

**LOCATION:** Damascus, Syria

**DATE:** 08 January 2014

**CHAIR:** Logistics Cluster Coordinator

**PARTICIPANTS:** ACF, GOPA, IMC, IOM, Oxfam GB, Premiere Urgence, SARC, UNFPA, WFP, and WHO

- ACTION POINTS:**
- Participants to submit their service requests as soon as possible for the Hamah Convoy (planned for 16 January).
  - The Logistics Cluster to share tentative dates and a schedule for logistics capacity training with partners.

#### FOLLOW-UP ON PREVIOUS ACTION POINTS

- Indicative average warehouse and transport rates assessment - **Completed, results to be shared with partners next week.**
- Partner training needs analysis - **Completed, training schedule to be shared with partners next week.**

#### SITUATION UPDATE

##### *Syria*

- Inaccessible areas at present include Hassakeh, Deir Ezzour, Raqqa and some areas in rural Damascus. Aleppo is currently accessible.
- The Damascus-Homs highway has been open for all UN staff/convoys since 18 December.

##### *Neighbouring Countries*

- The Jordan/Syria official border crossing point 'Al-Naseeb' is open. After completing customs clearance in Naseeb, trucks can proceed to onward destinations via Sweida.
- The Lebanon/Syria border crossings of 'Al-Masnaa', 'Al-Arida', and 'Abboudiyeh' are operational.
- Access to the Lebanon/Syria 'Al-Arida' crossing point depends on the security situation along the international highway to Tripoli. Currently, the highway is open.

#### COMMON SERVICES UPDATE

##### **Transport**

- The Logistics Cluster's common transport of humanitarian relief items inside Syria will continue in 2014.
- The Cluster continues to offer free overland transport (not inclusive of customs clearance) from Lebanon/Jordan to Syria.

##### **Storage**

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide **free temporary storage** services to all humanitarian organisations responding to the Syrian crisis. WFP has allotted storage spaces to the humanitarian community inside Syria, specifically in Sahnaya (Rural Damascus), and Safita (close to Tartous).
- After consultations with partners on 2014 operational planning, the Logistics Cluster has assessed that warehousing needs have increased by over 50% at Safita, and 20% at Damascus with requirements for a new warehouse at Qamishli (500-600 m<sup>2</sup>).
- Rural Damascus: The Logistics Cluster's warehouse in Sahnaya has storage space of 6,300 m<sup>2</sup>. The Cluster intends to extend the space by another 600 m<sup>2</sup>, via the setting up of 2 additional Mobile Storage Units

(MSUs) by the end of January 2014. In addition, the open area at the facility has been extended to store containers if required by partners.

- Safita: The Logistics Cluster is augmenting storage space in Safita by an additional 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> which will bring the total storage capacity there to 2,720 m<sup>2</sup>. Expansion works are estimated to be completed by the end of January 2014.
- Qamishly: Discussions with partners have indicated a need of approximately 600 m<sup>2</sup> storage capacity in Qamishly for 2014. However, currently moving MSUs to Qamishly is challenging due to road security. Until a dedicated Logistics Cluster warehouse is established by end-February, the Logistics Cluster can extend limited storage space in coordination with WFP if required by participants.

#### JOINT HUMANITARIAN CONVOYS

- An inter-agency convoy from Homs to Hamah is planned for 16 January. IMC and DRC expressed their interest in participating in upcoming convoys. Participating organizations are requested to submit their service requests as soon as possible.
- The Logistics Cluster supported an unaccompanied inter-agency convoy to Rural Damascus (Qalamoun area). The first part was sent on 02 January, with the second part is planned for 08 January.
- All partners were briefed about the upcoming convoy plan for 14 January.
- All partners were informed about the upcoming potential airlift plan from Arbil to Qamishli. Participants were encouraged to confirm their needs so as to be incorporated into Cluster planning.

#### ORGANIZATIONS' UPDATES AND AOB

- ACF is working mainly in rural Damascus and Hassakeh.
- GOPA is covering all Syrian governorates except for Hassakeh and Aleppo.
- IOM is procuring hygiene and winterization kits locally.
- WHO is facing challenges in storage and distribution, with limited space in its contracted warehouse. Therefore, it will continue using Logistic Cluster services to fill the gaps moving forward.
- SARC thanked the Cluster for the provision of 20 trucks in Syria, and requested a schedule for the availability of spare parts for the trucks.
- UNFPA is procuring new kits and delivery will start from mid-January. UNFPA aims to use the expanded Cluster storage space in Rural Damascus and Safita for its incoming consignments.
- The Cluster User Survey is planned for January 2014. Once the online link is shared, all members are requested to complete the survey for feedback.
- The Logistics Cluster is planning to hold its first Coordination Meeting in Tartous in January 2014.
- In consultation with all partners, logistics training needs have been identified. The Logistics Cluster will share tentative dates and a schedule for training shortly.
- All partners were informed about the latest Information Management (IM) products including snapshot assessments of Erbil Airport and Erbil Warehousing (Iraq). These are available at: [www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a)



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**Syria**

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**Lebanon**

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**Jordan**

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