

LOCATION: Damascus, Syria

DATE: 7 December 2015

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: FAO, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA), Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IOM, OCHA, Oxfam, Premiere Urgence, Secours Islamique France, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, and WFP.

ACTION POINTS:

- The Logistics Cluster to share information and follow-up on any new importation procedures at Beirut Airport.
- Organisations to send winter fuel requests to the Logistics Cluster.
- Organisations to send requests for logistics trainings with preferred content to the Logistics Cluster.
- The Logistics Cluster to follow up with WHO on a standard list of medical items for importation purposes.
- Organisations to share updated logistics focal point contact details (including substitutes) to the Logistics Cluster.

AGENDA:

1. Access Constraints
2. Logistics Cluster Common Services
3. Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2016
4. Winterization plan
5. New Procedures for importation
6. Fuel transportation
7. AOB

1. Access Constraints

- Although the UN Security Council Resolution covering cross border access points has not been extended yet, an announcement that it will continue into 2016 is expected in the coming weeks.

Lebanon

- The Lebanon – Syria border crossings of Al Arida and Masnaa are fully operational. Participants have reported strict importation measures for communications equipment by the Lebanese authorities.
- Security measures at Beirut Airport have been increased; travellers are officially instructed to be there three hours before their flight. The Logistics Cluster will compile and share information on any new importation/other procedures at Beirut Airport.
- At Beirut Airport, some organisations have experienced delays in importing medical supplies. Organisations plan to import more medical supplies and will discuss further with Lebanese authorities if this continues to be a challenge.

Turkey

- Bab al Hawa and Bab al Salam are both operational. However, organisations will decide individually whether moving shipments, depending on the prevailing security situation.

Jordan

- The last planned cross border convoys of the 2015 will move from Ramtha to Southern Syria over the next two weeks.

2. Logistics Cluster Common Services

- The Logistics Cluster common warehouse in Sahnaya is operational for releases of stock only. Organisations are requested to give a minimum of 24 hours' notice and to give definite dates of truck arrivals. Any requests to store items will be accommodated in the Kisweh warehouse.
- Part one of a planned three-part convoy to Al Waer near Homs was completed last week with a number of UN agencies participating. To ensure these inter-agency convoys run smoothly, organisations are asked to be as quick as possible in providing accurate Service Request Forms (SRFs).

3. Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2016

- The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been finalised and submitted. All current Logistics Cluster activities will continue in 2016.
- Specific activities will be augmented as follows: the Bab Al Hawa transshipment hub in Turkey will be expanded, additional capacity building activities will be available in 2016. Furthermore, a dedicated Cluster staff member will be recruited for deployment to Homs to coordinate inter-agency convoys and if possible, any operations in Aleppo.
- Trainings to enhance logistics capacity are seen as a key focus for 2016. Participants to communicate their logistics training requirements and what they would like to see included in the curriculum.

4. Winterization plan

- The availability of fuel for emergency winterization purposes is limited. Organisations interested are invited to prepare fuel requests (SRF) detailing how much and to where this fuel is required as well as the justification indicating the purpose, and forward them to the Logistics Cluster. Each request will be considered on a case by case basis. The Cluster would facilitate the transport but the requesting organisation must have a focal point at the final location to sign for and confirm the delivery.
- Organisations asked if fuel could be provided to a hospital in Aleppo. It was advised to send a request to the Logistics Cluster, however the final confirmation of transport will depend on the security situation and access constraints.

5. New Procedures for importation

- The reversion to pre-exemption procedures on food importation stated by the Ministry of Agriculture in November, affected organisations importing food into Syria. One of the procedures involves legalizing the shipping documents at the Syrian embassy in the country of origin of the food. WFP is currently in ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on re-establishing exemptions. In case these new procedures stay in effect in 2016, the Logistics Cluster will document them and disseminate to members for input.
- Medical items are also being scrutinized. Organisations affected can forward a list of medical drugs and equipment to the Logistics Cluster and they will work with WHO on a standardised list. This should also be raised at the Health Sector meetings.

6. Fuel transportation

- An issue with fuel transportation was raised. Fuel being transported outside of Damascus city has been stopped at checkpoints and suppliers/transporters told they need a valid license. The Logistics Cluster will work with DRC to resolve this issue when transporting fuel to rural Damascus next week.

7. AOB

- The planned Deir Ezzour airlifts are still pending. All arrangements are in place however, the security situation does not allow to fly at present.

- It has been reported that there is not an official list of countries forbidden to enter Syrian airspace. Russian and Kazakhstan aircraft are permitted but no other list is available. Presently permissions are determined on a case by case basis.
- Agencies with stock originally allocated to Deir Ezzour, which is under storage at the Logistics Cluster common storage facilities, are welcome to reallocate these items as needed. In the event, that airlifts to Deir Ezzour become viable in the future, new loading plans will be prepared.
- NGOs are being requested to go through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)/(MOFA) when renewing their facilities' rental agreements, which results in long processing times.
- Participants to send updated details of their logistics focal points (including alternates) to the Logistics Cluster (Najd Al Chaar in Damascus).

Contacts

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