Meeting Minutes, 11 October 2023

Global Logistics Cluster - Global Call - Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel, and Earthquake in Afghanistan

LOCATION	Online
DATE	11 October 2023
CHAIR	Global Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Action Contre la Faim (ACF), AirLink, CARE, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Help Logistics, Humedica, Human Appeal, Humanitarian Logistics Association, International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Johanniter International, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Solidarites International, United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UPS Foundation, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Vision International,
ACTION POINTS	• Outcomes of the security assessment in Northern Sinai to be shared with partners • WHO to investigate importation and re-exportation requirements for the transshipment of bonded health supplies as part of the response to the escalation in the Gaza strip • A discussion is to be held with the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) on the need for setting up a joint fleet as part of the response to the escalation in the Gaza strip
AGENDA	Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel 1. Situation update 2. Logistics update 3. Partners update Afghanistan earthquake 1. Situation update 2. Logistics update 3. Partners update Other Updates

Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel

Situation update:

To date, approximately 1,800 people have been killed, and over 6,000 are injured. Over 260,000 people have been displaced in Gaza. There are movement restrictions in effect in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. The supply of electricity to the Gaza Strip has been cut, with limited access to electricity for 3-4 hours per day. Water, food,

and fuel supplies have also been cut. Mobile and internet services are disrupted following the destruction of two of the three main telephone lines.

Logistics update:

- Logistics Cluster activation: the Humanitarian Coordinator has requested Logistics Cluster activation. Logistics Cluster staff has been deployed to Cairo and Jerusalem.
- Border crossing points: the Erez and Kerem Shalom border crossings between Israel and Gaza are closed. The Rafah border crossing with Egypt has been experiencing temporary closure due to an airstrike and has been closed again since this morning.
- Ports access constraints: port operations in Israel's and Egypt's major portal terminals have not been impacted to date.
- Airport access constraints: Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv remains operational with flight restrictions.
- Convoy planning: the Egyptian authorities are planning a convoy of relief and health supplies through the Rafah border crossing in close coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent and a group of national NGOs.
- Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA): the LCA is currently being updated and can be accessed here
- Mailing lists: the Global Logistics Cluster support team is currently collecting contact details to establish mailing lists for the humanitarian response. Partners are invited to submit their contact details here.

Partners update:

- WFP HMI (Humanitarian and Military Interaction): . Discussions are ongoing with OCHA to assess how to provide coordinated support on civil-military interaction. A security assessment in Northern Sinai shall take place tomorrow to assess the possibility of setting up a transshipment or forward-staging area close to Rafah.
- WFP Regional Bureau Cairo (RBC): the Egyptian government announced that it will open a large humanitarian corridor into Gaza, despite the fact that the border is closed at the moment. The humanitarian response from Egypt is expected to take place through the Egyptian Red Crescent, with cargo storage in an ERC-managed warehouse which is likely to be located in Ismailia. Humanitarian cargo is expected to transit from Ismailia to Rafah and be handed over to the Palestinian Red Crescent. There is a need for all partners to coordinate in such a way that cargo shipments into Gaza are embedded into the ERC's approach toward the humanitarian response. The Egyptian government is prioritizing the shipment of health cargo.
- UNFPA: UNFPA observed that, in case there is a need for cargo consolidation, one of the requirements has to be the possibility of temperature-controlled storage and transport services. UNFPA is currently planning to ship 3,000 dignity kits to the West Bank.
- WHO: two charters containing health cargo are planned to leave for Cairo. WHO will assess the importation and re-exportation requirements for bringing international humanitarian cargo from Egypt

into Gaza. There might be a need for organizing a joint fleet in coordination with the ERC's approach to the response.

- ICRC: ICRC is benefitting from a Private Free Zone (PFZ) in Amman where it has been storing its medical supplies. The PFZ facilitates the transit of goods and ICRC can benefit from typical free zone-related advantages such as kitting. ICRC will assess whether it can accommodate temporary storage any additional health cargo from other partners. ICRC is working on obtaining authorization from the Israeli government to ship medical supplies from Jordan via Israel into the West Bank.

Afghanistan earthquake

Situation update:

On 7 October 2023, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake hit the Herat Province. The districts of Gulran, injil, Khosan, Kushk, and Zindajan were affected. Approximately 1,294 people deceased and 1,688 were injured. Search and Rescue operations are ongoing. Three inter-agency teams have been established and traveled to Zenda Jan to assess the humanitarian impact. A second 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit Herat on the morning of 11 October 2023.

Logistics update:

- National Logistics Working Group: there is already a Logistics Working Group covering the whole of Afghanistan, and no major logistics bottlenecks have been reported so far. An ad hoc Logistics Working Group coordination meeting was held on 11 October 2023.
- Access constraints: the road to the main affected area is open. There is a functioning international airport in Herat, and Kandahar International Airport is operational as well. However, neither of these two airports has the capacity to handle large cargo planes, and it is recommended to fly cargo into Kabul and from there bring it to the earthquake-affected areas via road. At present, it takes 3 to 4 days to move trucks from Kabul into the earthquake-affected areas due to poor road maintenance. Warehouse assessments are ongoing but most warehouses in Herat appear to be intact Communications and internet connectivity represent the major operational challenges raised by partners to date.
- Anticipated partner logistics needs: the Logistics Working Group expects partners to request support regarding mobile storage and inland transportation.
- LCA: for information related to the existing logistics infrastructure in Afghanistan please consult the LCA here.
- LogIE: dynamic mapping updates in Afghanistan can be consulted by accessing the LogIE Afghanistan page here.

Partners update:

- UNHRD: DG ECHO (European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) has expressed an interest in organizing a flight containing humanitarian aid items to Afghanistan. There is a flight planned

for the beginning of next week. Due to the size of the aircraft, UNHRD is only able to fly into Kabul International Airport and is assessing how to bring the cargo from Kabul into the earthquake-affected areas from there, because the cost-comparison for flying smaller aircraft is not economically viable. Residual space can possibly be offered to partners. Moving cargo from Kabul to Herat takes approximately 3 to 4 days.

- WFP Aviation: a tender for a flight to Kabul by a wide-body aircraft able to transport 110 mt of humanitarian cargo was launched.
- IOM Afghanistan: accommodation for international staff in Herat is currently a major challenge. IOM is out of tents and shelter kits must be shipped to the earthquake-affected areas as quickly as possible. IOM is contracting a commercial transport service provider and transportation services are good.
- UNICEF: the UNICEF guesthouse has space for accommodation but, until the status of the building is checked, accommodation is only allowed in prefabs and accommodation is extremely limited at the moment.

Other updates

Libya: there is a Logistics Working Group in place and coordination meetings are held once a week. There are bottlenecks in terms of visa issuance and authorisation to travel in the affected areas.

Armenia: no request for support from the government or the humanitarian community has been received to date, and there appears to be no immediate need for augmented coordination and information management support.

Morocco: the Global Logistics Cluster support team deployed staff to assess the situation and coordinate with the local authorities and to work with the Morocco Red Crescent Society. No request for support from the government or the partners has been received, and the deployment mission finished on 28 September 2023.

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