Date: 12 August 2021

Location: Jerusalem, Online

Participants

1. Action Against Hunger Spain (AAH)
2. Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
3. ActionAid
4. Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA)
5. Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP)
6. DanChurch Aid (DCA)
7. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
8. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
9. International Medical Corps (IMC)
10. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)
11. Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-S)
12. Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F)
13. OXFAM
14. Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)
15. Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)
16. Save the Children (SCI)
17. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
18. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
19. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
20. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
21. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO)
22. World Food Programme (WFP)
23. World Health Organisation (WHO)

Meeting chaired by: National Logistics Sector

Action points:

1. The National Logistics Sector will explore the possibility of having a warehouse for temporary storage on the Gaza border. This could be potentially used by partners that are facing entry denial when the trucks are already loaded.
2. The National Logistics Sector will explore with UNSCO the possibility of raising the challenges and bottlenecks for external advocacy.
3. UNSCO will discuss and raise with the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) the issue of having material approved and the challenges faced. The categorisation of how projects are defined as humanitarian assistance will also be discussed.
4. Partners are requested to update missing data in the matrix by 19 August, with the aim that by 26 August the new online platform will be operational.

5. Partners wishing to grant editing access to additional focal points need to direct their requests to the National Logistics Sector Coordinator (andrea.cecchi@wfp.org).
6. UNOPS and National Logistics Sector to bilaterally discuss UNOPS platform and database options.

Agenda:

1. Main gaps and bottlenecks
2. Matrix update discussion: information flow and future online platform

1. **Main gaps and bottlenecks**
   - One of the main bottlenecks is the cargo getting stuck or not being able to pass.
   - Another challenge is the requirement of the Israeli Standard Institute to provide samples of each item that will be imported, but partners are not able to get a sample before they obtain the cargo.
   - Partners raised the issue of transporters being blocked at the border crossing step and therefore, requiring warehouse capacity at the border before entering Gaza. The National Logistics Sector will explore the possibility of facilitating access to storage to partners at the border.
   - Another challenge is truck coordination, an issue especially relevant for partners using private contractors. Several options to overcome the problem were raised, such as discussing with COGAT, or having the process private until truck coordination, at which point UN agencies could cover the last step.
   - Partners mentioned they are coordinating trucks and have a database for this and suggest standardising at the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
   - UNSCO explained the GRM, a system open to everyone, that can be considered as an option to coordinate the entrance of goods into Gaza. Some projects are already ongoing, and as informed by COGAT, they will facilitate activities labelled as humanitarian under the flash appeal/HRP. Due to reports of low quantities of materials moving into Gaza, UNSCO highlighted the importance of having more visibility on the requests submitted to COGAT. This will facilitate the follow up with COGAT aiming to streamline the process.
   - Some partners noted that truck approvals are getting extensive delays since the request submission, with several submissions waiting for approval since the beginning of July.
   - Partners mentioned that access has been highly challenging since May and then slowly opened for humanitarian goods only. Some partners reported on 1 August to be denied the movement of electric material even though it had been previously approved. In the same way, partners mentioned that sometimes the same material is approved depending on the sector it will be used for. This is because the approval depends on the type of equipment as well as the sector. Currently, food, health, water and fishing items are facilitated, and there are ongoing advocacy efforts to expand other sectors.
   - Regarding the upcoming meeting next week with COGAT, it was raised the need to have clear guidance on the procedures as well as the need for the restoration of the prior access situation. Partners expressed the need for more advocacy efforts to fasten and simplify the procedures in order to ensure the delivery of humanitarian cargo.

- The National Logistics Sector will discuss with COGAT and UNSCO the best way to avoid incidents after the approval of the materials. It will also be discussed the definition that COGAT is applying for humanitarian assistance.

2. **Matrix update discussion: information flow and future online platform**
   - Partners were shown how to provide the information on their CLAs (Coordination Liaison Administration) online and where to find the instructions – included in the file. Some essential indications were noted: to add only one item and CLA per line, the need to specify the type of material, and the relevance of detailing where the cargo is blocked. This will help in the coordination with COGAT to smooth and facilitate the cargo admission procedure for Gaza.
   - For editing the files, emails will be sent to the focal points. If partners need more focal points with editing permissions, they must submit this request via andrea.cecchi@wfp.org
   - Partners mentioned their interest in having a discussion on standardising and automating the solution and not using Excel. It was clarified that each agency would update its own reports individually. The platform, once in its final stage, will substantially benefit partners in terms of visibility. The National Logistics Sector and some partners will meet bilaterally to discuss the GRM platform.
   - The National Logistics Sector will send an email asking all partners to update missing data by 19 August with the aim that by 26 August the new platform will be online.

In case of any logistics gaps, questions, or issues, please do not hesitate to contact the National Logistics Sector:

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