
Meeting Minutes, 27 September 2021

Syria Operation, Damascus



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

LOCATION	Damascus, Syria
DATE	27 September 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 undertake temperature controlled storage market capacity assessment in the northeast.• INGO will share Procurement Working Group (PWG) ToRs via mailing list.• Logistics Cluster to share fuel concept note via mailing list and diesel price report for September.• OCHA to prepare a list of criteria for the fuel prioritisation system for contingency planning.• The Logistics Cluster will share the mid-year user satisfaction survey results via the mailing list.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Updates2. Operational Updates3. Movement Approvals4. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Updates

Staffing

- Julien Marcheix has taken over the role of Logistics Cluster Coordinator. From now on, all cluster questions can be addressed to him via his email address: julien.marcheix@wfp.org.
- Julien will support the Logistics Cluster remotely until the visa for Damascus comes through.
- Peter Liddiard will be on break from 29 September. All Information Management requests should as such be sent to Julien.

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Field-level coordination

- In September, the Logistics Cluster held coordination meetings in Homs, Aleppo and Qamishli (meeting minutes were shared with partners).
- **Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI):** A recurring challenge raised by partners at the various locations was BAI, which impacts operationally and financially the actors' ability to deliver humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries.
- OCHA raised that they have included BAI as part of their indicators in their latest access mapping exercise.
- **Temperature Controlled Storage:** Qamishli-based partners raised that there is an increased need for temperature controlled storage in the northeast. The Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with partners, will undertake an assessment of available local capacity. Partners operating in Qamishli and the northeast are encouraged to share details of their own and known capacity in the area. An information collection template will be shared via the mailing list.
- **I/NGO-led Procurement Working Group (PWG):** Logistics Cluster partners across the country mentioned the benefit a procurement working group could have on their operations. The Logistics Cluster met with one INGO and the chair of the UN-led PWG to discuss the establishment of the working group.
- It was agreed during the call that the organisation will reach out to the other interested INGOs and evaluate their buy-in on this initiative. Active participation and implication of all INGO partners is a requirement for success.
- Partners wishing to join the working group are encouraged to express interest to the Logistics Cluster contact Julien Marcheix: julien.marcheix@wfp.org
- **Rukban:** The mission to Rukban was cancelled. OCHA Access provided a short update on a plan to address needs and keep partners updated in due course.

2. Fuel

Current Situation

- Diesel prices across the whole of Syria have witnessed a rapid increase in the first weeks of September, where at some stages partners reported prices of diesel reaching 4,500 SYP per litre on the parallel markets.
- The northeast region also witnessed a rise from 150 SYP to 400 SYP, partners report.
- WFP reported delays to transportation due to the unavailability of diesel all around the country.
- Partners echoed the same challenges, as well as challenges in the sourcing of petrol, which is having an impact on partner ability to undertake essential field monitoring visits and programme implementation.
- Lebanon is also suffering from increased costs to diesel, where subsidies have been dropped completely resulting in diesel costing approximately USD 0.60 cents per litre.
- The Logistics Cluster will provide a full price report for September once all data is in beginning of October in its usual weekly operational updates shared via its mailing list.

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Recap of fuel activities

- In March 2021, WFP met with Syrian Company for Storage and Distribution of Petroleum Products (SADCOP) and the Syria Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources seeking a guaranteed humanitarian window for diesel in the event of a crisis.
- WFP obtained smart-cards to facilitate the purchase diesel from SADCOP's fuel stations around the country at approximately USD 0.79 per litre.
- In May 2021, WFP also submitted a Note Verbale to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) requesting importation of diesel via land and sea. No response has been received to date.
- In June 2021, WFP made payment for the purchase of approximately 100,000 litres of diesel both using the smart-card system and standard bulk purchase, and first delivery to WFP was made in September 2021.

Humanitarian Contingency Plan

- The Logistics Cluster drafted a concept note in September 2020 suggesting a way forward for the humanitarian community on putting down a contingency plan in the event of a fuel crisis.
- The plan was shared with partners, OCHA, the DINGOs and the sector coordinators for review and feedback. The concept note will be shared again via the mailing list for information.
- The Logistics Cluster has advocated to OCHA, DINGOs and the inter-secoordination group (ISC) to put in place a prioritisation system, to ensure the most critical and life-saving activities remain uninterrupted during a crisis.
- OCHA addressed the issue at the last ISC meeting on 27 September and is to provide a recommendation for a prioritisation criteria list.

3. Mid-Year User Satisfaction Survey

- The Logistics Cluster presented the results of the survey to partners.
- Overall satisfaction rate is 90%.
- The presentation will be shared via the mailing list.

4. AOB

Cross-line

- OCHA Access provided partners with a brief update on discussions taking place between various involved parties regarding cross-line activities.

Contacts

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