
Meeting Minutes, 15 August 2024

Palestine Logistics Cluster



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

DATE 15 August 2024

CHAIR Palestine Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS Acted, Action Against Hunger (ACF), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Americares Foundation, Atlas Logistique/Handicap International, Australian Representative Office (DFAT), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CCP Japan, CESVI, Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), Direct Relief, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), EMERGENCY, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), German Red Cross, Gisha, Global Communities, Global Empowerment Mission (GEM), HELP Logistics, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Kuehne Foundation, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), MA'AN Development Center, MAERSK, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP-UK), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Mercy Corps, Mercy Relief, Médecins du Monde (MdM), Mundubat, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Aid Committee (NORWAC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), OXFAM, Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS), Penny Appeal, Plan International, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Relief International (RI), Save the Children International, Secours Islamique France (SIF), ShelterBox, Swedish Red Cross, Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER), Terre des Hommes Italy (TdH), Terre des Hommes Lausanne (TdH), Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), MENTOR Initiative, Office of the Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza (OSHRC), Tony Blair Institute of Global Change, Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), United Palestinian Appeal (UPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), WeWorld, World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH).

- AGENDA**
1. Logistics Cluster Common Services
 2. Gaza General Updates
 3. Egypt Corridor Updates
 4. Jordan Corridor Updates
 5. Access Support Unit (ASU) Pre-Approval Process Updates
 6. UN 2720 Mechanism Updates
 7. AOB

- ACTION POINTS**
- The Logistics Cluster will invite the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) to present overview of activities and updates.
 - The Logistics Cluster to review the fence road SOPs, for further clarity of the service.
 - Partners with cargo in Amman ready for dispatch to reach out to palestine.clustercargo@wfp.org.

1. Logistics Cluster Common Services

- An overview of the Logistics Cluster common services can be found in the [Concept of Operations](#) (ConOps). Partners are required to consult and follow the [Standard Operation Procedures \(SOPs\)](#) to access to common logistics services.

Common Storage

- A new common storage warehouse of 345 m² is now available to partners in Az Zawida through the Logistics Cluster facilitation. The facility was set up and is managed by Atlas Logistique/Humanity and Inclusion.
- As per any common service, the Atlas Logistique-managed storage facility requires partners to submit an online [Service Request Form](#) (SRF) to be accessed. Partners can store their cargo for 24 hours with the possibility of requesting additional storage time up to a maximum of five days.

Transport

- The use of the fence road is a temporary option to assist in clearing the backlog currently in Al Arish. It is intended for higher-value commodities such as NFIs and does not apply cargo already inside Gaza on the Karem Abu Salem platform. Partners who wish to use this route, should consult the dedicated [SOPs](#) and liaise with the respective sectorial clusters for cargo prioritisation.

2. Gaza General Updates

- The Logistics Cluster provided an overview of the status of the different crossing/entry points in Gaza:
 - North entry points: the Logistics Cluster operations continue from Erez East entry point since the closure of Erez West on 3 August. Services include the reception of cargo, uplifting, and transporting cargo to the partners' warehouses in the north.
 - South entry point: the collection and the uplifting activities are still severely hampered from the Kerem Shalom-Karem Abu Salem platform due to access and security constraints.
- The Logistics Cluster provided an overview of the [Logistics Information Exchange \(LogIE\)](#), a tool developed to collect, analyse and share humanitarian logistics information. For the Palestine operation, the LogIE tool displays the Logistics Cluster ConOps, common warehouses locations, entry points locations and status. Recently, the UNOSAT road damage assessment report conducted in May has been added, displaying the roads damaged inside the Gaza Strip. The maps can be printed according to the user needs. For more information, partners can access the tool in this [link](#).
- To avoid overlapping of deliveries, increased congestion, resource wastage, partners who organise their own shipments are requested to coordinate with the Logistics Cluster in advance at Palestine.clustercargo@wfp.org and – if in need of common services - to submit an online [SRF](#) for transport from the entry point (Erez) to the partners' or their consignees' warehouse in the north, to ensure smooth operations at the entry points.
- To facilitate cargo identification, partners are reminded to label their cargo with the sender's name and logo and to paste the SRF QR code.

3. Egypt Corridor Updates

- The coordination of the Egypt corridor is led by the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC). Partners are required to follow the ERC [Standard Operating Procedures](#) and notify ERC of cargo movement through the [15-day](#) or [48-hour](#) forms. All the humanitarian cargo coming from Egypt is consolidated in Al Arish.

- As of 14 August, 1,251 UN and international NGO trucks are in Al Arish, ready to be dispatched into Gaza. The number of backlog trucks in Al Arish has been decreasing for the past weeks; however, the backlog is still considered high due to the slow movement of trucks crossing into Gaza.
- This figure only includes UN and INGO trucks and does not account for bilateral donations handled by the ERC.
- The Logistics Cluster will invite the ERC to attend the next coordination meeting, to present an overview of activities and planning.

4. Jordan Corridor Updates

- Between 9 and 15 August, the Logistics Cluster dispatched three convoys comprising 85 trucks, including 1,091 mt of food, WASH, shelter and mixed items. Planning is underway for four additional convoys next week.
- The Logistics Cluster encourages all partners with cargo in Jordan to communicate with the Logistics Cluster team in Amman via palestine.clustercargo@wfp.org to share overview of cargo readiness in Amman as well as to receive guidance on how to effectively utilise the consolidation warehouse.
- Since the opening of the Jordan corridor in November 2023 and as of 15 August 2024, the Logistics Cluster has supported 22 organisations in facilitating access to convoys, transporting 27,904 mt of humanitarian aid to Gaza through 84 convoys. The Logistics Cluster [Inter-Agency Convoy Dashboard](#) displays information on the Logistics Cluster-facilitated convoys from Jordan.

5. Access Support Unit (ASU) Pre-Approval Process Updates

- The Access Support Unit (ASU) continues to share the weekly list of items submitted by partners for pre-approval.
- ASU provided an update on the pre-approval status for humanitarian aid items submitted since 11 January. Of the 624 submissions, 340 have been cleared, 93 have been rejected, 165 are pending, and 26 are no longer being pursued. The average waiting time on pending items is 49 days and the average time for receipt of clearances is 17 days.
- During last week, ASU received clearance feedback on four requests submitted by a UN agency, two INGOs and for the first time by a private international company that donated health items to a UN agency. In total, five items were cleared including vehicle spare parts, health, and shelter items.
- ASU presented an overview of the cleared items.
- On 13 August, ASU conducted an orientation session to provide guidance to organisations on how to submit an online request for pre-clearance. 90 participants attended the training.
- Partners are encouraged to apply for the pre-clearance of their items through ASU by submitting the [online pre-approval request form](#). For more information, partners can consult the latest “Pre-Clearance Requests and Entry Coordination for Critical Humanitarian Items (CHIs)” [Standard Operating Procedures](#) (SOPs). For more information regarding the pre-approval process, partners can contact Ms. Manal Alnajjar at manala@unops.org.

6. UN 2720 Mechanism Update

- The UN2720 Mechanism was established in December 2023, through a UN Security Council resolution, and is fully operational across all corridors, currently except Egypt.

- The Egyptian Government has approved the sharing of information between the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) and the UN2720 Mechanism Database. This will ensure that all cargo coming through Egypt is also captured through the UN 2720 mechanism.
- The UN2720 will facilitate Israeli customs clearance on behalf of organisations, for cargo being transported through the Jordan corridor in Government-to-Government modality.
- Through the Jordan Corridor, 117 requests have been submitted through the UN2720 Mechanism Database, out of which 78 requests were approved and 31 of these were delivered to Gaza.
- The UN2720 Mechanism Database is also available for use for cargo from the West Bank and Israel. So far, three requests were approved from the West Bank and one from Israel.
- The UN2720 mechanism encourages organisations with cargo in the West Bank and Israel to submit their requests through the system, as this will facilitate the advocacy for these corridors.
- There are ongoing discussions to establish Cyprus as a consolidation hub for a maritime corridor.
- The UN2720 Mechanism SOPs for Jordan, Israel and the West Bank are available with guidelines and other documents on the [UN2720 Mechanism for Gaza Database](#).
- The UN2720 Mechanism has a team of international monitors in Amman to guide partners through the process. For more information regarding the UN 2720 Mechanism, partners can contact James Nunan at jamesNU@unops.org.

7. AoB

- The Logistics Cluster continues to compile a suppliers list, which is shared with partners upon request. Partners who have supplier lists for inside Gaza are particularly encouraged to share them. Organisations names are removed from the shared file. To access the suppliers' list and provide information, partners can contact Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org.
- Partners interested in sharing their logistics set-up and experience and who would like to present at the Logistics Cluster coordination meeting are welcome and encouraged to contact Palestine.logcluster@wfp.org.
- More information on the Logistics Cluster services, updates, guidelines, and related links can be found on the [Palestine operation webpage](#).

The next Palestine Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will be held on 22 August 2024 at 11:00 (Jerusalem, Amman, Cairo time).

Contacts

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