Meeting Minutes, 24 July 2023

Syria Operation, Damascus

This is an unofficial UN meeting record and should not be considered as a verbatim account of the UN meeting or position.

LOCATION Damascus (in-person and online)

DATE 24 July 2023

CHAIR Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale, Finn Church Aid (FCA), Humedica International Aid, NES Operations & Support Working Group, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), OXFAM, Terre des Hommes Italy (TDH-IT), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

AGENDA

1. Logistics Cluster Updates
2. Jordan Cargo Updates
3. Training Working Group
4. Fuel Updates.
5. Cross Border Operations
6. Cross line updates
7. On Demand Services (ODS) update
8. AOB

ACTION POINTS

- The Logistics Cluster to respond to the fuel requests submitted by partners.
- The Logistics Cluster to monitor the updates of the UNSCR.
- The Logistics Cluster shall contact Cash working group to get more information about exchange rate in Syria.

1. LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATES

- The Logistics Cluster conducted a meeting called by UN agencies. Among the topics of discussion were, the importation formalities, approvals and the timeframe provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). A note was submitted to OCHA to gain understanding and explore the thoughts and recommendations of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).
- The blanket approval of field visits submitted by MOFA for the Earthquake response has now ceased. The process has since been returned to pre-earthquake situation.
- The Logistics Cluster took part in the Operational Peer Review (OPR) which aimed to evaluate sectors/clusters Earthquake response and the challenges faced.

2. Jordan Cargo Updates:

- As of today, 35 truckloads containing food, medicine and Non-Food Items (NFIs) are at the Logistics Cluster warehouse in Kisweh.
- The cargo arrived in February and March 2023 as unsolicited cargo from different INGOs and was not reconditioned.
- Seven trucks load were allocated to Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC) and were transported under the Logistics Cluster on 29 March 2023.
- Approximately 28 truckloads of blankets, clothes, food rations, medicines and water were allocated to TDH-Italy.
- TDH-IT transported two truckloads of hand sanitizers and Alcohol after getting transportation approvals. The destination of these trucks was Idlib, Aleppo, and Lattakia.
- Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)/MOLA approvals are received and the transportation of the first part of the items, which includes water, food items and NFIs, will be done under WFP's On Demand Services (ODS).

3. Training Working Group (TWG):

- Following the survey shared with partners, the Logistics Cluster is calling for a partner to take over as Chair of the training group. Any interested partner is advised to contact the Logistics Cluster Coordinator.
- The TWG will draft the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the TWG and agree on training requirements including a budget and topics of interest.

4. Fuel (Diesel) Prices Updates in Jun 2023

- The National Formal Market Average up to June 2023 stood at 679 SYP per litre up from 674.93 SYP per litre in May. This represents slight increase 0.6% in the price.
- The National Informal Market Average up to June 2023 stood at SYP 6406.00 per Litre up from 6100.06 SYP per Litre in May 2023.This represents increase (5%) in June compared to May 2023.

5. UN Cross Line Convoy

The Logistics Cluster successfully supported an Inter-Agency Convoy of 10 trucks from Aleppo to Idleb in Northwest Syria (NWS). Convoy Sarmada 11 was conducted on 23 June 2023 to support the population in need with basic supplies such as Health, WASH, Nutrition, and Shelter items for UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO in addition to 4,350 WFP food rations which total volume reached to 226 MT/ 839 M^3.

6. Cross Border Operations

In June 2023, the Logistics Cluster Facilitated the cross-border XB operation from Türkiye to NWS, **893 trucks carrying 19,281.7 mt of humanitarian relief items.** from Türkiye to Syria on behalf of UN agencies, namely, WHO, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP with support the support of OCHA and UNMM.

Below is a breakdown of cross border activity per border crossing: **the below figures are only for the month of June 2023, and are based on the data reported by agencies.**

Bab Al Hawa	Bab Al Salam	Al Ra'ee
779	106	8

United Nations Security Council Resolution Update:

- The current resolution expired on the 10 July 2023. The Logistics Cluster is on standby for further extension.
- Discussion regarding the renewal of the UNSCR is still ongoing and no final agreement has been reached.
- UN agencies had prepositioned basic supplies before the 10 July 2023.
- Bab Al Salam & Al Ra'ee remain operational and resumed deliveries last week, with slow movement.

Reyhanli UN Hub Visit Updates

- A delegation from the Belgium embassy visited the UN transhipment hub in Reyhanli on 20 June 2023. The purpose of the visit was to assess the transhipment operations of the Hub. The Logistics Cluster facilitated a Media visit of OCHA to Reyhanli Hub. The purpose of the media visit was to advocate for the UNSCR renewal.

7. On Demand Services (ODS) Service Provision:

ODS includes the provision of the below services:

- Storage
- Transport
- Inspection
- Fuel
- Procurement
- Shipping
- Air cargo transport

Partners can request the On Demand Services of WFP on a full cost recovery basis.

The Logistics Cluster facilitated access to storage services of the following:

- 3.8 MT/55 M3 of Education and WASH items in Homs warehouse on behalf of Finn Church Aid (FCA) and UNFPA.
- 4.2 MT/93 M3 of shelter and WASH items in Aleppo warehouse on behalf of Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and UNFPA.
- 7.6MT/ 42.2 M3 of Health items in Kiswa warehouse on behalf of UNFPA.

8. AOB:

- Training opportunity by Air Bus Foundation was shared with the Logistics Cluster partners.
- A query was raised about the devaluation of the Syrian Pound and the currency fluctuation experienced. The Syrian central bank changed the exchange rate, which is now close to that of the black market. NGOs reported that the currency fluctuation is affecting the prices in the market including workers and transport.
- The participants addressed the Logistics Cluster for information on the exchange rate for NGOs/UN Agencies. The Logistics Cluster will contact the Cash working group to get more information on this.
- Mr Phillip Makoor, joined the Logistics Cluster as a Logistics Officer for Cross-Border activities in Gaziantep.

CONTACTS

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