Meeting Minutes, 9 March 2021
Syria Operation, Gaziantep

LOCATION
Gaziantep, Turkey

DATE
9 March 2021

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
- Procurement Working Group (PWG) to share the results of the capacity mapping exercise with the Logistics Cluster.
- The annual list of logistics services suppliers will be updated and shared to partners.
- Logistics Cluster to share co-facilitation ToRs for partner inputs.
- Partners to fill in the cold chain capacity template.
- The Logistics Cluster will organise a forum for partners to address customs issues.
- For inquiries on exporting personal protective equipment (PPE), partners can contact Seda Yakınol (yakinol@un.org) from OCHA.

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

1. Physical Access Constraints
- Partners shared that widespread flooding this winter had a serious impact on road conditions and physical accessibility to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) sites inside the northwest.
- As such, an inter-cluster strategy is being developed to ensure maintained access during winters.
- Road rehabilitation will be a significant part of this strategy. This involves mid to long term heavy road rehabilitation, complemented by emergency road rehabilitation works for rapid intervention when needs arise.
The Logistics Cluster submitted a proposal for the first allocation of the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), recommending the establishment of several technical rapid response teams in Aleppo and Idleb governorates to respond to needs on the ground. The completion of the allocation process is projected to be by the end of April 2021.

The Logistics Cluster recommended that partners establish a consortium of I/NGOs that have relevant experience in road rehabilitation activities. This is to ensure the widest spread of both expertise and geographical area to conduct any road rehabilitation needs that may arise.

The Logistics Cluster updated its Physical Road Conditions and Road Rehabilitation Works maps, both of which have been published to the website.

Organisations were informed that the Logistics Cluster has a plotter available. Partners may request Logistics Cluster maps to be printed. Please contact Halil Cepoglu: halil.cepoglu@wfp.org.

2. Coordination

Co-facilitation

The Logistics Cluster will share a draft of the co-facilitation Terms of Reference (ToRs) for partner feedback, ahead of kick-starting the process of nomination.

NGO Forum

The NGO Forum provided an update to the participants with regards to the Contingency Task-Force, and ongoing discussions around capacity building and scale-up.

The Procurement Working Group (PWG) informed Logistics Cluster partners that the capacity mapping exercise being undertaken will be completed by the end of the week. The results will be shared with the Logistics Cluster.

The Logistics Cluster will work closely with the NGO forum and PWG to update the cluster’s suppliers list.

Partners wishing to be a part of the PWG can register here.

Cold chain capacity assessment

Partners are encouraged to share information regarding cold chain transport and warehousing capacity inside the northwest using the template provided via the mailing list.

3. Cross-border Operations

In February, 1,047 trucks transporting over 23,368 mt of humanitarian assistance were transhipped from Turkey to northwest Syria through UNSCR-approved border crossing Bab al-Hawa. For more details on transhipments in 2020, please see here.

The March forecast for UN operations is for 1,280 trucks to be transhipped.

All partners are encouraged to share their transhipment figures.

In February, 752 trucks were transhipped by Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRC) through nine border crossings.
4. AOB

Customs updates

- Partners discussed and exchanged ideas on best practices on customs procedures. As such, the Logistics Cluster suggested to create a dedicated forum to discuss these topics.
- Based on topics raised at this forum, the Logistics Cluster will invite experts to provide specific guidance.
- With regards to exporting personal protective equipment (PPE), the Logistics Cluster informed partners that humanitarian organisations can apply for a waiver via the Turkish Ministry of Health. For support in the application, partners can contact Seda Yakinol (yakinol@un.org) from OCHA.
- The Logistics Cluster requested partners to share their specific questions on customs procedures by email to Halil Cepoglu: halil.cepoglu@wfp.org. The cluster will compile the issues and address concerns to the most appropriate channel, department or focal point.

Contacts

Christophe Vial
Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator
christophe.vial@wfp.org

Halil Cepoglu
Logistics Officer
halil.cepoglu@wfp.org