LOCATION:  WFP Office Gaziantep, Turkey

DATE:  14 November 2016

CHAIR:  Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS:  Americares, Big Heart, Concern Worldwide, FAO, Global Communities, Handicap International, IOM, IRC, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Khayr, Mercy Corps, OCHA, PAH, SAMS, Save the Children, Syria Relief, The Mentor Initiative, Qatar Red Crescent Society, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMM and WFP

ACTION POINTS:

- Participants will share their December transhipment plans with the Cluster
- The Logistics Cluster will share the Syria Lessons Learned report with participants and compile and share an updated logistics focal points list (two contacts per organization)
- The Logistics Cluster and OCHA will develop and share documentation on their respective roles and possible areas of support with participants, including updated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for cross-border activities
- The Logistics Cluster will compile participants’ questions on tax exemptions/other customs issues, in order to prepare for a meeting with relevant parties on this issue
- The Logistics Cluster will compile supplier and transporter lists as part of the upcoming Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for southern Turkey

AGENDA:

1. Role of the Logistics Cluster
2. Preparedness Mission
3. Winterization
4. Fuel
5. A.O.B.

1. Role of the Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster’s role as a logistics coordination and information platform and service provider of last resort via WFP, was explained to partners. OCHA’s role as a coordination body for the humanitarian response, its continued advocacy for access and liaison with relevant authorities, was also conveyed. Further documentation will be developed and shared with participants to clarify roles.

- A Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for southern Turkey will be conducted starting end-November. The LCA for Syria has been updated and is awaiting clearance. Additional snapshots on customs procedures, maps and other information products can be produced and shared, driven by organizations’ needs.
2. Preparedness Mission

- Participants were briefed on the ongoing Logistics Cluster Preparedness Mission which aims to look at potential scenarios and come up with a contingency plan based on envisaged needs. This could involve scaling up/scaling down depending on feedback from organizations. Several organizations have already been consulted (in Mersin, Antakya, and Gaziantep) with further discussions planned for the coming days.

3. Winterization

- Islamic Relief Worldwide, IOM, the Mentor Initiative and Khayr mentioned that their winterization programs have begun. Overall, many organizations have winterization activities that are ongoing.

- The Cluster requested agencies participating in cross-border shipments to send their December plans ASAP.

4. Fuel

- OCHA raised the point that a fuel waiver is in place. However, it has not been used so far. Currently, the waiver is in place for 10,000 mt per month per each UNSCR-mandated crossing.

- OCHA will look into renewing the fuel importation exemption for all of 2017, as an option in case fuel is required in the future, as the situation in Syria remains fluid. The main requirements foreseen are use of fuel in bakeries and schools/hospitals (generators).

5. AOB

- The Logistics Cluster Warehouse Management Training will take place in Gaziantep over two sessions, starting next week. The Cluster welcomed the positive interest from partners (47 trainees taking part).

- Participants discussed storage needs and it was agreed among the group that options for Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) will be looked into. If needed, the Cluster can organize trainings on how to erect MSUs.

- The Bab Al Salam (BAS)/Kilis border crossing remains non-operational until further notice. OCHA will discuss with relevant authorities and update the group.

- The Bab Al Hawa (BAH)/Reyhanli crossing is operational in terms of both humanitarian and commercial cargo. Nusaybin/Qamishli crossings remains non-operational.

- A recent assessment on Iraq-Syria border crossings (such as Faysh Khabour) will be shared with interested participants.
Coordination Meeting (Gaziantep, Turkey)

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