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# Meeting Minutes, 28 September 2021

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



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<b>LOCATION</b>	Gaziantep, Turkey
<b>DATE</b>	28 September 2021
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Cluster
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Agence d'Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Ahi Horan Association, Americares, Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU), Big Heart, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), European civil protection and humanitarian aid operations (ECHO), Ghiras Al Nahda, Global Communities, GOAL, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), Human Appeal, 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), Mercy Corps, Mercy USA, Mercy Without Limits / Sınır Tanımayan Merhamet Derneği, Muzun for Humanitarian Development (MHD), People in Need (PIN), Qatar Charity, Syria NGO Forum, Syria Relief, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Takaful Sham (TAS), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 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), World Vision (WVI).
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logistics Cluster to share Humanitarian Notification System presentation and Survey Results via mailing list.</li><li>• The Logistics Cluster to provide support to OCHA on development of user-guide to address BAI.</li><li>• OCHA to advocate for the extension of the use of the transshipment hub to NGOs.</li><li>• Partners to establish common storage and transport working group. Those interested in joining to contact: Yakzan Shishakly (<a href="mailto:yakzan.shishakly@maram.ngo">yakzan.shishakly@maram.ngo</a>), Michael Harte (<a href="mailto:michael.harte@acted.org">michael.harte@acted.org</a>) and Jean-Christophe (<a href="mailto:jc@bigheart.org">jc@bigheart.org</a>).</li></ul>
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Physical Access</li><li>2. Humanitarian Notification System</li><li>3. Coordination</li><li>4. Cross-border operations</li><li>5. AOB</li></ol>

## 1. Physical Access

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### Road Rehabilitation Working Group

- 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 of Syria.
- Partners were informed of the timeline for the establishment of the group.
- Expression of Interest to join the working group will close on 30 September 2021 and the first draft of the terms of reference (ToRs) will be shared with those participants on 1 October 2021 for inputs and feedback.

## 2. Humanitarian Notification System

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- OCHA presented an overview of the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for both UN and INGO partners registered in the IASC coordination system requiring to use the system.
- The system broadly covers static humanitarian buildings and movement of humanitarian assistance and staff inside the northwest of Syria.
- OCHA informed participants that they may use the notification system for the return leg of the truck as well.
- Syria Humanitarian Notification System SOPs:  
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/whole-of-syria/document/humanitarian-notification-system-supporting-access-and-protection>
- Syria Humanitarian Notification System Concept  
note: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/whole-of-syria/document/concept-note-humanitarian-notification-support-access-and>
- The Logistics Cluster will share the presentation via the mailing list.

## 3. Coordination

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### Bureaucratic Access Impediments (BAI)

- Bureaucratic Access Impediments (BAI) are a a major access constraint among the humanitarian community.
- The Logistics Cluster first raised this with OCHA in June 2021, followed by a meeting with OCHA, Logistics Cluster, Access Working Group (AWG) and Cash Working Group to discuss.
- Since this initial meeting, the Logistics Cluster raised the issue twice in the AWG meetings, including again at the last one where there was common consensus among the participants that it represents a key constraint.

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- Next AWG meeting will be held 29 September where discussions will focus on the development of a “user-guide” to help clarify the various complex administrative and bureaucratic processes hindering access.
- The deadline for this user-guide is 31 December 2021.
- The user-guide should support with overall capacity building efforts as well.
- OCHA and participants to the meeting requested Logistics Cluster can provide HR resources support with capacity building and with the development of the guide.

## **Extending use of transshipment hub to NGOs**

- Since July 2021, NGOs have been requesting for the extension of the use of transshipment hub at Bab al-Hawa to increase NGO capacity and improve the efficiency of the delivery NGO cross-border assistance.
- Head of OCHA Access to share update on current advocacy efforts regarding the extension to the relevant authorities on behalf of Logistics Cluster partners and revert on progress.

## **Mutualisation of Logistics Means**

- Partners requested to explore the option for mutualising transport and storage capacity of actors operating inside the northwest.
- While it is recognised there is no service gap inside the northwest, it was agreed that mutualisation would improve the efficiency and reduce cost of the overall logistics response.
- The initiative would also strengthen coordination, security and collaboration amongst partners.
- Partners agreed to establish a common warehousing and transport working group.
- Those interested in joining the working group should contact Yakzan Shishakly ([yakzan.shishakly@maram.ngo](mailto:yakzan.shishakly@maram.ngo)), Michael Harte ([michael.harte@acted.org](mailto:michael.harte@acted.org)) and Jean-Christophe ([jc@bigheart.org](mailto:jc@bigheart.org)).

## **Fuel**

- The official cost of fuel of the main distributors in the northwest region of Syria have increased fuel prices for the fourth time in September and the second time in three days.
- The distributors claim the rise in global oil prices and the devaluation of the Turkish lira justify the increases.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to monitor the situation and will keep partners updated on developments.

## **Restricted Items**

- The Turkish Red Crescent informed partners that the restriction on wheat flour exports has been lifted.
- The Logistics Cluster will update its restricted items list and share via the mailing list.

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

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- In August 2021, a total of 37 United Nations trucks were transhipped through Bab al-Hawa.

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- In August, 509 trucks used TRC transshipment services; and 301 INGO trucks crossed the border from Turkey to Syria.
- The forecast for UN transshipments for October is 1,000 trucks.
- The Logistics Cluster noted a 20% decrease in the number of trucks forecasted for December 2021 versus the number of trucks transhipped in December 2020.

## 5. AOB

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### 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.

### GIS training

- A total of 22 partners responded to the GIS trainings survey conducted.
- 14 selected introduction GIS and mapping as a top priority, and 8 selected mobile data collection.
- The Logistics Cluster will be in touch with the GIS team regarding the implementation of these trainings.

### Plotter

- The Logistics Cluster reminds organisations that it has access to a plotter, and that organisations may request printing of hard copies of logistics maps in both Gaziantep and Hatay.

The next cluster coordination meeting will be held on **26 October 2021**.

## Contacts

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