Meeting Minutes, 28 March 2024
Palestine Logistics Cluster

LOCATION
Jerusalem, Cairo and Amman (online and in-person)

DATE
28 March 2024

CHAIR
Palestine Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
ActionAid, ACTED, AmeriCares, ANERA, Belgium Embassy, CARE, Care Jordan, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CCP Japan, CESVI, Direct Relief, Distribute Aid, ECHO, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), German Red Cross (DRK), Global Communities, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), Good Neighbors Japan (GNJP), Handicap International (HI)/Atlas Logistique, Human Appeal, Humedica, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JRCS), Kühne Foundation, Médecins du monde (MDM), Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B), Médecins Sans Frontières France (MSF-F), Médecins Sans Frontières Holland (MSF-H), MedGlobal, Mercy Corps, Mundubat Foundation, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OXFAM, Peace Winds Japan, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Representative Office of Japan to Palestine, Save the Children (SCI), ShelterBox, Terre Des Hommes (TDH), The MENOTR Initiative, The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Turkish Red Crescent Society, United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO).

ACTION POINTS
• Partners to provide input on their pipeline for the Egypt and Jordan corridors through the dedicated form. Partners who did not receive a form are encouraged to reach out to palestine.logcluster@wfp.org.
• Organizations bringing cargo through Egypt are requested to submit the online Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) forms: 48 h and 15 days forms.
• Partners are invited to continue submitting their customs-related questions for Egypt in the dedicated form and for Jordan in the dedicated form.
• Partners are invited to share their lists of suppliers (especially inside Gaza) with palestine.logcluster@wfp.org, for the benefit of the wider humanitarian logistics community. The Logistics Cluster will circulate the list on a regular basis.

AGENDA
Gaza updates
Jordan corridor update
Egypt corridor update
Pre-approval Process – ASU Update
UNFPA: Health and GBV items delivery challenges
Upcoming LC Induction training
Logistics Cluster Common Services
AOB

1. Gaza Updates

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATE

- The Logistics Cluster held a meeting with partners last Monday to discuss contingency planning.
- The equipment to support partners has arrived in Jordan and preparations started to transport them from Jordan to Gaza in the coming weeks. This includes 20 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), two Temperature Control Units (TCUs) that will be handed over to two partners, in addition to generators and prefabs.
- Logistics Cluster common storage capacity in Rafah has been extended to 1,000 m² with the expansion of the WFP warehouse.
- The Logistics Cluster shared the prioritization list and percentages by sector for this week as agreed upon the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group both in Jerusalem and in Gaza. The prioritization update is shared with partners on a weekly basis.

SITUATION UPDATE

- The Logistics Cluster provided an update based on the latest OCHA SitRep. According to the latest, during the week of 16 to 22 March, nine mission convoys to the North were facilitated, five missions were denied and three were postponed.
- The Logistics Cluster updated partners on the number of trucks that have crossed into Gaza in the last week, as per UNRWA reports. Out of the 1,191 trucks that crossed into Gaza, 769 (42%) were UN and INGOs trucks. Most of the trucks (73%) crossed into Gaza through Kerem Shalom (KS). More information can be checked via the UNRWA dashboard.
- Since the beginning of Ramadan, there has been a decrease in the number of UN/INGOs trucks crossing into Gaza.
- Question related to the status of Rafah Crossing. It was clarified that Rafah crossing has been operating in the last week.

INTER-AGENCY PIPELINE

- The Logistics Cluster provided an update on the organizations’ pipelines for the Jordan and Egypt corridors for the next three months through the dedicated form per organization. As of 25 March, a total of 280,142 mt of aid in the pipeline for the next three months. Figures throughout the past two weeks show a total increase of approx. 40,000 mt.
- Most of the pipeline is still planed for Egypt with over 250,000 mt, the majority of which (90%) is food security. As for the Jordan corridor 28,000 mt is planned (47% food security and 35% WASH items).

1 The pipeline collection is an ongoing process and data is based on available inputs from humanitarian organizations on a weekly basis. Therefore, it does not represent the entire pipeline and should be interpreted accordingly.

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
The Logistics Cluster has been reaching out to some partners enquiring about an update on their pipeline because the figures in the system were outdated.

Partners who have not received the form or are facing any issues can reach out to palestine.logcluster@wfp.org

3. Jordan Corridor Updates

- Between 22 and 28 March, three convoys with 72 trucks were dispatched from Amman through the King Hussein Bridge (KHB) route (back-to-back modality) carrying Food, Shelter, WASH, and GBV items on behalf of seven organizations.
- The Logistics Cluster successfully scaled up to three convoys per week and planned to continue. However, next week, there will be only two convoys, the third one is dedicated and organized by JHCO.
- IMPACCT Working Group continues to collect questions and challenges related to the customs processes through the dedicated form.
- The Logistics Cluster provided training on how to request Logistics Cluster services and fill out the Service Request Form (SRF) for 56 participants.
- The Logistics Cluster asks partners planning to move oversized cargo from Jordan to Gaza to contact bilaterally to the team (Michael.klobucar@wfp.org) to provide their requests, as the Logistics Cluster is planning to consolidate all requests in one specific convoy.
- The Logistics Cluster highlighted the special importance of the providing the pipeline data to advocate for increased capacity of trucks to be moved through Jordan Corridor on a weekly basis.

4. Egypt Corridor Updates

- The Logistics Cluster presented an analysis of the number of trucks that are being manifested and the actual crossings to Kerem Shalom as there has been a decrease in the number of trucks crossing Kerem Shalom daily, although the manifest has been increased in terms of number of trucks.
- Kerem Shalom was initially used only for INGO/UN Agencies, but recently and due to the intermittent closure of Rafah entry point, most of the trucks, including commercial, are using Kerem Shalom and not only INGO/UN Agencies.
- Based on the last 12 days data, only 55% of the Kerem Shalom manifested trucks were UN Agencies/INGO trucks – compared to the 100% that was manifested before.
- Comparing the number of trucks manifested on a given day and the actual trucks scanned at Kerem Shalom in the last 7 days, there is a significant difference between the number of trucks that are being manifested and the actual number of trucks crossing. As an example, on 27 March, 150 trucks where manifested whereas 56 trucks crossed Kerem Shalom (scanned). In this sense and based on...
the data of the last 12 days, only 59% of the INGO/UN trucks manifested managed to cross the scanning at Kerem Shalom

- It was clarified that for this exercise, the comparison is made with the trucks crossing/scanning at Kerem Shalom, that may not match the UNRWA figures on the arrivals to Rafah Transshipment Point.
- The Logistics Cluster also shared the number of INGO/UN trucks waiting in Arish to be manifested. As of 27 March, 1,298 trucks have been verified and are ready to be manifested and moved into Gaza.
- The Logistics Cluster also provided an update of the assets that have been deployed and installed to augment ERC capacity, particularly after the set up of the two new locations: the new truck yard, very close to Rafah where 2 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), 3 prefabs and 1 ablution units have been installed, and Sheikh Zuweid, where ERC keeps the storage kitchen and 2 MSUs, 4 prefabs and 2 ablution units are deployed.
- Regarding the set up in Arish, the Logistics Cluster is in the process of installing two additional MSUs in Al Arish port that will support the reception of incoming bilateral donations via sea.
- A partner asked about the use of the MSUs in the new truck yard. It was explained that they are being used to store rejected items, repalletize or reassemble cargo.

5. Pre-approval process – ASU Update

- OCHA Access Support Unit (ASU) provided an update on the pre-approval status of the humanitarian aid items submitted for approval since 11 January.
- No feedback received this week on any of the submissions from the last week, as there was a change over the COGAT focal points for preclearance. Therefore, the number of submitted requests increased with 201 submissions in place. No change on those cleared (112) and rejected (23). 52 are pending, and 7 are no longer being pursued. ASU continues to share a weekly list of items submitted by partners for pre-approval with COGAT.
- ASU recommended partners to accurately specify locations (specific facility) as well as purpose (the actual usage of the item) when they complete their requests.
- ASU focal point will handover his work to a new colleague, partners will be informed accordingly.
- The average time on currently pending items is 15 days.
- Clarification requested on generators with 35 KVA. It was clarified that all generators must go through the preclearance process. In the last two weeks, one clearance was granted to a generator with 35 KVA capacity, while another request for a generator with the same capacity from a different organization was rejected. Approvals and rejections are not blanket answers for all items of the same type.
- Question related to the Logistics Cluster’s support to partners in terms of generators and prefabs. It was clarified that the Logistics Cluster has already procured the items; however, they will not be
handed over to partners until they are approved by COGAT to enter Gaza and CLA approves the location. The Logistics Cluster will communicate with partners when all process is cleared so they can place a request for the equipment.

- Question on the mechanism for submitting the pre-clearance requests. It was clarified that after the submission, the applicant will receive a confirmation email. This means that the request is in process. ASU will communicate with the partner on COGAT’s response in case of approval, rejection or requesting more information.

- Question on the process to unlock items that have been rejected and are sitting in Al Arish. It was clarified that if it has been pre-cleared and then rejected at the crossing point then there should be a process of back and forth to be done between ASU and COGAT. In case it has been rejected without having gone through the preclearance process, then it should go through the pre-clearance. Partners should coordinate with the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) to access or take their rejected cargo that sits in Al Arish. The Logistics Cluster team in Arish can also offer support if needed in this regard.

- To submit items for pre-approval, partners can fill out the Access Support Unit (ASU) online pre-approval request form.

6. UNFPA: Health and GBV items delivery challenges

- UNFPA shared a presentation on their mandate and their main challenges in the Gaza response.

- The main type of commodities UNFPA is bringing into Gaza are medical kits, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and equipment, non-food items (particularly for people vulnerable for GBV) and infrastructure (mainly for health and protection).

- One particular consideration is that the health kits consist of 56 boxes that are being brought into 3 or 4 pallets, what puts at risk the kits when cargo is being cross loaded multiple times.

- UNFPA is using the Jordan corridor move medical equipment and supplies due to the accessibility of these supplies in the country. These items have been subsequently dispatched by road on the back to back convoys from Amman and also airlifted to Al Arish. Regarding other international procurement some of the cargo has been also dispatched to Al Arish and Cairo airport as well as Port Said port.

- UNFPA supply is a mixed between local procurement in Jordan as well as international procurement in Dubai, Europe and Turkiye.

- Regarding storage in Gaza, UNFPA has been mostly using Logistics Cluster common warehouses as well as WHO warehouse, particularly for items requiring cold chain. Access to 2 to 8 cold storage is one of the main challenges that UNFPA has been facing.

- In regards to distribution, UNFPA has dispatched items to North, Middle and South Gaza. For access to the North very dependent on convoy movement. Working in close coordination with UNICEF and WHO.

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
Meeting Minutes, 28 March 2024
Palestine Logistics Cluster

- Regarding the challenges faced:
  - Lack of dedicated warehouse in Al Arish which conditions the dispatch of ready-to-distribute items.
  - Lack of dedicated staff at the reception site in Al Arish to receive and inspect arrived cargo.
  - Pieces of the same kit being split into different trucks that may cross in different days, which complicates the reception in Gaza.
  - The lack of closed trucks in the Jordan corridor to keep cool items, necessitates air shipment of these items from Jordan to Arish.
  - In Gaza, the damaged and the possible mixed of items in the crossings is one of the main challenges that is affecting all partners.
  - The lack of storage capacity in Gaza affects the capacity of repalletize or prepare the cargo for dispatch.
  - The lack of predictability on what is being permitted to enter.
  - Lack of sufficient logistics staff and accommodation for staff.
- UNFPA also shared one of the most complex items to dispatch, the field maternity unit. These units are used to perform surgical delivery for obstetric care and normal deliveries as well as for the health facilities.
- UNFPA is looking and trying to arrange the dispatch of static clinics (240 feet and 340 feet) that will come in trailers, which will require cross-loading the clinic once in Gaza. UNFPA is considering and exploring the different options and equipment needed for the crossloading of the items.
- The Logistics Cluster emphasized the need to report on the Jordan pipeline the need for cold storage and transport so the Logistics Cluster can raise and advocate for this issue.
- For the moment, the use of cold chain boxes could be enough on a standard journey, but there is a high risk that if, for some reason, there is a delay in the convoy from Jordan, the cargo will be lost.
- Partners discussed about the high risks of cargo being damaged in this response, affected by the multiple handling and crossloading processes. For instance, cargo coming through the Jordan corridor is being crossloaded.

7. Upcoming Logistics Cluster Induction Training

- The Logistics Cluster Training team is announcing a two-day in-person training in Cairo, the Logistics Cluster Induction Training, for partners to improve their understanding of the cluster's role and mandate. The training will be held on 17 and 18 April in Cairo; the venue is TBD. It targets humanitarian organizations involved in logistics activities in the Gaza response.
- Objectives include explaining the cluster mandate, its functions, and how to utilize its tools. The specific focus will be on logistics cluster functions for the operation. The training will also facilitate...
networking and problem-solving discussions among organizations. Topics covered include humanitarian architecture, cluster mandate, tools, and addressing bottlenecks.

- The training will cover the general objectives but it will also dive into the Logistics Cluster specific functions and activities in this response. The training will also explain the resources available to partners such as the LOG or the LCA and explain some of the processes such as how to submit an SRF.
- The training will take place in person and it is open to 20 participants. The aim is to have as many organizations as possible and to create a safe space to also discuss bottlenecks, challenges and potential solutions.
- Applications are open till 5 April, with food provided but accommodation not covered. Participants are expected to be based in or near Cairo for easy commute.
- A partner asked about a possible training in Amman. As the Cairo LCI is the first one in this response, depending on the degree of participation and interest, a future training in Amman could be considered.

8. Logistics Cluster Common Services

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to common logistics services in Gaza and Jordan. A summary of the services can be found [here](https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a). 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).

**IN GAZA**
- Four warehouses in Rafah are available for partners' storage, with a total space of 3,470 m². Deir al Balah warehouse remains on hold. Storage is available for partners for up to seven days.
- Transport service is available from Rafah Transshipment Point to the Logistics Cluster common warehouses in the Gaza Strip.
- Cargo notification services are available to inform partners once their cargo has arrived at the Rafah handover point from both Kerem Shalom and Rafah entry points.

**IN JORDAN**
- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to common transport services from Jordan through the King Hussein Bridge/Allenby – Nitzana – Gaza route (KHB). As all Logistics Cluster common services, they are available at no cost to the users. For this route, the Logistics Cluster also offers support in the consolidation (storage up to 4 days - equipped with cold chain capacity) facility where cargo is consolidated and dispatched in trucks.
  - The Logistics Cluster facilitates the convoy coordination services for the Amman – Aqaba – Nuweibaa – Arish – Gaza route. WFP and the Logistics Cluster support the coordination; however,
partners must provide their own trucks and must be registered in Egypt, following the standard procedures that are used to bring cargo from Arish to Gaza.

8. AoB

- Partners interested in sharing their experiences and would like to present their presentations in the Logistics Cluster’s meeting are advised to reach out to Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org.
- Partners to share details of contacts in Gaza to be invited to the in-person coordination meeting and receive communications.
- Partners are requested to ensure each pallet is properly labelled – mark pallets from all sides, showing donor and partner in Gaza who will pick-up the items.
- Each pallet should be wrapped with 4 layers of shrink plastic wrap and should be secured with plastic binding.
- HULO in collaboration with ECHO is still collecting requests from humanitarian organisations for the airlifts to support the Gaza response through the hulo platform.
- More information on the Logistics Cluster services, updates, guidelines, related links can be found on the Palestine Logistics Cluster Webpage.
- Question related to the maritime corridor for humanitarian assistance in Gaza. The Logistics Cluster clarified that there is no update on this corridor yet.
- Question related the increase of number of trucks to enter Gaza in case a ceasefire. The Logistics Cluster clarified that there cannot be a clear a specific answer for this question. Based on the previous experience, the number of trucks that entered Gaza increased during the one-week ceasefire in Gaza.

The next Palestine Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will be held on 4 April 2024 at 11:00

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Cecchi</td>
<td>Palestine Logistics Cluster Coordinator – Jerusalem</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andrea.cecchi@wfp.org">andrea.cecchi@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean-François Cuche</td>
<td>Deputy Cluster Coordinator – Gaza</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeanfrancois.cuche@wfp.org">jeanfrancois.cuche@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Klobucar</td>
<td>Logistics Officer – Amman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michael.klobucar@wfp.org">michael.klobucar@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myron Kamensa</td>
<td>Logistics Officer – Al Arish</td>
<td><a href="mailto:myron.kamensa@wfp.org">myron.kamensa@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvia López Cabana</td>
<td>Head of Information Management - Jerusalem</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Silvia.lopezcabana@wfp.org">Silvia.lopezcabana@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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