
Meeting Minutes, 23 June 2021

Syria Operation, Homs



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LOCATION	Homs, Syria
DATE	23 June 2021
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Aga Khan Foundation (AFK), Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East (GOPA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Oxfam, Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logistics Cluster to share template for gathering information regarding delays in movement approvals.• Logistics Cluster to share a blank SLA via the mailing list.• OCHA to share further details regarding fuel facilitation in Homs.• Logistics Cluster to share market analysis template for price data collection.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Updates2. Coordination3. Logistics Gaps and Needs4. Fuel5. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Updates

- **Cross-line mission to Atareb:** To date, no formal approval has been received to move forward with the mission. The Logistics Cluster is closely coordinating with all stakeholders.
- **Movement Approvals – COVID 19:** the Logistics Cluster informed partners of a new procedure that requires relief items relating to COVID-19 being transported to the northeast (including masks and hand sanitisers) to obtain Ministry of Health approval.
- **Gaps and Needs Exercise:** The exercise has been completed with 17 out of 25 organisations agreeing to be interviewed. A final report of findings will be shared July 2021 to partners and at a global level. The report will ensure the anonymity of responses.
- **Movement Approvals – Note Verbale (NV):** OCHA drafted a response to the NV sent by MoFA to the Humanitarian Coordinator. For further background information on the topic, please see Damascus meeting minutes from [March](#), [May](#) and [June](#) 2021.

- Partners confirmed their understanding of the humanitarian movement approval mechanism.

2. Coordination

- Organisations agreed to have cluster coordination meetings in Homs on a more regular basis.
- This is to help strengthen collaboration, coordination and information sharing among logisticians operating in the central area.
- Partners also raised the need for coordination meetings in the coastal area. The Logistics Cluster will arrange a meeting in Tartous or Lattakia in the next coming months.

I/NGO Procurement Working Group (PWG)

- After partners in Damascus highlighted a gap in procurement related information sharing, one INGO has taken the lead in establishing an NGO-led PWG.
- This PWG will work closely alongside the Logistics Cluster and the already established UN PWG.
- Terms of Reference will be drafted and shared to define the scope of work of the working group.

3. Logistics Gaps and Needs

Movement Approval Delays

- Partners informed the Logistics Cluster that the time taken to obtain movement approvals across governorates for both humanitarian cargo and staff has increased.
- This is particularly challenging for Homs-based actors as their central location means they have many activities in neighbouring governorates.
- The Logistics Cluster will follow-up with OCHA and partners to better quantify these delays and their impact and liaise closely with the OCHA Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG) to analyse the information gathered.

4. Fuel

Diesel Contingency Planning

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners of the proposed contingency plan in place, and its capacity to provide support where needed. For further background information, partners are recommended to see Damascus meeting minutes from [May 2021](#).
- The Damascus-based NGOs (DINGOs), Sector Coordinators and the community of in-country cluster partners are to agree on an allocation system.
- This system must be endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).
- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) mechanism that is available through WFP.

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- SLAs do not require financial commitment, and can be used for logistics preparedness as the SLA allows organisations to access any WFP provided service.
- The cluster will share a blank SLA via the mailing list.

Fuel Challenges - Homs

- Partners said that when petrol becomes unavailable at the pump from the formal market, partners resort to purchasing the fuel from the informal market which is more expensive.
- However, partners explained that donors are not willing to fund the cost of the fuel purchased from the informal market.
- This means that in times of shortage, the prices of humanitarian activities rises as result increased fuel costs, compounded by a lack of donor funding.

Fuel Response - Homs

- OCHA informed the cluster that during the latest shortage in April 2021, OCHA and partners came together to write a letter to Homs Governor's office requesting support in petrol provision (benzene).
- The governor's office agreed to facilitate access to SADCOP fuel stations to humanitarian organisations requiring petrol for their movements.
- Other organisations also have been able to make similar bilateral agreements with the Governor's Office to facilitate the purchase of petrol from government fuel stations.
- OCHA to share further details on the mechanism, prices and limitations with the cluster.

Diesel Prices

- National Formal Market Average up to April 2021 stood at SYP 174 per Litre.
- National Informal Market Average up to April 2021 stood at SYP 2,267 per Litre. This represents a 48% increase over March 2021.
- For a full breakdown, please refer to the WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) data [here](#).

5. AOB

Market Survey

- The Logistics Cluster will share a template for collecting information on transport and storage costs for organisations operating around the country.
- The data will be used for analysis of logistics costs for the overall response.
- In addition to the above, the Logistics Cluster collects data on transportation details of UN agencies from Damascus to the northeast on a monthly basis.
- The cluster suggested to extend this data collection exercise to I/NGOs, and encourages I/NGOs to share their data.
- The above will form part of a wider initiative by the Logistics Cluster to collect additional information on transportation and supply routes, warehouse capacity and locations around the country, as well as import routes for a holistic understanding of the overall humanitarian logistics operation in Syria.

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- The Logistics Cluster, as community of logistics partners is ready to support all partners within the sector of logistics and remains at the entire disposal of all its partners to discuss any specific topics.
- All of the Logistics Cluster documents can be found on the Syria operational webpage here: logcluster.org/ops/syr12a

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