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| LOCATION | Rafah, Gaza Strip in-person |
| DATE | 22 January 2024 |
| CHAIR | Palestine Logistics Cluster |
| PARTICIPANTS | ACTED, Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B), Mercy Corps, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Premiere Urgence International (PUI), UK-MED, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), World Food Programme (WFP) |
| ACTION POINTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisations are invited to share their focal points based in Gaza with the Logistics Cluster at palestine.logcluster@wfp.org.• Partners are encouraged to utilise the cargo notification service offered by the Logistics Cluster to be informed when their cargo arrives inside Gaza.• Partners are strongly advised to increase the visibility items on all sides of the pallets and to ensure pallets are robustly wrapped. |
| AGENDA | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Common Services2. Partners Updates and Challenges3. Transport Assessment |

1. Logistics Cluster Common Services

The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to the following common services:

In Gaza:

- **Common storage:** Three warehouses in Rafah are currently available for partners' storage, two managed by ACTED (70 m² and 400 m²) and one managed by WFP (1,000 m²).
 - Storage is available at no cost to the user and is available for a maximum of seven days.
 - The common warehouses in Deir al Balah and Khan Yunis are currently on hold until further notice.
 - The purpose of having warehouses in separate locations is to have the items positioned closer to the intended distribution sites.
- **Logistics Cluster transport services** are available from Rafah Transshipment Point to the Logistics Cluster common warehouses in the Gaza Strip. There is no last-mile delivery or transportation to specific locations by the Logistics Cluster.

- **Cargo notification services:** the Logistics Cluster has permanent staff presence from 7 am to 7 pm at the Rafah Transshipment Point to inform partners once their cargo has arrived. Partners must share the commodity details with the Logistics Cluster through the [Service Request Form](#) (SRF) to be able to identify the partners' cargo once it arrives in Gaza. Partners are also strongly encouraged to increase the visibility items on the pallets for easier identification.

In Jordan

- The Logistics Cluster is piloting consolidated convoys in Jordan through various modalities and engaging with partners and authorities. More information on the outcomes will be provided in the coming days.

In Egypt

- **Common storage services** in Port Said, with 800 pallet positions. Temporary storage is available for up to 30 days.
- Temperature-controlled storage is available in Al Arish through four inflatable cold rooms.

Accessing Logistics Cluster common services

- Partners were given an overview of how to access Logistics Cluster services. Partners wishing to access any of these services for Gaza or Egypt can consult the [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) on the operation webpage.
- When partners need to release cargo from a Logistics Cluster warehouse, they must submit a formal Release Order Form (ROF) either using the online ROF or by submitting an Excel ROF file to Palestine.ClusterCargo@wfp.org. Instructions for filling out a ROF can be [found here](#).

2. Partners Updates and Ongoing Challenges

Partners shared the concerns and challenges they continue facing inside Gaza:

- **Storage:** storage space across the Gaza Strip is limited and organisations are competing for the few warehouses that remain available. The Logistics Cluster is in the process of procuring additional Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), which will be made available to humanitarian partners to augment their storage capacities.
- **Transportation:** the number of trucks available for transporting cargo is limited and organisations are competing for the same resources.
 - UNRWA is working to contract an additional 30 trucks for use by the humanitarian community.
 - The Logistics Cluster conducted a transport assessment in January 2024. Results show that 230 trucks are currently operational in the Gaza Strip. 43 trucks belong to the major transport companies, while others are owned by small companies or individuals. Access to fuel was not reported as an issue currently, as all are able to access it through UNRWA or commercially.

- **Security:** limited reach to the northern region of the Gaza Strip due to the ongoing security situation. There is also the challenge of securing cargo as it departs from the Rafah Transshipment Point. Safety concerns also persist about the warehouses across the Strip, including the southern region, with a few incidents reported.
- **Identifying cargo:** extreme challenges faced in identifying cargo that arrives through the Kerem Shalom crossing point due to the multiple loading and off-loading. Partners are strongly encouraged to label pallets from all sides with the sender organisation's logo as well as the organisation which will receive cargo inside Gaza. Moreover, partners must ensure the pallets are robustly wrapped to ensure they can sustain the multiple cross-loadings.
- **Cold chains:** temperature-controlled storage is not available at Kerem Shalom while the cross-loading is being done, which has been a major challenge for some cargo, such as vaccinations and medicines. Partners can request approval to re-route trucks to Rafah instead of Kerem Shalom, as dedicated reefers are available for cold chain requirements.
 - The Logistics Cluster is planning to send two temperature-controlled units (TCUs) to Gaza, pending approval from COGAT.
 - There is a challenge in the storage of supplies requiring cold chain close to the points of administration of the medication, as cold chain equipment has not been allowed in so far.
- **Manifest and prioritization:** Need to improve the manifest creation process to better reflect the prioritization list.
 - The Logistics Cluster is in discussion with the ERC to support the manifest preparation and ensure the prioritization list is closely followed to consider needs in Gaza.
- **Rejected items:** UNRWA is working to compile a consolidated list of rejected items to include in the [Gaza Supplies and Dispatch Tracking](#) dashboard in order to advocate for these items. There is a need to advocate strongly for the importation of generators and communications equipment for humanitarian purposes, especially considering the frequent communication blackouts.

The date of the next Logistics Cluster meeting in Gaza to be determined.

Contacts

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