Syria Operation
Syria – Coordination Meeting Minutes
10 October 2022

LOCATION
Qamishly, Syria [in person and online]

DATE
10 October 2022

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
CHF International/Global Communities, COOPI, International Medical Corps (IMC), Finn Church Aid, Medair, Oxfam, Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TDH Italy), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children’s fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP).

AGENDA
1. Logistics Cluster Update
2. WFP Bilateral Service Provision Update
3. Partners Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks
4. RITA application
5. AOB

ACTION POINTS
• The Logistics Cluster team will continue to follow market trends and availability of fuel and share monthly prices analysis.

1. Logistics Cluster Update

• The chair introduced the team and welcome partners to the coordination meeting held in Qamishly, with online attendance.

COMMON SERVICES
• The Logistics Cluster currently facilitates access to one common warehouse, in Qamishly, on a free-to-user basis. During the month of September, 62 cbm of items have been released; no new consignments were received.
• To request storage services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster contact syria.clustercargo@wfp.org

https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
CROSSLINE OPERATION

- The last inter-agency 16-truck convoy from Aleppo was organised on 17 September, with the facilitation of the Logistics Cluster, and delivered food and NFIs (dignity kits, medicines, WASH items and nutrition supplies) on behalf of 5 UN agencies to Sarmada, Idlib governorate.
- Preparations are ongoing for Sarmada 8 inter-agency convoy planned on 22 October.
- The Logistics Cluster team attended a meeting with INGO representatives in Damascus to discuss operational modalities and requirements to participate in the crossline convoy system. Interested partners can contact OCHA or directly their UN agency counterpart.

CROSS-BORDER OPERATION

- In September, the Logistics Cluster team facilitated the transhipment of 293 trucks in the UN transhipment hub on behalf of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA with health supplies, IOM with Shelter items, and WFP with food assistance. Over half of the shipments were transported to Idlib governorate, and around 30 percent to Aleppo governorate.
- An increase in operations is expected over the coming months in light of the winterisation activities and prepositioning efforts under the current UNSCR, expiring on 10 January 2023.
- An online operational overview is updated regularly to allow partners to access in real-time all key figures and trends related to cross-border operations and is available on the Syria page of the Logistics Cluster website: https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a.

2. WFP Bilateral Service Provision updates

- In case of specific logistics needs, WFP could assist humanitarian partners with various logistics services on cost-recovery basis (contact SYR BSP Logistics unit for further information: co_syr_bsp_logistics@wfp.org).
- WFP has been supporting humanitarian organisations when in need of fuel for urgent operational requirements with its emergency stock, based on a cost-recovery mechanism; in August and September, two partners have been assisted with a total of 4,600 litres of diesel provided.

3. Partners Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

Fuel

- Fuel availability has been raised by partners as an increasing cause of operational concern. Due to the 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.
- In Qamishly, humanitarian organisations report fewer shortages. However, for NGOs partners, the local petrol company, KCM, set a list of stations that can be used and determined quantities per organisation.

https://logcluster.org/ops/syr12a
• The chair shared the national market average price, which stands at SYP 4,750 / Litre. On the informal market, prices in August recorded a 4.9% increase compared to July. Updates will continue to be circulated on a monthly basis through the mailing list.

Facilitation Letter

• Regarding one action point from the last meeting, the process of requesting a facilitation letter from authorities to operate in northeast Syria remains unchanged, as confirmed by OCHA Access Unit. No additional processing time or requirements have been introduced.
• One issue was raised regarding cargo movements from Homs into northeast Syria due to an additional laboratory fee applied to food commodities from the local stakeholders. The OCHA team is following up on this and will provide feedback to the concerned organisation.
• The Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework can be used to report humanitarian access-related concerns to OCHA to consolidate information and follow up with relevant stakeholders.

Custom Fees

• Due to higher customs duties valid for all suppliers, the customs fees and allowances for items imported into Syria from Jordan have increased.

4. Relief Items Tracking Application (RITA)

• RITA is a consignment tracking system used to track partners’ cargo stored or transported under the Logistics Cluster common logistics service framework.
• The system can also be used to track service provision by any requesting organisation through a specific tracking number.
• A presentation was provided to explain the process of submitting Service Request Forms (SRFs) and other necessary information to access the service and track the consignments. A user guideline document is also available online: Syria - Service Request Form User Instructions | Logistics Cluster Website (logcluster.org)
• The tool was developed to allow tracking Logistics Cluster common services provided by any organisation, including WFP.

5. AoB

• Global Communities, co-chairing the NES operational working group, informed that SOPs for cross-border operations into northeast Syria are being drafted to support local and international actors on requirements and procedures in the different areas of operation.
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