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# Meeting Minutes, 14 July 2021

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



*This is an unofficial UN meeting record and should not be considered as a verbatim account of the UN meeting or position.*

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| <b>LOCATION</b>      | Gaziantep, Turkey  |
| <b>DATE</b>          | 14 July 2021   |
| <b>CHAIR</b>         | Logistics Cluster  |
| <b>PARTICIPANTS</b>  | Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Ahi Horan Association, Big Heart, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Ghiras Al Nahda, Global Communities, GOAL, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Ihsan for Relief and Development (IHSAN), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Malteser International, Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), MASSRAT, Mercy USA, Misk, Muzun for Humanitarian Development (MHD), Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID) (OFDA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), People in Need (PIN), Qatar Charity, Qatar Red Crescent, SEMA, Shafak, Solidarités International (SI), Syria NGO Forum, Takaful Sham (TAS), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), United National Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Welthungerhilfe, World Vision (WVI). |
| <b>ACTION POINTS</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OCHA to collect additional clarification requests for the inter-sectorial forum on bureaucratic and administrative access impediment, to liaise with the authorities and to identify a facilitator.</li><li>• Partners interested in joining the technical working group on the development of a good practice guide on road rehabilitation in North West Syria to contact Steven Burak (<a href="mailto:steven.burak@undp.org">steven.burak@undp.org</a>) and Christophe Vial (<a href="mailto:christophe.vial@wfp.org">christophe.vial@wfp.org</a>).</li><li>• UN partners to share their upcoming transshipment plan with Reyhanli hub manager (<a href="mailto:silan.reyhanogullari@wfp.org">silan.reyhanogullari@wfp.org</a>).</li></ul>  |
| <b>AGENDA</b>        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2585</li><li>2. Coordination</li><li>3. Physical access</li><li>4. Cross-border operations</li><li>5. AOB</li></ol>  |

## 1. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2585

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- On July 9, the United Nation Security Council Resolution (UNSCR), authorising cross-border humanitarian aid into Syria through Bab-al-Hawa border crossing point, has been renewed for a duration of six months, until the 10 January 2022, with a potential extension of six more months, until the 10 July 2022. The UNSCR 2585 document can be found [here](#).
- The Logistics Cluster will therefore continue to facilitate access to the transshipment hub for UN agencies.
- Partners have mentioned the importance of becoming less resolution-dependent and emphasized the urgency of finding solutions, which requires coordination support.
- Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) partners are requesting the extension of the transshipment hub's access to NGOs.
- Partners are calling for the development of UN agencies' procurement service provision towards NGOs.
- Partners are stressing the needs of receiving clarifications on the registrations, taxes and regulations system considering the inter-sectoriality of the topic and it's potential future impact on access.

## 2. Coordination

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### **Bureaucratic and administrative access impediments**

- Following the multiple requests received from partners, the Logistics Cluster organised a meeting with OCHA, the Access Working Group (AWG) and the Cash Working Group (CWG) to set up an inter-sectorial forum on bureaucratic and administrative access impediments and to clarify registrations, taxes and regulations procedures.
- OCHA will reach out to all clusters to collect any additional questions requiring clarification.
- OCHA will liaise with the relevant authorities and request for their participation to the forum in order to answer the technical questions collected.

### **Procurement**

- The Procurement Working Group (PWG) undertook a market analysis, collecting contributions from various humanitarian actors among all sectors. One of the key findings is that NGOs do not currently have the capacity to take in charge all necessary practical arrangements for the procurement of their relief items and commodities in Turkey (procurement remains currently supported by UN cluster lead agencies)
- Some points of the analysis have been integrated into advocacy efforts.
- Information is being collected among partners and will be used to build out suppliers databases for commonly procured UN commodities as well as to provide market assessments.
- The next PWG meeting will take place in early August and the focal point is Michael Harte ([michael.harte@acted.org](mailto:michael.harte@acted.org)).

### **Fuel Prices Monitoring**

- Fuel prices will be collected among Logistics Cluster's partners, taking into account currencies and potential inflation.

### **Logistics Capacity**

- No service gap has been found in terms of storage and transport capacity in North-West Syria.
- Partners are interested in the mutualisation of logistics infrastructures among humanitarian actors in the area.
- The mutualisation of logistics means would be expected to lead to an economy of scale and therefore, to a decrease in logistics costs. Moreover, it will strengthen the coordination among partners and improve the quality of the humanitarian response in North West Syria.

## **3. Physical Access**

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### **Rehabilitation**

- A multi-sectorial working group, composed of engineers and technical experts, will be initiated for the development of a good practice guide for road rehabilitation in North West Syria.
- The guide will provide strategic and technical advises for the selection of different road rehabilitation interventions. It would also include Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Bills of Quantities (BOQs) for the road types.
- The partners interested in joining the working group initiative can contact Steven Burak ([steven.burak@undp.org](mailto:steven.burak@undp.org)) and Christophe Vial ([christophe.vial@wfp.org](mailto:christophe.vial@wfp.org)).
- An intersectorial committee will be initiated by OCHA to target the humanitarian access to be rehabilitated based on programmatic criteria.

## **4. Cross-Border Operations**

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- In June 2021, a total of 1,060 United Nations trucks were transhipped through Reyhanli hub, 589 trucks used TRC transshipment services and 347 INGOs' trucks crossed the border from Turkey to Syria.
- The Logistics Cluster is requesting UN partners to share their transshipment plans for the resuming of cross-border transshipment operations.

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## 5. AOB

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- The Logistics Cluster has issued two videos explaining the cross-border transshipment process and the Covid-19 preventive measures that had been implemented. ([Transshipment process](#); [Covid-19 preventive measures](#))

### Contacts

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| Silan Reyhanogullari | <i>Transshipment Hub Manager</i>            | <a href="mailto:silan.reyhanogullari@wfp.org">silan.reyhanogullari@wfp.org</a> |