-Salam
  - Ar Ra’ee
  - Jarablus
- The Logistics Cluster will share the HNAP reports via the mailing list.

2. Coordination

Co-facilitation

- The Logistics Cluster will share draft co-facilitation Terms of Reference (ToRs) before the end of January via the mailing list for partner feedback.

NGO Forum

- The advocacy coordinator for the NGO Forum for NWS briefed partners on potential capacity building initiatives that are being worked out by different stakeholders in the cross-border operation.
- The coordinator also updated participants on progress made by the Procurement Working Group (PWG) regarding the capacity mapping exercise undertaken in December. The results will be shared with the Logistics Cluster.
- Partners wishing to be a part of the PWG can register here.
- The NGO Forum stressed the importance of UN cross-border operations implemented under the scope of the UNSC resolutions, adding that I/NGOs do not have the capacity to meet humanitarian needs.

Customs updates

- Following issues raised at the previous meeting in November, the Logistics Cluster gave an update on customs and export restrictions.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE) donations:** OCHA informed the cluster that humanitarian organisations can apply for a waiver. For support in the application, partners can contact Seda Yakinol (yakinol@un.org) from OCHA.
- **Rice and grain export:** there is no restriction on export, however, the cluster informed partners that delays at the border might increase due to control procedures.
- In addition, tariffs on rice and paddy that used to be 34% and 45% respectively will decrease to 5% and 10% respectively by 30 April 2021.
• **Medical items:** the Logistics Cluster contacted WHO, who confirmed that liquid oxygen is restricted for export. Waivers can be requested via the Turkish Ministry of Health.

• **Ventilators:** no export restrictions apply to ventilators.

• A list of restricted items compiled by the Logistics Cluster is available upon request.

**Cold chain capacity assessment**

• UNICEF advised they have conducted a cold chain capacity assessment for COVAX with support from the Syrian Immunization Group, a consortium of I/NGOs working in health inside the northwest.

• The assessment found a total of five cold rooms in NWS, with temperatures between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius.

• Cold room technicians, logistics specialists and engineers are already in northwest Syria for support.

• UNICEF provided partners with an overview of the potential supply chain solutions available.

• Additional capacity will be required. As such, the Logistics Cluster will share a survey via the mailing list to gain a preliminary understanding of existing partner cold chain capacity inside northwest Syria.

• Regarding power, UNICEF informed partners there are 29 health facilities that run on solar power.

• WHO advised that increased generator capacity would be required to ensure uninterrupted electricity availability for cold rooms.

• The cluster is identifying suppliers for both generator and reefer containers inside NWS.

**3 Cross-border Operations**

• In 2020, 12,082 trucks transporting over 260,000 mt of humanitarian assistance were transhipped from Turkey to northwest Syria through UNSCR-approved border crossings Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salam (the latter closed July 2020). For details, please see [here](#).

• The January forecast is for 958 trucks to be transhipped.

• Partners shared their 2021 pipelines with the Logistics Cluster. The total forecast up to 10 July 2021 is 6,502 trucks.

**4. AOB**

**End of Year User Satisfaction Survey**

• The Logistics Cluster presented the results from its end of year user satisfaction survey.

• The overall satisfaction rate was 93%.

• The presentation with more details will be shared via the mailing list.

**Contacts**

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