
Meeting Minutes, 25 May 2021

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



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LOCATION	Gaziantep, Turkey
DATE	25 May 2021
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Building Innovation Arts Architecture (BINAA), Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Department for International Development (DFID), Mediciens du Monde (MDM) / Dünya Doktorları Derneği (DDD), Ghiras Al Nahda, Global Communities, GOAL, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), Ihsan for Relief and Development (IHSAN), International Humanitarian Relief (IHR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), IYD International Humanitarian Relief Association, Malteser International, Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), NGO FORUM, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), People in Need (PIN), Relief International (RI), Shafak, Syria NGO Forum, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Takaful Sham (TAS), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM), United National Development Program (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID) (OFDA), Violet Organization, Welthungerhilfe, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster to share the following products via the mailing list:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Turkish Red Cross (TRC) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and cross-border service provision presentation.○ Cash-working group contact and meeting access details.○ Answers to the questions submitted regarding Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) in Northern Syria, taxes and communication tools and equipments.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Physical Access/ SCHF Allocation2. Coordination/Co-facilitator election3. Cross-border operation4. AOB

1. Physical Access/ SCHF Allocation

Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) allocation

- On March 31, the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) allocated USD 1 million to the Logistics Cluster's partners for a road rehabilitation project to ensure uninterrupted physical access to IDP sites during winter and as and when emergency situations arise.
- A total number of three partners have applied to the allocation and two of them, Maram Foundation and UNDP, have been considered for final approval.
- The technical review committee of the Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) requested the partners to include the two governorates, Idleb and Aleppo, in their proposals. 70 percent of the funds will be allocated to the emergency road rehabilitation project in Idleb and 30 percent in Aleppo.
- The technical review process is still ongoing and the final decision will be taken by the end of the month.
- A good practices guide for road rehabilitation is being drafted by the partners to determine common standards. The guide will be shared with partners for feedback and inputs before being finalised.

Winterisation and flooding plan

- The ICCG requested the clusters to come together and develop a coordinated inter-sectoral winterisation plan to ensure the uninterrupted flow of humanitarian assistance to those in need during the winter months.
- The emergency road rehabilitation project is being covered by the first SCHF allocation, the Logistics Cluster and its partners will not apply to any additional funding allocation.

2. Coordination/ Co-facilitator election

Turkish Red Cross (TRC) Cross-Border Services

- TRC is providing transshipment services to all humanitarian actors based in Turkey.
- TRC transshipment Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be shared with partners together with a detailed presentation on TRC transshipment operations.

Update on border crossing points status

- OCHA is reporting on the 20 border crossing points status through a regularly updated infographic accessible with the following link:
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima/infographic/syrian-arab-republic-turkeysyria-border-crossings-status-03-feb-2021>

Co-facilitator Election

- ACTED has been elected as the new Logistics Cluster's Co-facilitator.

Questions and Clarifications

- During the last cluster coordination meeting, partners raised questions regarding taxes, communications and the use of Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) in North-West Syria.
- The Logistics Cluster compiled these questions and is seeking answers with the support of OCHA and other partner organisations.
- The next Cash Working Group (CWG) meeting will take place on 1 June 2021. Partners interested in participating can subscribe using [this link](#).
- When communication equipment being imported have more than 10% of United States' technology, a Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) license is required. (<https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/federal-register-notice>).

Non-renewal of UNSCR 2533

- Partners expressed that the non-renewal of the UN Security Resolution (UNSCR) 2533 at Bab-al-Hawa and the ceasing of cross-border movement of UN assistance would lead to major logistics and supply chain disruptions.
- To date, no alternative solution has been found to overcome the logistics and procurement challenges.

Fuel Prices and Quality Monitoring

- Logistics Cluster's partners have noticed an increase in the price of fuel as well as some fuel quality issues in North-West Syria.
- Following partners' requests, the Logistics Cluster has started monitoring fuel prices in North-West Syria using REACH, WFP VAM and OCHA data.

3 Cross-border Operations

- In April 2021, a total of 1,028 United Nations trucks were transhipped through Reyhanli hub, 632 trucks used TRC transshipment services and 302 INGOs' trucks crossed the border from Turkey to Syria.
- All United Nations agencies have submitted their transshipment pipelines to the Logistics Cluster up to July. 1182 are forecasted to be transhipped in June and 184 in July.

4. AOB

- No service gap has been found in terms of storage and transport capacity in North-West Syria.
- Some humanitarian partners would be interested in the mutualisation of logistics infrastructures among humanitarian actors in the area. Mutualisation of infrastructure would lead to an economy of scale and decrease logistics costs per organisation.

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