LOCATION
Rafah, Gaza Strip in-person

DATE
6 December 2023

CHAIR
Palestine Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
- Organisations are invited to share their focal points based in Gaza with the Logistics Cluster at palestine.logisticscluster@wfp.org.

AGENDA
1. Gaza updates
2. SOPs for Logistics Cluster Services
3. Partners Updates

1. Gaza Updates

- Constant lack of communication and fuel, which significantly restricts movements of people and transport inside the Gaza Strip, impacting the ability of humanitarian organizations to operate in Gaza Strip, including the transportation of supplies:
- 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.
- There are escalating security challenges related to both the movement and storage of cargo. Thus, movements out of Rafah are being coordinated with police escorts to enhance security, which is a challenging and manual operation, also because the availability of police for escorting convoys is limited especially when there are multiple destinations for cargo.
- The Logistics Cluster/WFP transported cargo is moved with a police escort. If partners would like to join police-escorted convoys, they should contact UNRWA to coordinate and movements will need to be scheduled at times throughout the day.
- Organisations face difficulties in maintaining visibility over the supply chain, particularly with respect to the tracking and management of cargo dispatches and shipments on the way from Al Arish to Gaza. This lack of visibility poses challenges in ensuring that cargo reaches its intended destination without loss or delay.
- The need to establish vehicle repair shops was discussed, particularly to address repair requirements related to transport means for personnel. Partners were suggested to sign the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) directly with UNRWA for repair services.
There is a discussion ongoing on the possibility for the NGOs employees of getting access to the UNRWA shuttle buses.

**LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATES**

- The Logistics Cluster team based in the Gaza Strip consists of four members, including a service coordinator focusing on the facilitation of common services. Additionally, a new permanent Logistics Cluster coordinator for Gaza is scheduled to join the team in the coming weeks.
- A logistics coordination team is present in Al Arish as a part of the inter-agency mission to coordinate with ERC and other responding actors to support aid flow into the Gaza Strip.
- The Logistics Cluster installed 13 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in Gaza, augmenting the storage capacity by 4,160m², out of which six 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.
- In addition to cargo notification service in Gaza Strip and common storage in Port Said, Egypt, the Logistics Cluster is making available for partners (at no cost to the user) 1,000m² of storage space in WFP warehouse in Rafah, and 70 m² in ACTED warehouse also in Rafah (see below for details).

**FUEL**

- Fuel distribution is being done by UNRWA at Rafah distribution point.
- INGO Forum informed that due to the current level of fuel entering Gaza, it is not feasible to provide fuel for every organisation. The process will begin with the available 60,000 litres of fuel entering the Gaza Strip daily. It was indicated that UNRWA cannot support fuel for generators or other uses outside of movement for distributions and baseline maintenance of operations.
- To manage the limited fuel supply, a rotation system will be implemented, which will allow different partners to receive fuel every few weeks, helping to maintain basic operations, especially for activities such as distributions outside of UN shelters.
- Fuel allocation prioritization will be conducted through various clusters, with an emphasis on the most essential activities that need to occur each week. The National Inter-Cluster Coordination Group will be responsible for prioritizing activities across all clusters. If the fuel allocation increases, the process and allocations will be revisited to potentially expand support.
- The mechanism for monitoring fuel usage is still being finalized to oversee fuel distribution, usage, and compliance with the allocation plan. SOPs for fuel monitoring have been shared with the UN.
- In case any entity plans to take an excessive amount of fuel to stock for a week, this action must be reviewed and approved by CLA based on the GPS coordinates of the storage location, the identification details, and the identity of the individual responsible for managing or storing the fuel.
- UNRWA has requested organisations to accurately assess and report their actual fuel requirements necessary to run all their operations.
- A communal working space with internet connection in Rafah provided by the UN agency is available for humanitarian personnel. Given the changing situation, updates will be provided regarding the accessibility and availability of the communal space.

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
2. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Logistics Cluster Services

- The Logistics Cluster launched additional common services to facilitate access to the following:
  - In Gaza:
    - 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, new WFP-managed warehouse, fully covered and enclosed, with the capacity of 1,000m² in Rafah is set to be operational for the humanitarian community starting 10 December.
      - **Post factum**: The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to the new WFP-managed warehouse, fully covered and enclosed, with the capacity of 1,000m² in Rafah is set to be operational for the humanitarian community starting 10 December.
      - **Post factum**: 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 are available. There is no last mile delivery or transportation to specific locations as every movement of transport requires deconfliction.
    - 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 should follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – partners are encouraged to review the latest version available online, as due to the volatility of the situation, the locations available may change. 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.
  - The Logistics Cluster modified its tracking system, so partners can now upload the packing list and photographs while submitting Service Request Form (SRF).

3. Partners Updates

- Partners proposed to consider the allocation of cargo in trucks based on the receiver to address the issue of receiving the same truck dispatched from Al Arish by different entities in Gaza. If multiple INGOs are sending partial loads to the same destination, coordinated planning can help consolidate cargo more efficiently and reduce the risk of mixing.
- Partners acknowledged that difficulty in tracking shipments in Gaza has become a common issue. UNRWA suggested humanitarian organisations to report any discrepancies or unaccounted cargo so that they can assist in possible locating it.
Partners emphasised the importance of sending cargo defined as first priority. So far this is food, medicine, and shelter. Partners can find the detailed [ Prioritization Dashboard](https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a), developed by OCHA to support humanitarian organisations in coordinating the delivery of assistance.

The date of the next Logistics Cluster meeting in Gaza to be determined.

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