**LOCATION**
Online/Gaziantep, Türkiye

**DATE**
5 September 2023

**CHAIR**
Logistics Cluster Officer

**PARTICIPANTS**
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Hand in Hand for Aid and Development (HIHFAD), Human Appeal, International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (IFRC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Mercy Corps - USA, Project Hope, The Mentor Initiative, Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United States Aid Agency - Syria, World Food Programme

**ACTION POINTS**
- UN agencies and NGOs are encouraged to report access constraints and other interference in their humanitarian activities to OCHA.
- Partners are encouraged to apply to upcoming Logistics Cluster Induction training opportunities.

**AGENDA**
1. Welcome & Introductions
2. OCHA Access Working Group Updates
3. Logistics Cluster Updates:
   - Status of the UNSC resolution
4. AOB & Partner Discussions

### 1. Welcome & Introductions
- The Logistics Cluster Chair welcomed participants and members both online and in-person introduced themselves.

### 2. OCHA Access Working Group Updates
- The UN continues to use both Bab Al Salam (BAS) and Al Raee for UN missions and transshipment of humanitarian cargo. OCHA is still in discussion with the UN Security council on the use of Bab al Hawa (BAH) for support to greater Idleb. As of now, no UN missions or shipments have been sent to greater Idleb. OCHA hopes to have an update by the UNSC resolution in the next Logistics Cluster meeting.
- OCHA is assessing the security situation following reports of increased hostilities in greater Idleb area. There have been temporary suspension of UN programmes and activities.
- UN agencies and NGOs are encouraged to report access constraints and other interference in their humanitarian activities.
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has resumed activities in greater Idleb, after a temporary suspension of services in July. North Aleppo operations have not been affected. Most UN agencies are not able to access Idleb from Turkey through Killis and Al Ra’ee.

3. Logistics Cluster Updates

- The Logistics Cluster remains operational in Bab Al Salam and Al Raee border crossings with most activities concentrated in Bab Al Salam for humanitarian cargo transport to Afrin and North Aleppo.

❖ CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS

- During the month of August, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the cross-border operations from Türkiye to Northwest Syria. A total of **164** trucks carrying **1,485 mt** of humanitarian relief items were facilitated to cross the border on behalf of four UN Agencies (IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO) with the support of UNMM and UNOCHA.

The below table provides a breakdown of the truck crossing per boarder. The below figures are for the month of July and based on data reported by agencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bab Al Hawa</th>
<th>Bab Al Salam</th>
<th>Al Raee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>0</td>
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- An infographic of the trucks per agency, and total number of trucks is as below:
The Logistics Cluster updated partners of the publication of the *Syria - Mid-Year Cross-Border Operations Infographic, January-June 2023.*
4. Any Other Business

- The Logistics Cluster updated participants on the UN booking and payment systems on the UN Hub Guesthouse. Payments will be done through bank transfer in US dollars. Once partners have confirmed their bookings, the Hub administration team of Reyhanli guesthouse will share the payment details and procedure.
- The Logistics Cluster updated members on the availability of training opportunities in Rome and Nairobi with the Logistics Cluster training unit. Information on the application process for the Logistics Cluster Induction training, including the links and relevant resources will be shared through the cross-border mailing list.
- Partners can refer to the training unit webpage and training catalogues for reference.
- Partners are encouraged to join the mailing list to receive Logistics Cluster updates. Partners can reach out to the Information Officer for any assistance required.

Partner Discussions

- A Logistics Cluster Partner inquired about the possibility of access to Idlib from Bab Al Salaam, or whether they are limited to Aleppo. The Logistics Cluster responded that access for humanitarian missions is only available to North Aleppo. UN missions continue normally, but they do not extend into Idlib.
- A Logistics Cluster partner raised questions related to the negotiations with local authorities in Idlib, specifically regarding access constraints for the delivery of food and other commodities. The partner inquired if any discussions or plans had been developed for alternative transhipment methods, including the use of the WFP and their freight forwarders or local partners for Transhipment and Reception Centers. The partner also inquired about the possibility of the SSG accommodating such alternatives.
- A Logistics Cluster partner inquired about broader contingency planning efforts, particularly in mapping out organizations that could provide transshipment opportunities and the potential for expanding commercial and TRC lanes to facilitate the delivery of UN commodities in case access to Idlib remains restricted and contingency planning in case the UN is unable to access Idlib in the next several months.
- A Logistics Cluster partner provided insights into the current NGO approval process, highlighting that NGOs require approval from the SSG and the Ministry of Development and Humanitarian Assistance to operate their activities in various areas. He mentioned that NGOs do not need permission to use the commercial line and can access it regardless of other agreements or consent-based arrangements.
- A Logistics Cluster partner expressed concern about the longer-term implications for NGOs’ access and emphasized the need to understand the capacity of various organizations to
increase their utilization of the commercial and Transshipment and Reception Centers (TRC) lanes, as well as warehousing, to potentially supplement the UN's operations.

Contacts

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