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# Meeting Minutes, 16 April 2024

Palestine Logistics Cluster



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<b>LOCATION</b>	Amman, Cairo, Jerusalem, (online and in-person)
<b>DATE</b>	16 April 2024
<b>CHAIR</b>	Palestine Logistics Cluster
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<p>ACTED, Action Against Hunger (ACF), Alianza por la Solidaridad, Americares Foundation, Atlas Logistique/Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Belgium Embassy, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CCP Japan, CESVI, Danish Church Aid (DCA), Danish Red Cross (Rodekors), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Direct Relief, Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), Distribute Aid, ECHO, European Commission (EU), Foreign Commonwealth &amp; Development Office (FCDO), Global Communities, Good Neighbors Japan, Help Palestine, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC), Jordan Red Crescent (JRC), Kuehne Foundation, Malteser International, Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B), Médecins Sans Frontières Netherlands (MSF-N), Médecins Sans Frontières OCA (MSF), MedGlobal, Medicos del Mundo (MdM), Mercy Corps, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OXFAM, Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PCRS), Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC), Interpeoples' Cooperation (PARCIC), Penny Appeal, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Samaritan's Purse (SP), Save the Children International (SCI), ShelterBox, Solidarités International (SI), SyriaRelief, Team Rubicon International, Terre des Hommes Italy (TdH), Turkish Red Crescent Society, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), USAID-DART, Yedibasak, Water Mission, WeWorld, World Bank (WB), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), WorldVision International (WVI).</p>
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partners are to ensure printed QR codes on all sides of cargo pallets are on their cargo. Each pallet should be wrapped with four layers of shrink plastic wrap and should be secured with plastic binding.</li><li>• Partners to provide input on their pipeline for the Egypt and Jordan corridors through the dedicated form. Partners who did not receive a form are encouraged to reach out to <a href="mailto:palestine.logcluster@wfp.org">palestine.logcluster@wfp.org</a>.</li><li>• The Logistics Cluster to liaise with the Health Cluster to discuss best ways to facilitate health item consolidation to make up full truck loads for the Jordan corridor convoys.</li><li>• Organizations bringing cargo through Egypt are requested to submit the online Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) forms: <a href="#">48 h</a> and <a href="#">15 days</a> forms.</li><li>• Partners are invited to continue submitting their customs-related questions for Egypt in the <a href="#">dedicated form</a> and for Jordan in the <a href="#">dedicated form</a>.</li><li>• Partners are invited to share their lists of suppliers (especially inside Gaza) with <a href="mailto:Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org">Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org</a>, for the benefit of the wider humanitarian logistics community. The Logistics Cluster will circulate the list on a regular basis.</li></ul>

- AGENDA**
- Gaza Update
  - Jordan Corridor Update
  - Egypt Corridor Update
  - Logistics Cluster Common Services
  - Pre-approval Process – ASU Update
  - NRC: Local procurement in Egypt
  - AOB

## 1. Gaza Updates

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### SITUATION UPDATE

- The Logistics Cluster provided a context update based on the latest [OCHA SitRep](#).
- The Logistics Cluster updated partners on the number of trucks that have crossed into Gaza in the last week, as per [UNRWA dashboard](#). Last week saw an increase of 72% in the total number of trucks that entered Gaza. Out of the 1,403 trucks that crossed into Gaza, 1,010 (81%) were UN and INGOs trucks. Most of the trucks (81%) crossed into Gaza through Kerem Shalom (KS).
- The discrepancies between truck data sourced through COGAT and truck data compiled and displayed on the UNRWA dashboard, are mostly due to the different counting methods: COGAT counts scanned trucks which then may be remain in the blind area, whereas UNRWA counts trucks that are dispatched to the Rafah Transshipment Point. In addition, differences may also originate from the different truck capacity (40mt trucks may arrive in Kerem Shalom, and cargo is then loaded on to lower capacity trucks at the Rafah Transshipment Point).

### LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATE

- The UN conducted an assessment mission to Zikim, which may be open as a new crossing point. The initial assessment information points to poor infrastructure quality on the Gaza side, road damage which requires significant work and sandy routes. The Logistics Cluster will keep partners updated as more information is received.
- The use of Road 10 connecting Nitzana and Kerem Shalom, has been authorized and used for direct convoys but the route is currently not available for back-to-back convoys.
- *Post Factum*: the use of Road 10 has now been granted also for back-to-back convoys. While reducing the number of cross-loading operations, it does require Israeli customs clearance.
- Key equipment to support partners as part of the contingency planning in Gaza has arrived in Jordan and will be delivered as soon as authorizations are granted.
- Temperature Controlled Units are also scheduled to arrive in Egypt this week, intended to augment the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) capacity in Al Alarish, as well as health partners' capacity inside Gaza - for which the TCUs will be dispatched as soon as possible following arrival in Al Alarish.

- The Nitzana scanning capacity is currently reduced by 50% due to the breakdown of one out of the total two scanning machines. The Logistics Cluster presented the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group prioritization list and percentages by sector as of 31 March 2024. *Post Factum*: for the week of 14 April, the percentages by sector are as follows: 70% food security, 15% health, 5% WASH, 4% shelter/NFIs, 4% nutrition, 1% child protection, 1% GBV.
- The Logistics Cluster is assessing the middle area to explore the possibility of expanding the storage capacity on Deir al Balah and Beita Hanoun. The Logistics Cluster will keep partners informed on the progress of new warehouse facility rentals.

## INTER-AGENCY PIPELINE

- The Logistics Cluster provided an update on the organizations' pipelines for both the Jordan and Egypt corridors for the next three months through the dedicated form per organization. As of 14 April, a total of 319,722 mt of aid is in the pipeline for the next three months<sup>1</sup>. The pipeline now also includes the flour in Ashdod port.
- Most of the pipeline is still planned for Egypt (on behalf of 27 organizations), with over 258,476 mt, 88% of which is food security. As for the Jordan corridor (on behalf of 21 organizations), 34,819 mt is planned (55% food security and 29% WASH items).
- Partners who have not received the form or are facing any issues can contact [Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org](mailto:Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org).

## 2. Jordan Corridor Updates

- Three back-to-back (B2B) convoys of 24 trucks each are planned this week on 22-23-24 April, with the priority for NFIs. The Logistics Cluster follows the ICCG priorities, which are updated weekly. Therefore, the remaining NFIs not included in this scheduled convoy will be delivered in the upcoming convoys.
- In April, three direct convoys through the Jordan corridor transported food to Gaza:
  - On 8 April, the "pilot" direct convoy of 50 Jordanian trucks transported 757 mt of food to Gaza. The trucks utilized the King Hussein Bridge (KHB)/Allenby route, and then proceeded to Kerem Shalom via Route 10.
  - On 11 April, a second direct convoy of 50 trucks transported 847 mt of food to Gaza crossing the Sheikh Hussein Bridge (Jordan River Crossing) and proceeding to Kerem Shalom via Route 10.
  - On April 15, the third convoy of 25 trucks carrying food was dispatched. The scanning process took place in Amman, allowing easier passage through KHB without requiring further scanning at Allenby.

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<sup>1</sup> The pipeline collection is an ongoing process and data is based on available inputs from humanitarian organizations on a weekly basis. Therefore, it does not represent the entire pipeline and should be interpreted accordingly.

- The lead time for direct convoys to reach Gaza is generally one day. However, due to the screening requirements, cargo must be loaded the night before convoy departure.
- There is currently no regular schedule provided for direct convoys, as it is dependent on the agreements between Israeli and Jordanian authorities, and the availability of trucks. Two convoys are planned for next week. Direct convoys are currently only authorized for food items.
- Logistics partners planning to send food are advised to be prepared to load cargo at short notice.
- Regarding the Aqaba-Nuweiba-Al Arish-Gaza route: The logistics cluster continues to facilitate it; however, partners have not requested it since the end of January.
- The Logistics Cluster has emphasized that closed-sided box trucks and reefer trucks are still not authorized, making transport of oversized cargo and cargo with cold chain requirements not feasible for the moment. Considering the multiple points of cross-loading and the use of different trucks along the transport route oversized, voluminous, or temperature controlled/cold chain cargo cannot be transported on the back-to-back convoy modality.
- The IMPACCT Working Group continues to collect questions and challenges related to the customs processes through the [dedicated form for Jordan](#).
- Some partners expressed the need for health cargo consolidation to make up a truck load for the Jordan corridor convoys. The Logistics Cluster will liaise with the Health Cluster to discuss the best way to manage health cargo consolidation.
- Partners are required to submit their cargo details through the online [Service Request Form \(SRF\)](#) to secure placement on the Logistics Cluster coordinated inter-agency convoys.

### 3. Egypt Corridor Updates

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- As of 15 April, 216 trucks have been verified in Al Arish and are ready to be manifested and moved into Gaza. 185 of the ready trucks carry food security items. More trucks are expected to arrive.
- Partners bringing cargo through Egypt are required to submit the online Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) [48h](#) and [15 days](#) forms.
- Once completed, partners are encouraged to dispatch their trucks to Al Arish, as there is currently no backlog.
- The Logistics Cluster analyzed the number of trucks manifested and the actual crossings to Kerem Shalom:
  - The average number of trucks manifested per day is 115. During the last week, there have been around 200 trucks per day manifested, an increase of around 90%.
- Humanitarian cargo is estimated to be sustained in the next one to two months based on the pipeline submitted by partners.

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## 4. Logistics Cluster Common Services

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to common logistics services in Gaza and Jordan, at no-cost to the user. A summary of the services can be found [here](#). Partners wishing to access these services should consult the [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#).
- To request storage, transport, or cargo notification services, partners must submit the online [Service Request Form \(SRF\)](#).
- Modifications were made to ensure the consignment QR codes include consignment number and final destination. Printed QR codes on all sides of cargo pallets are required for clear identification.
- Each pallet should be wrapped with four layers of shrink plastic wrap and should be secured with plastic binding.

### IN GAZA

- Four warehouses in Rafah are available for partners' storage, with a total space of 3,470 m<sup>2</sup>. Storage is available for partners for up to seven days.
- Transport service is available from Rafah Transshipment Point to Logistics Cluster common warehouses in the Gaza Strip.
- Cargo notification services are available to inform partners once their cargo has arrived at the Rafah handover point from both Kerem Shalom and Rafah entry points.

### IN JORDAN

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to common transport services from Amman to Gaza (through the King Hussein Bridge/Allenby – Nitzana – KS (Gaza)), and the newly trialed direct convoys route (Amman via KHB or Sheik Hussein to KS and offers support in the consolidation of cargo (storage of up to four days, with cold chain capacity) for the dispatching of convoy trucks.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitates the convoy coordination services for the Amman – Aqaba – Nuweibaa – Al Arish – Gaza route. WFP and the Logistics Cluster support the coordination; however, partners must provide their own trucks and must be registered in Egypt, following the standard procedures that are used to bring cargo from Arish to Gaza.

## 5. Pre-approval process – ASU Update

- The Access Support Unit (ASU) provided an update on the pre-approval status for humanitarian aid items submitted for approval since 11 January. Of the 280 submissions, 130 have been cleared, 27 have been rejected, 106 are pending, and 17 are no longer being pursued.
- ASU continues to share a weekly list of items submitted by partners for pre-approval with COGAT.
- The average time on currently pending items is 12 days and 13 days for pre-clearance.

- April has seen more delays in the pre-clearance process. During the past week, 21 requests were submitted in total: 21 are still pending, three were rejected and 18 were approved.
- COGAT recommends applying online for telecommunication equipment. Partners should create separate requests for medical items, as a dedicated COGAT officer reviews the applications for these items. Requests for WASH items must be submitted after receiving the endorsement of the WASH Cluster.
- Partners are encouraged to provide additional information as soon as possible in case any requests from COGAT are received, to minimize the waiting time for the approval/rejection of the request.
- The ASU highlighted that the COGAT inspection coordination form only applies to partners transporting cargo through Egypt.
- For more information partners can reach Ms. Manal AlNajjar at [manala@unops.org](mailto:manala@unops.org).
- Partners can submit items for pre-approval by filling out the Access Support Unit (ASU) [online pre-approval request form](#).

## 6. NRC: Local Procurement in Egypt

- The Norwegian Refugee Council is an independent humanitarian organization that focuses on helping and supporting people fleeing their homes and lands. Its core competencies are food security, education, shelter, legal assistance, protection from violence, water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- Since the conflict escalation in October, NRC has shipped around 150 trucks through the Rafah crossing with Egypt, in coordination with their key donors and in partnership with IOM.
- NRC utilizes various entry points, including Al Alarish Airport, Port Said, and Cairo International Airport.
- Local procurement in Egypt has represented a cost and time-effectiveness approach. NRC received clearance to use local suppliers registered in Egypt. NRC compiled a suppliers list by contacting INGOs, UN agencies and the Logistics Cluster.
- The advantages of local procurement are: availability of items at competitive prices, warehousing services in Cairo for packaging and palletization, and increased oversight by NRC.
- NRC continues to explore different entry points and procurement options to overcome the challenges.

## 7. AoB

- The Logistics Cluster is still compiling the suppliers list and sharing it with partners upon request. Names of partners are removed from shared file. To access the file partners can contact [Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org](mailto:Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org).
- Collecting updates on the physical access constraint is still ongoing. Partners are also encouraged to share their updates with the Logistics Cluster to assist in the development of information.



- Partners interested in sharing their experiences and would like to present at the Logistics Cluster coordination meeting are welcomed and encouraged to contact [Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org](mailto:Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org).
- Hulu in collaboration with ECHO is still collecting requests from humanitarian organizations for the airlifts to support the Gaza response through [the Hulu platform](#).
- More information on the Logistics Cluster services, updates, guidelines, related links can be found on the Palestine Logistics Cluster [Webpage](#).
- Logistics Cluster coordination meetings in Gaza will be held bi-weekly. The date of the next coordination meeting will be confirmed through the dedicated mailing list.

**The next Palestine Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will be held on 25 April 2024 at 11:00**

## Contacts

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