**Situation Update, 27 November - 3 December 2023**
Palestine Logistics Cluster (Gaza response) and Egypt Logistics Cell

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **One coordination meeting** held in the reporting period, bringing together **111 participants** from **55 humanitarian organisations**.
- **2,240 m² through 7 mobile storage units (MSUs)** have been installed, 3 at the Rafah transshipment base, 3 at the UNRWA base in Rafah, and 1 for Doctors Without Borders (MSF).
- **7 additional (MSUs)** have been received in Gaza and assessment is ongoing to determine key locations in which they will be installed.

Logistics Cluster launched **common temporary storage, road transport, and cargo notification services**.

### BACKGROUND

Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) installed at the Rafah entry point in Gaza Strip.

Humanitarian needs in Gaza have seen a staggering increase since the escalation of the conflict on 7 October 2023, which has resulted in the cessation of electricity, food, water, and fuel supplies, as well as restricted access to and movement within Gaza. The Rafah Crossing remained closed until 21 October, hindering the passage of crucial humanitarian assistance, including food, water, and medicine. The collective humanitarian response continues to be limited throughout Gaza due to both insecurity and access constraints, against needs of unprecedented scale and depth caused by massive internal displacements, destruction of infrastructure, the collapse of health structures, inability to access clean water, and extreme deterioration of food insecurity, leading to 2.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

To support responding humanitarian organisations in their delivery of assistance to affected populations, the Logistics Cluster for Palestine was activated on 16 October 2023. To date, the Palestine Logistics Cluster has actively engaged in augmenting the logistics capacity of key relief actors such as the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to increase

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efficiency, mitigate bottlenecks and avoid duplication of efforts on behalf of the humanitarian community responding to the crisis in Gaza. In particular, the ERC leads the overall process for the movement of humanitarian cargo from Egypt to Gaza.

Since 18 November, 60,000 liters of fuel per day is now allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt, aiding in food distribution and powering critical services like hospitals and sanitation facilities. Additionally, a seven-day ceasefire starting on 24 November at 07:00 allowed for the delivery of additional humanitarian aid to address the ongoing humanitarian needs in Gaza. During the seven-day humanitarian pause, there was an increase in the number of trucks that entered from Egypt to Gaza via convoys, carrying a variety of life-saving supplies, fuel and cooking gas. The resume of hostilities on 1 December greatly complicated the access of aid to the Gaza Strip and its flow inside.

COORDINATION

- The Logistics Cluster team has expanded its presence in Gaza to support the coordination with UNRWA, Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and other partners.
- There is also a logistics coordination team present in Al Arish as a part of inter-agency mission. The team continues to support ERC on the ground and also coordinates with other key actors to support aid flow into Gaza Strip.
- The first in-person coordination meeting in Gaza was held in Rafah on 30 November, bringing together partners from 15 organisations. The Palestine Logistics Cluster meeting held the same day in Cairo had 111 participants from 55 humanitarian organisations. The next coordination meeting is scheduled for 7 December at 11:00.
- The National Workshop on Importation Processes and Customs Procedures for the Importation of Humanitarian Aid was held on 29 and 30 November in Cairo with Egyptian customs authorities, various Egyptian ministries, the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), UN Agencies and International NGOs. The Logistics Cluster, together with the IMPACCT Working Group (hosted at the Global Logistics Cluster) are organising a debriefing session for partners on the outcomes of the workshop and address pending questions to be held on 5 December.
- A joint visit with European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), ERC, Logistics Cluster, UNHRD and IFRC took place in Ismailia on 28 November to discuss and coordinate further plans in ERC capacity augmentation in Ismailia.

Logistics Cluster, ECHO, ERC, IFRC and UNHRD colleagues on the mission in Ismailia on 28 November

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- The Logistics Cluster continues collecting and analysing pipeline inputs from partners using the new online reporting tool developed to collect information on both the incoming pipeline and current stock levels in Egypt and other countries. This is an ongoing exercise to be updated by partners on a weekly basis. The Logistics Cluster shares the updated pipeline with OCHA and the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) to inform their planning.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

IN GAZA

- Three Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been installed in the Rafah transshipment base to increase the offloading capacity. Three more MSUs have been provided and installed at the UNRWA base in Rafah, and one additional installed and handed over to Doctors Without Borders (MSF). In total so far, the Logistics Cluster increased humanitarian community’s storage capacity in Gaza by 2,240 m².
- An additional seven MSUs have been delivered to Gaza Strip. Assessment is ongoing to determine key locations in which they will be installed.
- The Logistics Cluster launched common services in Gaza facilitating access to common storage services, road transport to the storage location, and cargo notification transshipment services. The Logistics Cluster Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) outline the detailed process for accessing the services. Service users are requested to complete the Service Request Form (SRF) either through the online service request process or by submitting an Excel SRF file copy to Palestine.ClusterCargo@wfp.org at least 72 hours before cargo is expected to arrive.
- In Gaza, the three warehouses managed by ACTED are available for partners’ storage in Deir al Balah (495 m²), Khan Yunis (170 m²), and Rafah (70 m²). The Logistics Cluster also facilitates the transport from Rafah to these warehouses.

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The cargo notification process aims to minimize the complexities with unidentified, misidentified or unattended cargo in the Rafah handover point by informing partners once their cargo has arrived in the trucks. The Logistics Cluster will have permanent personnel stationed in Rafah to monitor incoming vehicles and notify requesting partners once their vehicles have arrived.

IN EGYPT

The Logistics Cluster also launched common storage services for partners to support cargo consolidation, at no cost, in Port Said with 800 pallet positions. The process for accessing services is outlined in the same SOPs, and an SRF can also be submitted either through the online service request process or by submitting an Excel SRF file copy to Palestine.ClusterCargo@wfp.org at least 72 hours before cargo is expected to arrive.

In addition, to expand ERC storage and transport capacity in Arish, the Palestine Logistics Cluster has provided 20 trucks to the ERC, and four Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) were set up by UNHRD.

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