
Meeting Minutes, 28 December 2023

Palestine Logistics Cluster (Gaza response) and Egypt Logistics Cell



LOCATION	Cairo, Egypt (online and in-person)
DATE	28 December 2023
CHAIR	Palestine Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	<p>Action Against Hunger Spain (ACF-S), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Alianza por la Solidaridad, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Americares, Atlas Logistique/HI, Beit Lahia Development Association (BLDA), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CCP Japan, Christian Aid, Crown Agents/Greenshields Cowie, Danish Church Aid (DCA), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), Emergency NGO, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gisha, Global Communities, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), Human Appeal, Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 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, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), OXFAM, Parvic, Penny Appeal, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Save the Children, ShelterBox, Taawon, Terre des hommes (TdH), Terre des Hommes Italy (TdH), Relief International (RI), UK-Med, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 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), Water Mission, WeWorld, World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision International (WVI)</p>
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizations to submit the new ERC requests form online 15 days and 48 hours prior arrival in Al Arish.• Partners are encouraged to submit questions regarding customs-related topics that remain unclear here.• Organizations to submit aid items for COGAT's pre-approval through the new online form.• 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. Logistics Cluster common services
3. Egypt corridor updates
4. Partners Update
5. AOB

1. Gaza Updates

- The Logistics Cluster installed and handed over a total of 14 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to augment the offloading capacity in the Rafah transshipment point and the storage capacity of UN Agencies and International NGOs; Three installed MSUs in the Rafah handover point were recently destroyed and lost.
- Additional four MSUs will be delivered in Gaza, out of which two will be set up at Kerem Shalom crossing point and two will be handed over to Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to enhance storage capacity.

2. Logistics Cluster Common Services

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated access to the following common services:

In Gaza:

- **Common storage:** Two warehouses in Rafah are currently available for partners' storage, one managed by ACTED (70 m²) and one managed by WFP (1,000 m²). Currently, the common warehouse in Rafah (1,000m²) is at full capacity.
- An additional ACTED-managed warehouse (400 m²) in Rafah will be made available for partners and is planned to be operational in January 2024.
- As per the Logistics Cluster [Standard Operating Procedures \(SOPs\)](#), relief items are to be stored temporarily in common storage in Gaza for up to 72 hours, to ensure fair access to free-to-user warehousing space and avoid humanitarian cargo becoming static. Also, prior to delivering cargo to a storage location, partner organizations should have a distribution plan in place.
- The common warehouses in Deir al Balah and Khan Yunis are currently on hold until further notice.
- **Logistics Cluster transport services** from Rafah to the Logistics Cluster common warehouses in the Gaza Strip. There is no last mile delivery or transportation to specific locations by the Logistics Cluster as every movement of transport requires deconfliction.
- **Cargo notification services** to inform partners once their cargo has arrived at the Rafah handover point. Partners must share the truck details with the Logistics Cluster through the [Service Request Form](#) (SRF) to be able to identify the partners' cargo once it arrives in Gaza. Partners are also strongly encouraged to increase the visibility items on the pallets for easier identification.

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

- There is a backlog of around 3,000 aid trucks in Al Arish area waiting to enter Gaza; Another 500 trucks are awaiting in Port Said to deliver relief supplies in Gaza.
- The Logistics Cluster continues collecting information on convoys from UNRWA reports confirming aid received in Gaza. Based on these reports, the convoy dashboard is produced including trucks per day, crossing point, sector and type of organization.

Kerem Shalom crossing point

- Currently, Kerem Shalom crossing operations have been temporarily suspended for security reasons.
- Some of the challenges reported at the entry point are related to manual scanning, lack of offloading space on the Palestinian side, lack of space for vehicle parking, and security concerns.

ERC New Online Request Forms

- Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) requests all organizations intending to deliver aid supplies in Gaza to submit the following online forms:
 - [ERC movement projection form](#): a new digital version of the Service Request Form, which requires partners to notify the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) 15 days in advance of intended cargo arrival.
 - [ERC 48-hour arrival notification form](#): partners to notify ERC 48 hours in advance for trucks heading to Al Arish in order to facilitate security clearance and develop the manifest.

Jordan corridor

- A pilot convoy for the Jordan Corridor with 46 WFP trucks took place. Trucks were scanned first at the King Hussein Bridge (between Israel and Jordan), then at Nitzana crossing point, entered to Egypt and crossed to Gaza from Egypt through Kerem Shalom crossing point. In the case of opening the Jordan corridor, the route and process may change.
- A Logistics Cluster Officer is currently deployed in Jordan to streamline and map the process for potential inter-agency support.
- Discussions and advocacy efforts continue with authorities on the Jordan corridor, and more information will be shared with partners as soon as possible.

Aid Importation and Customs Clearance

- The IMPACCT Working Group provided an update on the aid importation and customs procedures. The ERC warehouses in Arish and Ismailia, while not technically bonded, are treated as such by Egyptian customs and Ministries, aiding in logistics operations. According to the Egyptian authorities, ERC should be the consignee of all cargo being donated to Gaza, also those aid items are imported tax-free.
- Humanitarian organizations who have questions or need clarifications on the procedures are encouraged to submit them through the [dedicated form](#).



4. Partner Updates

- MedGlobal and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), which have been supporting the Logistics Cluster in the compilation of aid items for COGAT pre-approval, shared the latest updates on the process:
 - Moving forward, if organizations would like to clarify if specific aid items are allowed to enter Gaza, they are invited to submit the list through the [new online pre-approval request form](#) developed by OCHA and Access Support Unit (ASU) for COGAT's pre-approval. OCHA, together with Med Global and NRC are working together to develop the guidelines for the process, which will be shared with the humanitarian community shortly.
- UNICEF provided an overview of their logistic operation in Gaza response and shared key challenges faced.
- The Health Cluster Working Group is mapping the cold chain mapping in Gaza through the following file [here](#). Partners are invited to review the form and help maintain the system by providing timely inputs.

5. AOB

- Partners discussed the current logistics challenges to increase the volume of humanitarian items (and number of trucks entering Gaza) to meet the humanitarian needs. Some of the challenges faced include security concerns due to the ongoing hostilities, poor living conditions of staff (mostly internally displaced), lack of fuel to implement humanitarian logistics operations, poor and disrupted telecommunications, limited scanning and parking capacities, and congestion in the transshipment points.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held in Cairo on 4 January 2023 at 11:00

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