
Meeting Minutes, 17 August 2021

Syria Operation, Damascus



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LOCATION	Damascus, Syria
DATE	17 August 2021
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Solidarités International (SI), Terre des Hommes Italy (TDH-IT), Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logistics Cluster to follow up with OCHA and DINGOs on fuel response.• Partners to provide feedback to the mid-year user satisfaction survey.• Logistics Cluster and OCHA Access to meet SARC on Rukban.• Logistics Cluster and OCHA Access to gather partner information on movement approvals.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Updates2. Operational Updates3. Movement Approvals4. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Updates

Field-level coordination:

- Based on partner feedback, the Logistics Cluster is extending cluster coordination meetings to field-level locations.
- Meetings have already been held in Homs and Qamishli in June and July respectively, and will be followed by coordination meetings in Aleppo, Homs, and Qamishli in September 2021.
- Dates for these will be shared closer to the time.

Mid-year User Satisfaction Survey:

- Only ten responses have been recorded for the mid-year user satisfaction survey.
- As such, the Logistics Cluster is extending the survey to 3 September 2021. Partners are invited to fill the survey [here](#).

2. Operational Updates

Dara'a

- OCHA provided partners with an update on the humanitarian situation in Dara'a and the discussions around the overall inter-sector emergency response plan.
- As part of the emergency response, the humanitarian community is in the preparation phase for a convoy to Dara'a al-Balad. The planning figures at the programmatic level are still being finalised.
- **Transport:** In preparation for the response, WFP has issued a tender for a dedicated fleet of 20 trucks per day for destination Dara'a al-Balad.
- Another tender was issued for an additional 20 trucks per day for destination Sweida.
- The tenders have not yet been finalised.
- **Storage:** Partners do not foresee any gap in storage, however the Logistics Cluster remains on standby for the erection of MSUs if required.
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Rukban

- OCHA provided a brief update on the response plans for Rukban.
- As part of the response, the Logistics Cluster will be donating diesel for the fleet of trucks to be used for the response.
- OCHA Access, SARC, and the Logistics Cluster will meet the week starting 22 August to discuss operational details.
- The mission is pending guarantees.

Fuel

- WFP is procuring 64,000 litres of diesel in bulk to be stored in its depots in Tartous, Homs, and Rural Damascus.
- In addition, WFP purchased 45,000 litres of diesel from SADCOP through the government smart-card system.
- WFP informed partners that there have been delays to the delivery of the diesel due to an increase in the transport rates. Delivery of the fuel will be completed once the new rates are agreed (see Diesel Prices section below).
- Partners requested an update regarding the discussions around the last-resort fuel provision service discussed in May 2021.
- The Logistics Cluster will follow up with OCHA and the DINGOs in this regard and provide partners with an update at the next meeting.

Diesel Prices

- On 11 July, the Government of Syria announced an increase in the price of subsidised diesel for transporters from SYP 200 to SYP 500.
- This increase has not affected areas in the northeast where costs remains at an average of 200 SYP.

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- Whilst some partners informed the Logistics Cluster that as a result of the price increase transporter costs also increased (by approximately 5 percent), others did not report any changes.
- National Formal Market Average up to July 2021 stood at SYP 376 per Litre.
- National Informal Market Average up to April 2021 stood at SYP 2,086 per Litre. This represents a 29% increase over June 2021.
- For a full breakdown, please refer to the WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) data [here](#).

UNHAS

- UNHAS provided partners with a brief operational update.
- The next User-Group meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 August.

3. Movement Approvals

- During the previous Logistics Cluster meeting in Damascus, partners had raised the bureaucratic and administrative access impediments they were facing to the movement of goods.
- To address this, OCHA Access and the Logistics Cluster want to clarify any issues and procedures they could facilitate in this regard.
- The first step will be for OCHA Access and the Logistics Cluster to collect information on partner challenges to obtain a clear picture of the situation, including any challenges and bottlenecks, and where necessary support with advocacy.
- A data collection template will be sent out via the mailing list in the coming weeks to facilitate this process.

4. AOB

Market Survey

- The Logistics Cluster encouraged partners to share information regarding warehouse and transportation costs.
- It will be a useful exercise to further understand where warehouse challenges may lie to inform the Logistics Cluster response.
- It will also offer partners a benchmark by location and sector.
- The Logistics Cluster will re-circulate the survey via the mailing list.

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