
Meeting Minutes, 26 October 2021

Syria Operation, Gaziantep



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LOCATION	Gaziantep, Turkey
DATE	26 October 2021
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Ahl Horan Association, Americares, Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), Big Heart, BINAA, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Ghiras Al Nahda, Global Communities, GOAL, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), IMAAR, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Islamic Relief, IYD International Humanitarian Relief Association, Malteser International, Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), MASSRAT, Mercy Corps, Mercy Without Limits / Sınır Tanımayan Merhamet Derneği, Muzun for Humanitarian Development (MHD), Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID) (OFDA), People in Need (PIN), Relief International (RI), Save the Children International, Syria NGO Forum, Syria Relief, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 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 World Food Programme
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road Rehabilitation Working Group to share the final inputs regarding user guide with coordinators and partners for their review and to validate the draft with Access Working Group.• The Logistics Cluster to share logistics needs survey via mailing list.• Partners to share their reports on BAI and any access issue with ochaturkeyaccessunit@un.org• OCHA to advocate for the extension of the use of the transshipment hub to NGOs.• Partners to join the survey of the Transport and Storage Working Group.• Logistics Cluster to advise partners when the Introductory Importation and Customs Clearance online training will be made available for partners in December.• The Logistics Cluster will compose the first draft of the HRP chapter and share with partners for review.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Physical Access2. Coordination3. Cross-border operations4. AOB

1. Physical Access

Intersectoral Road Rehabilitation Working Group

- The Intersectoral Road Rehabilitation Working Group has been established.
- Technical experts were chosen from intersectoral groups.
- Two meetings have been conducted and 41 partners provided inputs for an Emergency Road Rehabilitation Practices guide.
- This guide outlines the definition and scope for road rehabilitation and will be used as a reference for advocating for funding.
- The Emergency Road Rehabilitation Working Group Terms of Reference are under finalisation.
- The Access Working Group will establish a Strategic Physical Access Sub-Group to determine a global and multisectoral strategy for physical access. The group will advise the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and the Humanitarian Liaison Group (HLG).

2. Coordination

Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI)

- Bureaucratic Access Impediments (BAI) are the main type of access constraint identified by partners who have reported facing access constraints in moving humanitarian assistance.
- The Logistics Cluster first raised this with OCHA in June 2021.
- This was followed by a meeting with OCHA, the Logistics Cluster, Access Working Group and Cash Working Group to address BAI.
- Since this initial meeting, the Logistics Cluster raised the issue twice in the AWG meetings, where other participants confirmed that BAI represents a key constraint.
- OCHA presented the main BAI to familiarise partners with the different types of incidents that can be reported as BAI.
- OCHA's Access Monitoring Reporting Framework (AMRF) tool presented at the previous Logistics Cluster meeting in August can be used to collect incident data.
- All data shared by partners via AMRF remains completely confidential.
- BAI reports are important to get advice on the legislation, to share best practices with other partners, and advocate for a common approach from the humanitarian leadership at a national level.

Customs Related Information

- Recent examples for access constraints include the new regulation on the restriction on exporting chickpeas of Turkish origin and the restriction on importing engine oil to Syria.
- The Turkish Minister of Trade has announced that it is not allowed to export Turkish origin chickpeas unless it is imported and registered.
- The Syrian border administration has restricted the importation of engine oil without paying full taxes.
- The Logistics Cluster will update Turkey's restricted items list and share via the mailing list.

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- Partners were informed that they will have access to online Logistics Cluster training on Introductory Importation and Customs Clearance latest in December.
- IMPACCT Working Group, which provides coordination mechanisms related to customs and importation processes, is conducting an international survey on the constraints to import medicine and medical equipment.
- The Logistics Cluster will reach out to concerned partners to ensure their contribution. More information on IMPACCT is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Extending the use of the UN transshipment hub to I/NGOs

- Since July 2021, I/NGOs have been requesting the extension of the use of transshipment hub at Bab al-Hawa to increase I/NGO capacity and improve the efficiency of the delivery I/NGO cross-border assistance.
- OCHA is advocating to the relevant authorities in this regard and will inform partners on progress.

Mutualisation of Logistics Capacity

- Partners requested to explore ways to mutualise transport and storage capacities of actors operating inside the northwest region of Syria.
- While it is recognised there is no service gap inside the northwest, it was agreed that mutualising resources would improve the efficiency and reduce the cost of the overall logistics response.
- To this end, partners agreed to establish a Common Transport and Warehouse Working Group.
- The initiative would also strengthen coordination, security and collaboration amongst partners.
- Those interested in joining the working group should contact Yakzan Shishakly (yakzan.shishakly@maram.ngo), Michael Harte (michael.harte@acted.org) and Jean-Christophe (jc@bigheart.org).
- In addition, a survey to gauge partner needs in terms of pooling of logistics capacity has been drafted and will be shared with partners for inputs.

Humanitarian Programme Cycle

- The Humanitarian Programme Cycle for 2022-2023 has started.
- The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) process will begin on 9 November 2021, with the deadline for final submission of the Logistics chapter for the HRP narrative set for 22 December 2021.
- During the meeting, the Logistics Cluster partners agreed on the future strategy of the Logistics Cluster. The focus of work will be on the following points:
 - Facilitate access to transshipment services
 - Coordination and Information Management
 - Mutualisations of logistics capacities inside the northwest
 - Emergency physical access, advocacy and related information management
 - Bureaucratic Access Impediments (BAI)
- The Logistics Cluster will share the HRP draft chapter with partners for final review ahead of final submission.

SCHF: Standard Allocation

- The pool fund will be available for the next 12 months starting January 2022.

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- The Logistics Cluster is relying on inputs from partners and via both the Emergency Road Rehabilitation and Common Warehouse and Transport working groups to determine any funding requirements through the SCHF.

3. Cross-Border Operations

- In September 2021, a total of 433 United Nations trucks were transhipped through Bab al-Hawa.
- In September, 498 trucks used TRC transshipment services; and 267 I/NGO trucks crossed the border from Turkey to Syria.
- The forecast for UN transhipments 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.

4. AOB

GIS training

- Following a survey on training needs, 64% of respondents indicated that top priority trainings are in GIS and mapping, and 36% in mobile data collection.
- The Logistics Cluster will be in touch with the GIS team regarding the implementation of these trainings.
- The trainings will be held online.

Logistics Cluster Coordination

- The Logistics Cluster is planning to extend cluster coordination meetings to Hatay.

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will be held on the 23 November 2021.

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