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# Meeting Minutes, 24 August 2021

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



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<b>LOCATION</b>	Gaziantep, Turkey
<b>DATE</b>	24 August 2021
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Cluster
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	<p>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), 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), Islamic Relief, IYD International Humanitarian Relief Association, Malteser International, Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), MASSRAT, Mercy Corps, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Misk, Muzun for Humanitarian Development (MHD), Syria NGO Forum, Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID) (OFDA), People in Need (PIN), Qatar Charity, Shafak, Syria Relief, 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 Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Welthungerhilfe, World Health Organization (WHO), Human Appeal.</p>
<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.</li><li>• OCHA to draft ToRs of the Road Rehabilitation Committee by 30 August.</li><li>• OCHA to confirm policy on travel restrictions to/from Turkey/Syria and related public health measures with regard to COVID-19 vaccinations.</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>

### AGENDA

1. Access
2. Presentation from OCHA Access
3. Coordination
4. Cross-border operations
5. AOB

## 1. Physical Access

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- The Logistics and Early Recovery & Livelihoods (ERL) Clusters are establishing a road rehabilitation working group.
- The group will be made up of technical experts to provide technical advice to road rehabilitation interventions in the northwest.
- The first deliverables of the working group are to produce a good practices guide, as well as Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Bill of Quantities (BOQ) per road type.
- A first draft of the good practices guide will be shared with cluster partners once finalised.
- The partners interested in joining the working group 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)).
- In addition to the working group, an intersectorial committee is to be initiated by OCHA to provide strategic guidance, and on roads to be rehabilitated based on programmatic criteria.
- OCHA to draft ToRs of the Road Rehabilitation Committee.
- The Logistics Cluster to follow up with OCHA on progress on the above.

## 2. Presentation: OCHA Access

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### Access Working Group

- The Access Working Group (AWG) presented two tools for the reporting of access challenges in the northwest:
  - The Humanitarian Access Constraints Incident Reporting tool; and
  - The Access Monitoring & Reporting Form (AMRF).
- For further details on these, cluster will share OCHA's presentation.
- OCHA to shared the tools with the Logistics Cluster, who will in turn distribute via the mailing list.
- The Logistics Cluster is member of the OCHA-led Access AWG and communicates on physical access constraints.
- The cluster will represent cluster partners and share regular updates with partners regarding discussions in the AWG.

## 3. Coordination

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### Procurement Working Group

- The Procurement Working Group (PWG) is currently undertaking a market analysis through contribution from its members.
- A list of key items is being defined with the PWG members.
- An assessment will follow on item availability in local and regional markets, as well as prices.
- A vendors list will also be produced.
- Partners are strongly encouraged to join the PWG and contribute to the exercise. Further information can be obtained by contacting Michael Harte ([michael.harte@acted.org](mailto:michael.harte@acted.org)).

### Extending use of transshipment hub to NGOs

- NGOs are requesting the extension of the use of transshipment hub at Bab al-Hawa currently only being used by UN agencies.
- The Logistics Cluster has requested OCHA's support in doing the appropriate advocacy for the above.
- The hub would increase NGO capacity and improve the efficiency of the delivery NGO cross-border assistance.

### Bureaucratic Access Impediments

- Bureaucratic Access Impediments (BAI) are a major access constraint among the humanitarian community.
- Lack of clarity around some administrative procedures are increasing cost, cause delays and add an unnecessary extra work load to responding organisations.
- As a first step, a document is being drafted to provide background and to outline next steps which will be shared with partners once ready.
- OCHA has agreed to collect questions relating to BAI from other clusters and to help build a inter-sectoral picture.
- OCHA will provide support with appropriate advocacy with the relevant authorities.

### Restricted Items

- The Logistics Cluster monitors developments to the Ministry of Trade's list of restricted items regularly.
- The information on the list can be modified without notice and thus partners are encouraged to check the information before importation with relevant authorities.
- The Logistics Cluster also encourages partners to share any updates to the list with the Logistics Cluster as and when they note any changes or new modifications.
- The Logistics Cluster will share updates via the mailing list.

### Dara'a

- Following the recent developments in Dara'a, the Logistics Cluster updated its database on LNGO and INGO warehouse locations in the northwest.
- Nine NGOs have 52 warehouses with a total capacity of 35,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

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- This is in preparation for a potential displacement of populations from Dara'a to areas inside the northwest.
- The Logistics Cluster would like to use this information to coordinate any gaps in storage and maximise already available resources.

## 4. Cross-Border Operations

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- In July 2021, a total of 316 United Nations trucks were transhipped through Bab al-Hawa; 455 trucks used TRC transhipment services; and 166 INGO trucks crossed the border from Turkey to Syria.
- The forecast for UN transhipments for September is 1,200 trucks.
- The Logistics Cluster requested UN partners to share their forecast until January 2021.

## 5. AOB

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- The Logistics Cluster encourages to fill in the GIS trainings survey if not already done so to inform GIS training needs:
  - English: <https://forms.gle/kcAGqDyS6e8d32EJ7>
  - Arabic: <https://forms.gle/JgmrcTSfMMspSoXD8>
- Partners were reminded to fill the mid-year user survey. The deadline has been extended to 3 September: [Logistics Cluster Mid-Year User Feedback Survey - Syria \(wfp.org\)](https://www.wfp.org/publications/logistics-cluster-mid-year-user-feedback-survey-syria)
- The next cluster coordination meeting will be held on the 28 September.

## Contacts

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