LOCATION        Jerusalem, Online

DATE            3 November 2021

CHAIR           Andrea Cecchi, National Logistics Sector Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS    Action Against Hunger Spain (ACF Spain), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP-UK), Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), World Food Programme (WFP), Humanity and Inclusion (HI), World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Medical Corps (IMC), United Nations (UN), Norwegian People’s Aid (Npaid)

ACTION POINTS  • Logistics Sector to prepare a report for OCHA about all the gaps & bottlenecks that partners are still facing with shipments, clearance and delay of approvals of entrance to Gaza.
• Logistics Sector to meet with a focal point from YUVAL to clarify the process and systems in place.
• Bilateral meetings with NGOs using a private contractor to understand what is the volume of material that needs to be imported

AGENDA          1. Gaps and Bottlenecks – Donations
                  2. Customs
                  3. Training opportunities
                  4. AOB

Gaps and Bottlenecks – Donations

• The Logistics Sector had a meeting in Erez with CLA and OCHA, to present partner priority list based on all the information provided by partners (type of project, sector intervention, CLA reference number, the mechanism used to import, the truck coordination and general status of the projects)
• CLA indicated the need to have information being channelled through one partner.
• The Logistics Sector requested from CLA and partners to use the shared platform to collect feedback. Through this platform, the CLA could provide feedback for each partner.
• The CLA has requested that partners resubmit their projects through the YUVAL platform. Upon submission, they will receive a YUVAL reference number. Partners are then asked to provide: DONATION ref. number and YUVAL ref. number for the shared platform.
• The CLA is designating a focal point for humanitarian and private sector projects. The Logistics Sector will arrange a meeting to see how the humanitarian cargo will be still prioritized and tracked when there is also the involvement of the private sector.
• Partners expressed concerns that combining private sector and the humanitarian sector together could cause additional delays and bureaucratic complexities to the clearance process.
Construction material started being released and admitted to Gaza. However, there is still little improvement on the side of partners using private contractors.

- WASH spare parts, Solar emergency components, IT equipment, Generators, Technical vehicles, and Medical equipment are still facing heavy restrictions.
- No feedback from CLA on the status of the humanitarian material coming through a private contractor as part of bigger bulk.

**Customs**

- Partners are willing to share their project data with the Logistics Sector, but they would also like to keep their direct channel of communication with the Israeli authorities. This is especially requested in cases when partners are handling very urgent or temperature-sensitive cargo and require a quick feedback.
- Partners are requesting improvements from the side of CLA, the current processes in place are not clearly defined and are constantly being adjusted. More advocacy is needed to facilitate clearance process.
- Partners are not able implement projects due to the time-lengthy process of getting equipment into the country. In some cases, partners are changing the materials they’re using in project implementation in order to obtain clearances on time; however, they are still concerned about the shipment process.
- Currently, IT equipment is being held up in the clearance process. CLA did not provide feedback on the matter.
- In regard to multiple shipment donation, Meirav (Customs Office) agreed to be notified of the entry port for the goods. Meirav also requested information on changes with the quantities and the description of goods, especially when there’s an increase in volume due to packaging.
- Partners agreed with Meirav to provide an overview of the donations on a quarterly basis, the different shipments under the donation, and the multiple entries under the same donation.
- Partners have been facing a delay in the clearance of the cargos at the airport; this resulted in a delay in delivery.
- Partners reported that some consignments were directed to air shipments and that resulted in huge volume in shipments, leading to a capacity shortage at the airport warehouse. Also, one shipment was misplaced and not cleared, and the implication of the storage is not clear, either.
- Partners contacted the Airport authorities for incoming vaccinations, highlighting the urgency. Partners are suggested to go through the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) for complaints.

**Training opportunities**

- The Logistics Sector carried out a Warehouse Management Training in Gaza on 26 October, attended by 16 organizations.
- The The Medical Logistics in Pandemic training, run by HELP LOGISTICS, will start on 16 November and will be held online.
- CHL carried out an online 36-hour training on humanitarian logistics. Link has been shared between partners.
- The Logistics Sectors is discussing with HELP LOGISTICS the possibility to run a Pharma Supply Chain Management training in Gaza in February 2022.
The Logistics Sector is also exploring the possibility to carry a one-day training on the Emergency Response in Gaza around March 2022.

Contacts

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