LOCATION: Damascus, Syria

DATE: 23 October 2014

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: FAO, GOPA Worldwide Consultants (GOPA), International Medical Corps (IMC), IOM, Oxfam, Premiere Urgence, Secours Islamique France, UNFPA, UNRWA, WHO, WFP

ACTION POINTS:
- Participants to submit their Service Request Forms (SRFs) for upcoming convoys once confirmed by OCHA.
- The Logistics Cluster to share the schedule and agenda for the upcoming warehouse management training.
- The Logistics Cluster to share the translated Customs Bill of 2006 as part of the information brief to partners.

AGENDA:
1. Humanitarian Update
2. Common Services Update
3. Joint Humanitarian Convoys
4. Organizations’ Updates and Any other Business (AOB)

1. HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

The Logistics Cluster Coordinator welcomed participants and provided a brief update of the Humanitarian situation.

Syria
- Some parts of rural Damascus remain inaccessible, including Qudsaeia, Mouadamiyet, Al Qalamoun, Qutaifeh, Zabadani, East Ghouta, Dareia, and Al Tal. Currently, Deir ezzour, Raqqa, and rural Quneitra are also inaccessible.
- Approximately 20% of areas of rural Dar’a are currently accessible.
- Hassakeh governorate in northeastern Syria is still inaccessible by road from Damascus.
- Official fuel prices in Syria have been raised. The new official prices are 80 SYP for diesel, and 140 SYP for petrol.

Neighbouring Countries

Lebanon
- The Beirut-Damascus Main Highway and the International Highway to Al Arida Border crossing are both currently open (21 October). The two routes have been operating normally this week.
- Beirut Port is operating normally, no congestion has been reported.
- The Logistics Cluster is updating the Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCAs) for Lebanon and Syria. This will include updated port and airport information, contact lists for government focal points, customs information, road access information, and is useful for the Lebanon Contingency Plan. Information will be made available on the Logistics Cluster LCA website once updated.

Turkey
- The Bab as Salaam and Bab al Hawa crossings are currently being used by organisations (post-Security Council Resolution 2165).
- At Mersin Port, a number of berths will be closed shortly for construction work (estimated time of completion is one year, ending by approximately end-2015). These berths will be converted into container wharves for deep-sea ships (16 m draft). With the port operating at less than full capacity during the construction phase, some congestion is expected in the coming months and organisations should plan accordingly. Organisations are advised that this

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will only affect conventional cargo (bulk or break bulk). Container lines services are not due to be significantly affected.

- The Logistics Cluster will provide updates on Mersin Port construction and in case of any major congestion, information will be shared with partners.
- Turkey/Syria Nusaybin crossing was recently used by WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR to transport aid to Qamishli.

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Jordan

- The Logistics Cluster provided coordination support for a humanitarian convoy of about 12 trucks of Food and non-food items (NFIs) on 21 October from the Ramtha-Dar’a Crossing, (post-Security Council Resolution 2165) to Dara al Balad and Mzeireeb.
- The Jaber-Naseeb border crossing continues to be used, mostly by UNICEF and UNHCR trucks. The procedure is to complete customs procedures at Naseeb and then head to onward destinations via Sweidah City.

2. COMMON SERVICES UPDATE

Inland Transport:

- The Logistics Cluster has transported over 3,463 m³ of cargo on behalf of partners so far in October. Cargo included health, wash, shelter, education, protection and food items, transported with 63 trucks.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the shipment and transport of UNICEF cargo from the Nusaybin border crossing to Logistics Cluster warehouses in Qamishli. In total, 22 trucks with 600 m³ of education materials were transported.

Storage:

- 29,902 m³ of inter-agency stocks are currently being stored at the Logistics Cluster warehouses across the country on behalf of ACF, IOM, Oxfam, Premiere Urgence, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNRWA and WHO.
- Some organisations still have cargo stored in the Logistics Cluster warehouses for more than six months. The Logistics Cluster thanked those who had released cargo, and requested remaining organisations to do so as this will free up space for newly arriving cargo.
- The 15 trucks purchased this year by the Logistics Cluster (8-10MT capacity each), crossed the Lebanon-Syria borders and have now been handed over to Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), to enhance its logistics capacity in Syria. This complements the donation of 20 trucks last year, bringing SARC’s total fleet to 35 trucks.
- The October physical inventory exercise is scheduled to take place next week. Partners were reminded that this is a mandatory exercise to ensure greater accountability and to ensure that stock is managed more effectively.

Cost Recovery:

- Partners were informed of the current plan to continue with a Logistics Cluster Special Operation (SO) in 2015 and the move towards cost-recovery on certain common services.
- Logistics Cluster services will continue inside Syria as well as from neighboring countries (Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey) and will include both free-to-user and cost recovery. Logistics Cluster staff is also working in neighboring countries.

3. JOINT HUMANITARIAN CONVOYS

Accomplished Convoys:

Recent Convoys were supported to the below locations on behalf of IOM, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP:

- Homs: Four locations (two in Ter Malla, as well as Ghantoo, Jabourien, and Akrad Dasneih.
- East Aleppo (Jisr Al Haj)
Upcoming Joint Humanitarian Convoys:
- Rural Aleppo: Four locations (Nubol, Zahra, Big Orem, Afreen) – Postponed until 25 October.

Cancelled Convoys:
- Two convoys into Rural Damascus (Zabadani & Madya) scheduled for 20-23 October - Postponed until further notice.

4. ORGANISATIONS’ UPDATES AND AOB
- A Warehouse Management Training is scheduled to be held in Damascus from 28 October to 30 October. Additional training will be provided in Homs, Lattakia, and Qamishly. The dates for these trainings will be shared with partners, once confirmed.
- Some organisations indicated that they are facing delays in obtaining facilitation letters; in some instances approvals are not received for the weekly plan unless all the agencies have handed over their weekly plans. Organisations suggested negotiating with authorities to provide the approvals for the weekly plans on a case-by-case basis.
- UNFPA requested that OCHA raise the need for SARC/security representatives at its warehouse in Tartous, as this warehouse is included in the overall warehouse list submitted by OCHA to authorities.
- Some partners reported that they are not able to deliver items to Raqqa and Deir Ezzour, and requested a potential humanitarian convoy to these areas be coordinated, possibly going through the al Soukhneh area in rural Homs.
- Participants requested a translated version of the Customs Clearance Bill (currently in Arabic only) that was discussed in the previous Customs Clearance Information Session held in Damascus in September.

Contacts:
**Syria**
- Louis Boshoff, Logistics Cluster Coordinator (OIC) | louis.boshoff@wfp.org
- Najd Alchaar, Logistics Cluster Assistant | najd.alchaar@wfp.org

**Lebanon**
- Hamza Mohmand, Information Management Officer | hamza.mohmand@wfp.org

**Jordan**
- Finne Lucey, Logistics Cluster Coordinator | finne.lucey@wfp.org
- Jonas Herzog, GIS Officer | jonas.herzog@wfp.org