HIGHLIGHTS

14 Mobile Storage Units dispatched by air to Al Arish to expand ERC capacity

An additional 1,000 m2 of storage capacity are available in Rafah for common storage, bringing the total of common storage available for partners to 3,470 m2

22 Mobile Storage Units and 12 prefabs and 4 generators arrived in Amman ready to be dispatched into Gaza

A warehouse mapping exercise was conducted in Gaza to identify storage gaps and capacities from partners

BACKGROUND

Humanitarian needs in Gaza have seen a staggering increase since the escalation of the conflict on 7 October 2023, which has resulted in the cessation of electricity, food, water, and fuel supplies, as well as restricted access to and movement within Gaza. The Rafah crossing remained closed until 21 October, hindering the passage of crucial humanitarian assistance, including food, water, and medicine. In December, the Kerem Shalom entry point opened for UN and International NGOs’ trucks to cross into Gaza. The collective humanitarian response continues to be limited throughout Gaza due to both insecurity and access constraints, against needs of unprecedented scale and depth caused by massive internal displacements, destruction of infrastructure, the collapse of health structures, inability to access clean water, and extreme deterioration of food insecurity, leading to 2.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

To support responding humanitarian organisations in their delivery of assistance to affected populations, the Logistics Cluster for Palestine was activated on 16 October 2023. To date, the Palestine Logistics Cluster ensures strong coordination between humanitarian organizations, advocates for uninterrupted flow of assistance, and delivers effective support for partners operating into Gaza, including through common services facilitation. The Logistics Cluster has actively engaged in augmenting the logistics capacity of key relief actors such as the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to increase efficiency, mitigate bottlenecks and avoid duplication of efforts on behalf of the humanitarian community responding to the crisis in Gaza.

GENERAL SITUATION UPDATES

- During the month of March, a total of 4,993 trucks crossed into Gaza through Kerem Shalom and Rafah entry points, UN and International NGOs accounted for 57.4% of the trucks. This represents an increase of 73.7% in the total trucks compared to the figures in February. In the graphic on the right the average of trucks per day is represented by month. All trucks coming via Kerem Shalom and Rafah continued to be transshipped at Rafah transshipment point.

![Average number of trucks per day entering Gaza](https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a)
Regarding the status of the entry points in March, both Rafah and Kerem Shalom remained open for 30 days each, and 76.5% of all the total trucks that entered Gaza did it through Kerem Shalom. The graph below provides an overview of the total trucks entering Gaza since the beginning of the humanitarian convoys on 20 October.

LOGISTICS CLUSTER ACTIVITIES

Coordination

- During March 2024, the Logistics Cluster held a total of 5 coordination meetings, with one of them taking place in Gaza and the rest were simultaneously held in Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo and online. An average of 50 humanitarian organizations attended these meetings where regular updates were provided on the Logistics Cluster operations and services in Gaza, the activities of the Logistics Cluster in Jordan and Egypt.

- The IMPACCT Working Group is still monitoring any challenges or questions from partners regarding the customs processes and importation procedures for both Jordan and Egypt. Online forms to collect these queries remain open (Egypt and Jordan) and a dedicated WhatsApp group remains active for information sharing.

Information management

- The Logistics Cluster conducted a partners’ warehouse mapping exercise in March with partners in Gaza. The aim of the exercise was double-fold: on one side, to identify the current storage capacities, gaps and needs; and on the other, to liaise and engage with partners with spare storage capacity that were willing to share with the humanitarian community. A survey was circulated among partners for two weeks, to which 18 partners provided information. The main findings of the mapping exercise were:
  - 18 Organizations, including 10 International and 4 National NGOs and 3 UN Agencies, reported information on their warehouses in Gaza.

1 Source: UNRWA dashboard

https://logcluster.org/en/ops/pse23a
Out of the total of 46 warehouses in Gaza for which information was provided, 30 were reported as operational. The operational warehouses represent a total of 23,304 m² of storage capacity, 35% of the total reported.

Regarding the distribution of the warehouses by Governorate, most of the operational storage capacity was reported in Rafah, where 14 organizations declared to have storage facilities, compared to the 2 organizations with storage in Khan Younis, 4 in Deir Al Balah, 2 in Gaza Governorate and only 1 organization reported storage in North Gaza. In terms of space, the storage capacity in Rafah represents 20,516 m². Comparing this to the total operational space, reveals that 81% of all the operational space is located in Rafah Governorate.

Finally and regarding the willingness to share, 5 organizations expressed their willingness to share their capacity with partners, comprehending 3,102 m², reinforcing the evidence of lack of storage capacity.

The Logistics Cluster continues to compile a logistics supplier list based on partners’ contributions to ease access and exchange of information. Partners are encouraged to share their lists of suppliers with palestine.logcluster@wfp.org, for the benefit of the wider humanitarian logistics community.

The Logistics Cluster continued updating weekly the forecast 3-month pipeline with inputs from approximately 30 International NGOs and UN Agencies for the Egypt and Jordan corridors. The data collected supports collective advocacy efforts to improve and ease access to Gaza and to enable logistics planning. The latest figures from 31 March, representing a total of 280,254 mT, when compared to the figures from the end of February reflected an increase of approximately 54,000 mT (23.9% increase). The increase was manifested in both corridors with a total of 28,788 mT planned for Jordan and 251,476 mT planned for the Egypt corridor. Data is based on inputs from 29 organisations that contributed to the exercise; therefore, it does not represent the entire pipeline and should be interpreted accordingly.
Operation Overview, 1-31 March 2024
Palestine Logistics Cluster, (Gaza response)

Storage and transport common services

IN GAZA

- An additional common warehouse (1,000 m²) was made available for partners in the North Camp of Rafah, with the current total storage capacity in Gaza of 3,470 m². During the month of March, the Logistics Cluster received 5,706 m³ of humanitarian supplies for storage across the four common warehouses the Logistics Cluster maintains in Rafah. The cargo was stored on behalf of 12 humanitarian organizations. Food security, WASH and Shelter accounted for three-quarters of all the cargo received.
- The Logistics Cluster has transported 944 mT of relief items while facilitating transport services from the Rafah transhipment point to the common storage facilities across Rafah.
- While having a permanent staff presence in the Rafah transhipment point, the Logistics Cluster has supported 25 humanitarian organisations with cargo notification services.
- The Logistics Cluster is in the process of bringing additional equipment, including 22 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), 20 prefabs and 4 generators. On 24 March, in close collaboration with UNHRD, the equipment was dispatched by road from Dubai to Amman, waiting for road 10 to reopen to be dispatched into Gaza. Road 10 connects Nitzana with Kerem Shalom on the Israeli side, reducing the need for cross-loading into Egyptian trucks for cargo coming through the Jordan corridor. The equipment will be used to augment partners’ capacity, and as part of the contingency planning activities of the Logistics Cluster.

IN JORDAN

- During the month of March, the Logistics Cluster continued facilitating access to the humanitarian convoys through the Jordan corridor through the King Hussein-Nitzana-Kerem Shalom route by providing cargo consolidation services at the 1,300-pallet WFP facility in Amman and by providing access to transport services from Jordan to Gaza.
- The convoys through the King Hussein Bridge route were being dispatched in the back-to-back modality, meaning that all the cargo had to be cross loaded into different trucks in King Hussein/Allenby bridge, again in Nitzana and finally in Kerem Shalom. The Logistics Cluster continued organizing 24-truck convoys twice per week until 25 March, when the green light was given to increase the number of back-to-back convoys to three.
- In total, 168 trucks were dispatched in March, with a total of 2,768 mT of humanitarian supplies from 8 partners, where food security accounted for over three quarters (77.4%) of the total, followed by Protection (8.9%), WASH (7.7%) and Shelter (6%).
- To support partners in joining the Logistics Cluster convoys, the Logistics Cluster organized a training session on how to submit an SRF on 27 March, bringing together 56 participants representing 32 humanitarian organizations.
- IMPACCT Working Group continued to support partners in clarifying customs and importation/exportation procedures. Additional guidance has been published on the Jordan Logistics Capacity Assessment.

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

- In Egypt the Logistics Cluster activities continued to strengthen the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) logistics capacity Al Arish, in support of the Egypt corridor.
- On 14 March, an ECHO-funded flight in collaboration with UNHRD landed in Al Arish, delivering 12 MSUs to expand ERC storage capacity in Al Arish in 3,840 m2. Two of them have already been installed at Al Arish port to support the reception of cargo coming by sea. A total of 16 MSUs have already been installed in the different locations ERC maintains to support the consolidation and dispatch of cargo on the humanitarian corridor from Egypt.
- On 20 March the Logistics Cluster team in Al Arish conducted a training for the ERC on maintenance of generators.
- The Logistics Cluster team in Al Arish is also supporting information dissemination and analysis on the number of UN and INGO trucks in Al Arish to support the preparation of the daily manifest and to provide insights on the manifest composition and the actual crossings from the Egypt corridor.

A summary of the Logistics Cluster activities can be accessed in the March infographic.

CONTACTS

For any enquiries on the Palestine Logistics Cluster, please reach out to palestine.logcluster@wfp.org.