Meeting Minutes, 7 December 2023
Palestine Logistics Cluster (Gaza response) and Egypt Logistics Cell

LOCATION
Cairo, Egypt (online and in-person)

DATE
7 December 2023

CHAIR
Palestine Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger Spain (ACF-S), ActionAid, Alianza por la Solidaridad, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Americas, CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CCP Japan, CESVI, Christian Aid, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Danish Church Aid (DCA), Dartmouth University, Direct Relief, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), European Commission (EU), Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), Gisha, Global Communities, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), Hanken School of Economics, HELP Logistics, HI/Atlas Logistique, Human Appeal, Humanity First (HF), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuehne + Nagel, Kuehne Foundation, Médecins du Monde (MdM), Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F), Médecins Sans Frontières Holland (MSF-H), Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-S), MedGlobal, Mercy Corps, Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OXFAM, Parcic, Peace Winds Japan, Penny Appeal, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, ShelterBox, Terre des hommes Italy (TdH), Tony Blair Institute, UK-Med, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States Department of State, UNRWA, WeWorld, World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO)

ACTION POINTS

- Partners to provide input on their pipeline and stocks in country through the dedicated form circulated by email. Partners who did not receive a form and are interested in sharing their pipeline information are encouraged to reach out to palestine.logcluster@wfp.org.

- The Logistics Cluster to share the slides from the debriefing session on the outcome of the national workshop on the importation of humanitarian aid.

- Partners are advised to sign up to receive the latest communications from the mailing list, Palestine Logistics Cluster WhatsApp group, and the dedicated WhatsApp group on customs.
AGENDA

1. Gaza updates
2. SOPs for Logs Cluster Services
3. Egypt corridor updates
4. Partners’ questions

1. Gaza Updates

• The Palestine Logistics Cluster provided an update on the current situation in Gaza regarding fuel, trucks, WASH and health, and food security.

FUEL
• 69,000 litres of fuel entered Gaza on 6 December, which is well below the daily average of 110,000 litres that entered during the humanitarian pause.

TRUCKS
• The ability of the UN to receive incoming aid has been significantly impaired for several days due to the shortage of trucks in Gaza, telecommunications blackouts, and an increasing number of staff who are unable to report to the Rafah crossing due to hostilities.
• On 6 December, for the fourth consecutive day, Rafah was the only governorate in Gaza where limited aid distributions took place.

WASH AND HEALTH
• Only 14 out of 36 hospitals in the Gaza Strip are functional, but with limited services. The two major hospitals in the southern region are operating three times their bed capacity.
• UNRWA continues operating nine water wells to provide potable and domestic water supply in shelters. Additionally, shelters in Rafah started receiving potable water through tankers.
• Grave concerns persist over waterborne diseases due to water consumption from unsafe sources.

FOOD SECURITY
• Flour continues to be prioritized for distribution in the northern region as part of the humanitarian convoys that took place during the ongoing humanitarian pause.

LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATES
• The Palestine Logistics Cluster’s mission to Nitzana is taking place on 7 December. Updates will be provided to partners on the outcomes of the mission.
• Ad-hoc in-person coordination meetings are taking place with partners in Gaza.
• The Logistics Cluster installed 13 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in Gaza, augmenting the storage capacity by 4,160m², out of which 6 are set up at the Rafah Transshipment Base for the temporary storage of transshipping cargo coming to Gaza, three were handed over to two UN Agencies and one International NGO

2. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Logistics Cluster Services

• The Logistics Cluster launched additional common services to facilitate access to the following:
• In Gaza:

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
Common storage services in Gaza Strip include through warehouses managed by ACTED, one in Deir al Balah (495m²), Khan Yunis (170m²) and Rafah (70m²). Additionally, WFP secured 1,000m² in Rafah for the humanitarian community. Can we also mention that as back up we have the WFP warehouse in Deir Al Balah (1,900m² that can also accommodate partners cargos later on, in case of need).

- Post factum: Please note that common storage services in Deir al Balah and Khan Yunis are currently on hold until further notice.

- Transport services from Rafah to the Logistics Cluster common warehouses in the Gaza Strip.
- Cargo notification services to inform partners once their cargo has arrived at the Rafah handover point. 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:
  - Common storage services in Port Said, with 800 pallet positions. Temporary storage is available for up to 30 days.

- Partners wishing to access any of these services can consult the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the operation webpage. To request storage, partners must submit the online service request form (SRF) or the Excel SRF file to Palestine.ClusterCargo@wfp.org at least 72 hours before cargo is expected to be ready to deliver to the storage facility.

### 3. Egypt Corridor Updates

- Kerem Shalom is planned to open as an additional scanning point for UN consigned cargo. It will only be used for scanning and not as an entry point.
- The Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) is working on an update of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The updated version will be shared with partners as soon as it is ready.
- The IMPACCT Working Group Coordinator provided an update on the customs workshop, which took place in Cairo on 29 and 30 November.
  - More than 70 participants from government entities joined the workshop, which gave an opportunity for humanitarian partners to understand the role of the various entities in the Gaza response.
  - IMPACCT continues to have bilateral discussions with various ministries for further clarifications.
  - Partners are invited to share their questions on customs procedures through the dedicated form.
  - IMPACCT plans to draft SOPs with the Egyptian Customs Authority (ECA) to provide clear instructions on the importation of humanitarian aid for the Gaza response.
- WFP provided an update on the importation process to Port Said. WFP is only moving cargo in transit at the moment until there is more clarity on the importation of food.
- The Logistics Cluster shared a visual of the current set-up in Al Arish, including key locations and Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), inflatable cold rooms, temperature-controlled units, and prefabs already installed and planned to be installed by the Logistics Cluster. The Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) is working on a plan to reorganize the process in Al Arish by establishing a new truck yard to facilitate the organisation of the convoys.

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
• The Logistics Cluster has resumed reporting on convoys based on UNRWA reports confirming aid received in Gaza. From 21 October until 3 December, 2,958 confirmed trucks have crossed into Gaza.

• The Logistics Coordination Cell shared the results of the ongoing pipeline exercise as of 1 December. Based on inputs from 19 partners, 4,296 mt of cargo is available in Egypt ready to be dispatched to Gaza. An additional 27,566 mt of cargo is expected in the pipeline (whether through international or local procurement). Moreover, 6,799 mt is available in other countries. Partners are strongly encouraged to continue providing their inputs on a weekly basis, the next deadline is 8 December (COB). The Logistics Cluster shares the updated pipeline with OCHA, and the ERC to inform their planning.

4. AoB

• OCHA presented its new QR code system to track trucks between Al Arish and Rafah. The process is still in the pilot phase and more information will be shared with partners when available. The inter-agency team in Al Arish is working to ensure a unified system of tracking to avoid having parallel systems by different organisations.

• The Logistics Cluster continues to seek clarification regarding stacking pallets in two layers; partners will be communicated once confirmation is received.

• The Logistics Cluster confirmed with COGAT that pallets up to 170 cm are allowed in Nitzana, and there is no limitation on the weight of the pallet.

• The Logistics Cluster continues compiling a list of aid items for pre-approval from COGAT to enter Gaza in case partners would like to clarify if certain items are allowed to enter Gaza. Partners are invited to share the list of items with Diala Khalaf (diala.khalaf@nrc.no) and Jackson de Concini (deconcini@medglobal.org). The Logistics Cluster will share the consolidated list with COGAT on a weekly basis. The first list of items was shared with COGAT on 1 December, and partners will be notified once a response has been received.

• Partners interested in joining the Health Logistics Working Group are invited to reach out to Ellen Hynes at hynese@who.int.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held in Cairo on 14 December 2023 at 11:00

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