1. Logistics Cluster Update

COMMON SERVICES

- During the month of August, 61 m3 of health items have been released from the Qamishly Logistics Cluster common warehouse. No new consignments were received.
- To request free storage services partners can contact: Syria.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- The Logistics Cluster has discontinued free-to-user common storage services in Aleppo. However, WFP could assist humanitarian partners with various logistics services on cost-recovery basis (contact the Bilateral Service Provision unit for further information: co_syr_bsp_logistics@wfp.org).

https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
The Logistics Cluster will conduct a User Feedback Survey before the end of the year to seek partners' opinions and suggestions regarding the operation and support provided. The link to complete the survey will be circulated through the mailing list.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- An online dashboard is updated regularly to allow partners to access in real-time all key figures and trends related to cross-border operations.

2. Crossline and Cross-border Operations

CROSSLINE OPERATION

- Preparations are ongoing for the next crossline inter-agency convoy, which is expected to take place on 17 September from Aleppo to Sarmada and which will include food, nutrition, WASH, health, shelter, protection and education items from WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR and UNFPA.
- Inspections have been completed; the loading operation will take approximately 2 days. Once the loading plan and all truck details are available, OCHA will support with deconfliction mechanism.
- It is reminded that the composition and timing of the convoy are based on various logistics aspects and security considerations.
- An Operational Plan for crossline operations has been drafted by OCHA and circulated among humanitarian partners to agree on modalities and planning for the coming months. The plan has also been shared with authorities and should include 10 inter-agency convoys until the end of the year.
- A question was raised regarding visibility for agencies participating in the crossline convoys. OCHA team is leading discussions with relevant authorities due to the sensitivity of the matter.
- Should the situation evolve and partners be in need of increased logistics capacity, the Logistics Cluster team will explore possible solutions in support of crossline operations.

CROSS-BORDER OPERATION

- Cross-border operations continue in the Reyhanli transhipment hub; the Logistics Cluster team facilitated over the last month a total of 6 trucks on behalf of 4 UN agencies.
- Processing capacity at the hub remains at 100 trucks per day, as per agreement with the customs authority; an increase in operations is expected in the last trimester of the year due to winterisation efforts and as part of the partners' prepositioning strategy before January 2023.
3. Partners Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

**Fuel**

- Fuel availability has been raised by partners as an increasing cause of operational concern. Due to scarcity of fuel in some areas, rises in prices and compromised quality available in the black market, organisations are reporting issues in securing reliable supplies of good quality fuel for their operations. Partners highlighted that situation could deteriorate after the decision of Lebanon authorities to stop fuel subsidies.
- During July and August, increases in the informal diesel market have been recorded across all governorates, with prices in Aleppo, As-Sweida, Dar'a and Hama overpassing 6,000 SYP/litre.
- The Logistics Cluster team, in coordination with WFP VAM unit, will continue following the market situation and share information with partners on fuel availability and trends.
- WFP has been supporting humanitarian organisations when in need of urgent operational requirements and is discussing with relevant authorities the possibility of importing fuel from Jordan to have a sufficient emergency stock in country. No official authorisation has been received yet.
- A partner highlighted the implications of fuel scarcity for staff movement around the different hubs and governorates and suggested looking into the possibility of sharing resources and facilitating common transportation means among organisations. Interested organisations can contact Oxfam Supply team.

**Facilitation Letter**

- An organisation reported issues in obtaining facilitation letters from the dedicated health authorities to implement health activities in Aleppo area. WHO informed that the process to submit the request has recently changed, and facilitation letters are now granted in 2 days.
- Another UN agency reported issues with one checkpoint in Aleppo area requesting an additional facilitation letter from the Governor’s office to move their supplies, as a commercial shipment is not considered humanitarian cargo until it reaches the UN/NGO warehouse. Based on the partners experience, it was suggested to share a monthly transportation plan with the Ministry of Local Affairs (MoLA) and MoFA, including the destination, type of cargo, and mission date. The report will be subsequently shared with the respective Governor’s office that issues the mission order for the supplier.
- For operations in northeast Syria, the timing to receive the access letter may be more than a month, even if the request is not related to health interventions. When submitting the monthly distribution plan, organisations have to submit detailed information, including all supplies specifications, truck details and driver information. The Logistics Cluster team will follow up with the OCHA Access unit to seek a possible solution to facilitate this process. The NES Operations and Support Working Group, co-led by CHF International/Global Communities, could also be informed about specific operational aspects to seek other partners’ advice and feedback.
Custom Fees

- A partner raised concerns about extra customs fees and allowances being requested by customs authorities when shipping supplies from Jordan to Syria by land. After discussions with customs authorities, they informed that decision to increase the fee came from the Ministry of Finance. No other organisation has faced the same increase. The official letter will be shared with the Logistics Cluster team for verification and feedback from other partners.

4. AoB

- Due to air strikes around Aleppo airport, UNHAS flights were suspended from 6 to 9 September. Aleppo Airport has reopened to normal operations, and UNHAS flights resumed on 12 September 2022.
- Since 31 August, the old UNHAS booking system has been discontinued; partners are requested to start using the new booking platform: Humanitarian Booking Hub.
- On 10 September, the Syrian Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a cholera outbreak in Aleppo Governorate following 15 laboratory-confirmed cases. Assessments are ongoing to identify the outbreak’s source, and humanitarian partners have also been mobilised to support emergency response efforts from authorities.

Contacts

Ayad Naman  Logistics Cluster Coordinator  ayad.naman@wfp.org
Valentina Signori  Logistics Cluster Officer  valentina.signori@wfp.org
Najd Alchaar  Logistics Associate  Najd.alchaar@wfp.org