Meeting Minutes, 25 January 2022
Syria Operation, Gaziantep

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

LOCATION Gaziantep, Turkey
DATE 25 January 2022
CHAIR Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS Agence d’Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Big Heart, BINAA, Cooperative Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), GOAL, Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIFAD), Islamic Relief, IYD International Humanitarian Relief Association, Malteser International, Maram Foundation for Relief and Development (MFRD), Mercy USA, Mercy Without Limits / Sinir Tanımayan Merhamet Derneği, Muzun for Humanitarian Development (MHD), People in Need (PIN), Qatar Charity, Relief International (RI), Takaful Sham (TAS), Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 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).

ACTION POINTS
• The Logistics Cluster will share the final presentations for the end of year user-satisfaction survey.
• In-depth results and analysis of survey on pooling resources and sharing assets will be shared with partners.
• Access Working Group (AWG) to share Bureaucratic and Administrative Imprendiments (BAI) user-guide with the logistics cluster
• Co-facilitation mandate officially ended December 2021. The Logistics Cluster to share updated co-facilitation ToRs for partner endorsement ahead of next election.

AGENDA
1. Physical Access
2. Coordination
3. Cross-border operations
4. AOB

1. Physical Access

• Physical Access Constrains Map has been updated as of 24 January 2022 and can be found here.

Snowstorm in northwest Syria

• The Logistics Cluster shares Access Working Group’s physical access updates daily via the mailing list.

logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
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- Maram Foundation and UNDP/Binaa produced new Emergency snow removal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which have been produced and shared with partners for review and comments.
- The SCHF-funded Emergency Road Rehabilitation (ERR) project was rapidly adapted and revised to include snow removal activities, approved 24 January 2022.
- Both ERR implementing partners (IP), UNDP/Binaa and Maram Foundation now undertake snow removal activities in close coordination with the authorities and local communities to avoid duplication of effort.
- The ERR Committee has also reduced its approval time for access alerts down from 24 hours to 12 hours to retain critical review function while not sacrificing time.

Emergency Road Rehabilitation Rapid Response Teams
- Since 16 December, the two IPs have collectively completed 150 alerts which has provided access to 350 IDP sites in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates.
- The current average response time is 5 days.
- For more information, please see the below online live reporting on ERR progress:
  - UNDP/Binaa Online Live reporting on emergency road rehabilitation
  - Maram Foundation Online Live reporting on emergency road rehabilitation

Next Steps
- With the snow melting, partners are expecting flood incidents and further deterioration of road conditions.
- This will result in further emergency road repair for which additional resources might be required.
- The Rapid Response Teams for the ERR project raised there may be a need to extend the project to end of April, and that there would be a gap in funding in this case.
- Further snow is forecasted in the first weeks of February.

ERR Rapid Response Team Contacts
Aleppo: Maram Foundation.
- Submit Alerts here: https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/v4gPi6X1
- Contact Abdullah Elali: a.elali@maram.ngo
Idleb: UNDP/Binaa - Floods
- Submit alert to Steven Joseph Burak: steven.burak@undp.org
Idleb: UNDP/Binaa – Snow Clearance
- Submit alerts through Kobo link: https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/izthnT6
- Submit alert to Steven Joseph Burak: steven.burak@undp.org
- Arabic speakers can call: +90 552 203 68 34.

2. Coordination

Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments (BAI)
- A meeting was held in June 2021 between OCHA, Logistics Cluster, Access Working Group and Cash Working Group to address BAI.
In December, the Access Working Group (AWG) shared the first draft of the BAI user-guide with the AWG members for comments and feedback.

Comments were incorporated into the guide and this draft will be circulated more widely.

DERBIS is an online platform under the Turkey Ministry of Interior (MoI) where NGOs can do all official processes including reporting in-kind donations sent to the northwest. DERBIS is only accessible by Turkish National NGOs – in the meantime INGOs had been required to file hard copy paperwork with the relevant Association deskto proceed with in-kind-donation recording.

The Turkish MoI has announced they will extend access to DERBIS to INGOs to simplify the process.

Non-compliance will lead to administrative fines, so INGOs are encouraged to sign up to the platform.

The BAI user-guide includes further information and clarification on DERBIS.

Customs Related Information

- For Sugar export, an approval from ‘Turkiye Seker Kurumu’ (Turkey Sugar Institution) is required.
- However, now Sugar has been added to the list of items that requires pre-registration.
- This means that now the Customs Declaration on Sugar must be brought to the Exporter’s Union of the respective region for pre-registration.
- For any clarification, please address questions to Chris Vial at chris.vial@wfp.org

Extending the use of the UN transhipment hub to INGOs

- Advocacy on extending the use of the hub to INGOs is on-going through OCHA and the relevant authorities. No update was provided during the meeting.

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and Co-facilitation

- As of 24 November 2020, ACTED and Maram Foundation are members of the SAG for the cross-border operation.
- ACTED is acting co-facilitator as of April 2021. The position and present TOR was valid until 31 December 2021.
- The ToRs will be updated and shared with partners for their endorsement. The new co-facilitator election will take place in April 2022.

Mutualisation of Logistics Capacity – Survey Results

- The Logistics Cluster and partners developed a survey to gauge partners’ needs in terms of pooling logistics capacity in the northwest of Syria
- The survey closed 15 January with 22 participants taking part.
- The results of the survey were presented, and initial findings confirm there is no logistics service gap in terms of transport and storage inside the northwest.
- A more in-depth analysis will be shared with partners.

3. Cross-Border Operations

- The recent snow-storm in Turkey affected transportation to the transhipment point at Bab al-Hawa.
- UNMM and the Logistics Cluster are on standby to accommodate last minute changes to transhipment plans.
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- Logistics Cluster is in close communication with all agencies and local authorities to ensure uninterrupted humanitarian delivery of UN assistance to the northwest from Turkey.
- In December 2021, a total of 713 United Nations trucks were transhipped through the cluster transhipment hub at Bab al-Hawa.
- In December, 539 trucks used TRC transhipment services; and 100 I/NGO trucks crossed the border from Turkey to Syria.
- In 2021, a total of 9,567 United Nations trucks were transhipped through the cluster transhipment hub at Bab al-Hawa transporting 220,426 mt of Food Security, Shelter, WASH, Health, Education and Nutrition items on behalf of seven UN agencies.
- A new dashboard has been developed for all transhipment figures and can be found here.
- The dashboard also includes tracking of fuel prices in the northwest.

4. AOB

End of Year User Survey
- The Logistics Cluster presented the findings of the end of year user satisfaction survey to partners.
- The full presentation will be shared with partners for their information.
- The overall satisfaction rate for 2021 was 89%.

Staffing
- Patrick Baudry as joined as Whole-of-Syria Logistics Cluster coordinator ad interim. He can be contacted via: patrick.baudry@wfp.org
- Christophe Vial will leave the operation on 14 February and a replacement has been identified.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 February 2022.

Contacts

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