HIGHLIGHTS

- **Three coordination meetings** held in the reporting period, two in Cairo and one in Gaza, bringing together partners from 79 humanitarian organisations.
- **14 MSUs (4,480 m2)** are installed and handed over in the Gaza Strip to augment the offloading capacity in the Rafah handover point and the storage capacity of 4 UN Agencies and International NGOs.
- **10 MSUs (3,200 m2)** are installed in Al Arish to enhance the Egyptian Red Crescent’s (ERC) storage capacity with a dedicated set-up for the temperature-controlled cargo through 4 inflatable cold rooms.

Inflatable cold rooms installed in Al Arish, Egypt.

BACKGROUND

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. On 17 December, the Kerem Shalom entry point opened for UN and International NGOs’ trucks to cross into Gaza. 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 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 fuel began entering 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 resumption of hostilities on 1 December greatly complicated the access of aid to the Gaza Strip and its flow inside.

COORDINATION

- A Palestine Logistics Cluster’s mission to Nitzana took place on 7 December. The summary of key findings was presented to partners during the cluster coordination meeting and circulated through the mailing list.
- An ad-hoc in-person coordination meeting in Gaza was held in Rafah on 6 December, bringing together partners from six organisations. Additionally, two Palestine Logistics Cluster meetings were held in Cairo on 7 and 14 December with participants from 79 humanitarian organisations.
- Following the National Workshop on Importation Processes and Customs Procedures for the Importation of Humanitarian Aid held in Cairo in November, the Logistics Cluster, together with the IMPACCT Working Group, organised a debriefing session for partners on 5 December on the outcomes of the workshop and to address pending questions. IMPACCT continues working with various government entities for further clarifications on the aid importation and customs procedures. IMPACCT has met twice with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and engaged the INGO Forum to develop a unified approach with the Ministry of Social Solidarity to address the challenges mentioned during the meeting.

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.

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
The Logistics Cell resumed the production of the daily dashboard displaying the aggregated figures on confirmed truck crossings to Rafah from 21 October, sourced from ERC manifests and UNRWA reports on trucks received in Gaza.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

IN GAZA
- In the Gaza Strip, the Logistics Cluster has installed and handed over a total of 14 MSUs that have augmented the offloading capacity in the Rafah handover point and the storage capacity of 4 UN Agencies and International NGOs.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitates common services in Gaza through common storage services, road transport to the storage location, and cargo notification transshipment services.
- The first shipment for temporary storage arrived at the common warehouse in Rafah on behalf of a UN Agency on 10 December. More storage requests from International NGOs are also being processed.
- In Gaza, 2 warehouses in Rafah are currently available for partners’ storage, one managed by ACTED (70 m²) and one managed by WFP (1,000 m²). The common warehouses in Deir al Balah and Khan Yunis are currently on hold until further notice.

IN EGYPT
- The Logistics Cluster also facilitates common storage services for partners to support cargo consolidation in Port Said with 800 pallet positions.

ACCESSING LOGISTICS CLUSTER SERVICES
- The Logistics Cluster Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) outline the detailed process for accessing the storage, transport, and notification services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster. 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.

CONTACTS

Andrea Cecchi  
Palestine Logistics Cluster Coordinator – Jerusalem  
andrea.cecchi@wfp.org

Tania Regan  
Logistics Coordination Cell – Cairo  
tania.regan@wfp.org

Iryna Prodan  
Information Management Officer  
iryna.prodan@wfp.org

Menna Zaky  
Information Management Assistant  
menna.zaky@wfp.org

Chirag Tiwari  
Information Management Officer  
chirag.tiwari@wfp.org

General enquiries  
Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org

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