Storage Services

OVERVIEW

This document provides an overview of the logistics services to be made available through the Logistics Cluster, how humanitarian actors responding to the Syria crisis may access these services, and the conditions under which these services are to be provided.

The objective of these services is to enable responding organisations to establish an uninterrupted supply chain that supports the delivery of humanitarian relief items to the affected population. These services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of other organisations, nor are they meant to compete with the commercial market. Rather, they are intended to fill identified gaps and provide a last resort option in case other service providers are not available.

The services may be withdrawn before this date in part or in full, for any of the following reasons:

- Changes in the situation on the ground
- No longer agreed upon/identified needs
- Funding constraints

This document will be updated, and services provided may change as the situation evolves and operational requirements develop. Updated versions will be shared on the Syria Operation page (www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12) and shared via the mailing list.

KEY NOTES TO USERS

i. Any communications, requests, and all documentation related to these services should be sent to: syria.clustercargo@wfp.org

ii. There should only be one Service Request Form (SRF) per location of origin and destination, and the user should not include multiple pick up locations or multiple destinations on one SRF.

iii. Cargo requiring special handling must have its own SRF form. This is to ensure clarity in exactly which cargo requires specialised handling and movement.

iv. Insurance for the cargo will remain the responsibility of the Service User in all cases.

v. Implementation of all services is dependent on the security situation; this will affect schedules and access.

vi. Services will be provided in accordance with the priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team. As a guiding principle, priority will be given to requests related to lifesaving and emergency response activities.

vii. Only UN Agencies, International Humanitarian Organisations, and International or National Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) registered with the Government of Syria are eligible to use these services (“Service Users”).

Limitations and conditions of services are available as Annex 2.

https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
Temporary Storage Services

The following provides an outline of SOPs for free-to-user storage services facilitated through the Logistics Cluster. WFP is making warehouse space inside Syria available - on a no-cost-to-user basis - to humanitarian organisations for cargo storage (including handling in/out). Currently warehouse space is available in:

1. Qamishli (1,600 m2)

NOTE: Other locations for storage space will be considered on a case by case basis. To strengthen partner storage capacity, the Logistics Cluster can avail Mobile Storage Units (MSU) to humanitarian organisations upon request and along with a strong humanitarian justification.

- Temporary storage will be provided, subject to availability, in a common area to humanitarian organisations.
- All storage space provided is temporary up to three months. The storage space available and the time it is made available for may change depending on the level of usage.
- Service Users should check availability of storage at a minimum of three working days in advance by sending an email to: syria.clustercargo@wfp.org
- Service Users are responsible for ensuring the removal of their cargo within three months.
- In the event that additional time is required for storage usage, the Service User must inform the Logistics Cluster of such requirements prior to the specified date agreed upon.

NOTE: Additional storage time will be subject to availability and at the discretion of the Logistics Cluster.

HOW TO ACCESS STORAGE SERVICES

- Service Users are required to submit a completed Service Request Form (SRF). The SRF must be sent in a Microsoft Excel file copy, from an approved agency contact point to: syria.clustercargo@wfp.org
- Emails sent from a known user will be considered as being signed by the sending agency. SRF must be submitted a minimum of two working days before the day the sender expects to have their cargo ready for delivery to the storage facility.
- A single SRF for Temporary Storage Service can have only:
  - One location - where the cargo will be handed over for service(s) to begin (in the “FROM” field);
  - One date - when cargo will be handed over for service(s) to begin (in the “Date Ready for Movement” field);
  - One location – where the cargo will be handed back when service(s) end (in the “TO” field)

NOTE: General instructions for completing the SRF can be found at: www.logcluster.org/document/service-request-form-instructions-0

All Service Users should provide their organisation’s PO Number(s) or any other internal Reference Number for the cargo (in the “Owner Reference” field) to facilitate tracking of their goods.

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Guidelines on how to fill an SRF can be found in the SRF User Instructions

https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
Service Users requesting collection of their cargo from the warehouse of their Clearing and/or Forwarding Agent are asked to provide contact details for their agent on the SRF in the “Clearing Agent” fields (including: agent/company name, telephone number, contact name, and email address).

All Service Users are required to submit copies of a Packing List and/or a Non-Commercial Invoice with the SRF.

The Logistics Cluster will confirm receipt of the SRF within one working day and will either: request additional clarification or documentation required; or, will register the SRF as “New” in status and return a Consignment Report with a 9-digit Tracking Code to the Service User.

NOTE: At this point, no commitment has been made to provide the service as requested.

The Logistics Cluster will review all “New” SRFs within one working day, and will either: request additional clarification or documentation; will “Accept” the SRF; or will communicate the reason why the service cannot be provided at this time and give the Service User the option to “Cancel” or place the SRF “On-Hold”.

NOTE: For “New” and “On-hold” SRF status, there is a limit of two weeks to provide all requested missing information and/or supporting documentation, or to reach an agreement on a resolution concerning “On-Hold” SRFs. If all requested information and/or documentation is not received within two weeks, or a resolution for the “On-Hold” SRFs is not communicated, the SRF will be cancelled.

After receiving confirmation from the Logistics Cluster that the request has been accepted, the requesting organisation should inform the Logistics Cluster of the estimated date and time of the cargo arrival at the warehouse. The requestor should also provide contact details of the truck driver/convoy leader to the Logistics Cluster contact person to enable the trucks with cargo to be guided to the Logistics Cluster’s warehouse.

The requesting organisation should provide the Logistics Cluster with the waybill numbers (and, if possible, copies of the waybills) for the consignment, as well as the plate numbers of the trucks on which it will be delivered. This will enable the Logistics Cluster to easily identify the arriving cargo.

Requesting organisations will bring their cargo to the Logistics Cluster warehouse at their own cost; offloading and handling-in will be arranged by the Logistics Cluster.

NOTE: For “Accepted” SRF status all cargo must be received into the warehouse within two weeks of the agreed-upon delivery date. Any quantity of cargo not received in that time will be cancelled and recorded as “Not received from Service User”

The Logistics Cluster will confirm receipt of the cargo in the warehouse by updating the cargo tracking system.

Cargo will not be released unless the Logistics Cluster either receives a signed Release Order Form (RLO) from the consignor organisation or a scanned copy attached to an email from a known agency contact or implementing partner.

NOTE: All RLOs must indicate the Consignment Number, number of units, volume and tonnage of the cargo to be released, and should specify to whom the cargo should be made available.

The Logistics Cluster will arrange handling-out and will confirm the release of the cargo to the receiving organisation.

All enquiries on the status of cargo should be checked online using the tracking number: https://rita.logcluster.org/public/track.htm

Further inquiries regarding the consignment information should be sent to: syria.clustercargo@wfp.org

The above process is summarised in the flowchart in Annex 1.
ANNEX 1 - Storage Flowchart

A simplified summary of the usual steps involved in storage services is given in the flow chart below.

1. The Service User submits a ‘Service Request Form’ (SRF) with an authorised signature and an attached packing list to the dedicated Logistics Cluster address (syria_clustercargo@wfp.org).
2. The Logistics Cluster acknowledges receipt of the SRF and may contact Service User to resolve any related queries.
3. The Logistics Cluster contacts the Service User to notify if the request has been accepted for further processing. The requesting organization will be informed about where, when, and for how long the cargo will be stored and
4. The Service User confirms to the Logistics Cluster the estimated date and time of cargo arrival and contact details of the truck driver /convoy leader.
5. Initial responsibility lies with the Service User to bring the cargo to the warehouse.
6. Logistics Cluster will arrange handling. The cargo is stored for an agreed period of time.
7. When cargo is to be released out of the warehouse the requesting agency must authorize Logistics Cluster to release the cargo from the warehouse (using the Release Order Form).
8. Upon goods reception, Service User confirms receipt through signing the waybill.

https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
ANNEX 2 – Limitations and conditions of services

- Only UN Agencies, International Humanitarian Organisations, and International or National Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating across the Whole of Syria are eligible to use these services (“Service Users”).
- When providing services under these SOPs, WFP acts as agent for the service users/ requesting organisations. WFP assumes no responsibility for storage and/or any loss or damage to the goods carried. The service users are responsible for making adequate arrangements for the insurance of their goods. WFP undertakes the services in good faith and will ensure that the services are carried out with due diligence.
- Requests are subject to the availability of resources and will be handled as per the priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team.
- The point of contact for inquiries related to no-cost-to-user Temporary Storage services is: syria.clustercargo@wfp.org

CARGO PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

- Requesting organisations are responsible for ensuring their items have been packed in the appropriate transport container and able to handle the physical requirements of the operational transport. The Logistics Cluster reserves the right to refuse cargo that has not been properly packed, as improper packing can lead to delayed transport and reduced space for other organisations.
- Organisations delivering relief cargo to the logistics hubs for temporary storage need to provide full details of the consignment and necessary documentation as detailed in the specific in-country SOPs.

LARGE AND OVERSIZED ITEMS

- Large, long, oversized etc. items will be handled according to available capacity.

HAZARDOUS GOODS AND TEMPERATURE-CONTROLLED ITEMS

- The Logistics Cluster is able to accept hazardous goods on a case-by-case basis. Consultation with the Logistics Cluster is required before submitting an SRF.
- In general, the Logistics Cluster does not usually offer temperature-controlled storage. However, requests would be considered on a case-by-case basis with organisations who have signed a Service Level Agreement with WFP for the provision of such specific logistics services in the country.