LOCATION
Cairo, Egypt (online and in-person)

DATE
18 January 2024

CHAIR
Palestine Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger Spain (ACF-S), ACTED, ActionAid, Alianza por la Solidaridad, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), American Near East Refugee aid (Anera), Americares, Atlas Logistique/Hi, CARE, CCP Japan, CESVI, Coopération Internationale Sud Sud (CISS), Danish Church Aid (DCA), Direct Relief, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), Emergency NGO, Finnish Red Cross, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Gisha, Global Communities, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), Greenshields Cowie, HEKS/EPER, Help Me Live USA, Human Appeal, Humedica International Aid, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Network for Aid Relief and Assistance (INARA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuehne Foundation, Kuehne + Nagel, Liberty University, Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B), Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F), MedGlobal, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OXFAM, PARCIC, Penny Appeal, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Project Hope, Relief International (RI), Save the Children (SCI), Samaritan’s Purse, ShelterBox, Terre des hommes (TdH), Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), UK-Med, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States Department of State, Water Mission, WeWorld, World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), WorldVision International (WVI)

ACTION POINTS
- Partners that have presence in Amman are invited to share their contact information with palestine.logcluster@wfp.org to receive invitations for in-person meetings with the Logistics Cluster.
- Organisations to submit the online Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) forms to assist in the delivery of aid.
  - 15 Days in Advance Form
  - 48 Hours in Advance Form
- Partners can submit aid items for pre-approval from COGAT through the Aid Pre-Approval Request Form.
- Partners to provide input on their pipeline for the Jordan corridor 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.
AGENDA

1. Gaza updates
2. Logistics Cluster common services
3. Egypt corridor updates
4. Partners updates
5. AOB

1. Gaza Updates

- The Logistics Cluster shared an update on the situation in Gaza, as follows:
  
  **Fuel**
  - The ongoing communications and fuel shutdown are hindering the humanitarian community's efforts to assess and fulfil the needs in Gaza.

  **Access**
  - According to OCHA, out of 29 planned missions to deliver essential supplies to the northern region, only 7 were accomplished (24%) in the first two weeks of January. The number of denied missions has been increasing; in October and December, only 14% (6 out of 43) were denied.

  **Health**
  - According to WHO, only 15 out of Gaza’s 36 hospitals are partially functioning. Eleven Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are currently in Gaza to support hospitals across the Gaza Strip.

  **WASH**
  - Flooding has been reported across various parts of the Gaza Strip due to the weather conditions, leading to extensive infrastructure damage and the clogging of sewage systems and wastewater.
  - 22 generators have been requested to manage the water supply and waste management, but are still pending entry into Gaza.
  - Markets are not functioning and construction materials and other essential supplies for sanitation are not available for purchase.

2. Logistics Cluster Common Services

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to the following common services in Gaza and Egypt, and soon Jordan. Partners wishing to access any of these services can consult the [Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)](https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a). To request storage, transport, or cargo notification services, partners must submit the online [Service Request Form](https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a) or the Excel SRF file to Palestine.ClusterCargo@wfp.org.

  **In Gaza**
  - Three warehouses in Rafah are available for partners’ storage: one WFP-managed (1000 m²), one ACTED-managed (70 m²), and a new ACTED warehouse (400 m²) which started operating on 11 January. Deir al Balah and Khan Younis warehouses remain on hold.
  - Logistics Cluster transport service is available from Rafah to the Logistics Cluster common warehouses in the Gaza Strip.
- Cargo notification service is available to inform partners once their cargo has arrived at the Rafah handover point.

**In Jordan**
- The Logistics Cluster is piloting consolidated convoys in Jordan through various modalities and engaging with partners and authorities. More information on the outcomes will be provided in the coming days.

**In Egypt**
- Storage service is available in Port Said with 800 pallet positions.

### 3. Egypt Corridor Updates

The Logistics Cluster and WFP conducted a logistics assessment of Al Arish seaport on 10 January. The results were presented to partners:

- The port is 45 km from the Rafah border and 150 km east of Port Said.
- The port has already received five vessels since the onset of the Gaza response, mostly for government-chartered vessels. The largest vessel to dock so far had a capacity of about 4,000 mt. The port is limited to chartered vessels only.
- Commodities received are already palletized, once they are discharged from the vessel they are loaded directly onto the trucks as storage is not currently available. The discharge rate per day is about 600 mt, which is equivalent to about 25-30 trucks per day.
- The seaport does not have any handling equipment. However, there are a few licensed companies that offer labour and handling equipment.

### 4. Partners Updates

**ERC QR Code System**
- OCHA presented an update on the ERC QR code system whereby a QR code is created for each manifested truck to track its location and whether a truck has been rejected. The system was first implemented on 25 December 2023 with ongoing improvements.
- In addition to knowing the location of each truck, the activation of the tracking system provides visibility on the number of trucks and required time at each scanning location, as well as the type of aid that has entered Gaza.
- Partners are interested in receiving more details on the rejected items; OCHA is working to collect more information to be able to share.
- Challenges in implementing the tracking system include communication and connectivity issues, as well as restrictions on the use of mobile phones at certain locations.

**Pre-approval of aid items**
- MedGlobal provided an update on the pre-approval process of humanitarian aid items entering Gaza, based on discussions with the OCHA Access Support Unit (ASU).
- The guidelines on the pre-approval process have been finalized and will be shared with all partners soon. The guidelines specify the step-by-step process to submit items for pre-approval by COGAT.
- There have been a few recent changes to the pre-approval form:

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
A new section has been added requesting additional information on items that were previously rejected by COGAT.

- Partners can now send a bulk list of sensitive items as a single request, but only if the supply chain of each item is the same.

- Partners are requested to submit the form only for items that are at risk of getting rejected. Items that do not require pre-approval include water, food, medication, disposable medical supplies, hygiene kits, and clothes.

- COGAT will respond to requests using a traffic light system where green indicates approval, red for rejections, and yellow if the decision requires more time or more information. Once approval is received and cargo arrives at Al Arish, partners must share the truck and driver information with OCHA to notify them that pre-approved items will be dispatched to Nitzana or Kerem Shalom.

- Organisations that communicate bilaterally with COGAT for pre-approval are advised to also submit the OCHA pre-approval form to allow for better visibility on rejected items and to ensure that approved items are indicated on the manifest.

### 5. AOB

- COGAT is working to increase the capacity at Kerem Shalom. Up to 140 trucks have been manifested per day for Kerem Shalom.

- Partners are reminded to submit the ERC online forms to allow for visibility on the pipeline and to facilitate the seamless delivery of aid to Gaza from Egypt:
  - **ERC movement projection form**: requires partners to notify the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) 15 days in advance of intended cargo arrival.
  - **ERC 48 hour arrival notification form**: requires partners to notify ERC 48 hours in advance for trucks heading to Al Arish in order to facilitate security clearance and develop the manifest. Partners are advised to re-download the form as it was updated in recent weeks.

- The fourth IMPACCT bulletin on customs processes is now published. Partners can submit any customs-related questions in the dedicated form. The Logistics Cluster will share a mapping of the various customs scenarios in the coming days.

- The Logistics Cluster will soon start reaching out to partners to compile a list of suppliers that partners have been utilizing in Egypt and the region.

- Partners are reminded to ensure pallets are properly labelled from all sides, clearly showing the donor and partner in Gaza who will pick up the items.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held in Cairo on 25 January 2024 at 11:00

### Contacts

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Meeting Minutes, 18 January 2024
Palestine Logistics Cluster

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