
Meeting Minutes, 23 July 2024

Syria Operation, Damascus



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LOCATION	Damascus (in-person and online)
DATE	23 July 2024
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster Associate
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Gruppo Di Volontariato Civile (GVC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), INTERSOS, OXFAM, Relief International, St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC), Terre des Hommes Italy (TDH-IT), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), ZOA International.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Updates2. Fuel and Currency Exchange Rate Updates3. Cross Border Operations4. Cross Line Updates5. ODS provision in May and June 20246. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster updates

- **Conducting Gaps and Needs Analysis Survey**

The formal Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) exercise is the Logistics Cluster standard tool for reviewing and understanding gaps, bottlenecks and needs in a field-based operation. The GNA has been developed by the Logistics Cluster to assess the sectoral needs in reference to the Humanitarian Planning Cycle, and the theory behind a GNA is to not only assess and analyse the in-country logistics situation, but also review partners gaps in logistics capacity to implement their own programs in the future. Logistics Cluster partners have been informed about the upcoming survey that will be shared with them to fill.

Partners were encouraged to provide feedback and recommendations to improve the humanitarian logistics activities in Syria. The formal Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) will be conducted on the following main steps:

- ✓ An online survey will be shared with all partners of Syria Logistics Cluster
- ✓ Selected number of partners will be invited for interviews
- ✓ Producing the final report in collaboration with the Global Logistics Cluster team

- **Upcoming Global Logistics Meeting (GLM)**

Syria Logistics Cluster team is interested in hosting the next Global Logistics meeting during September – November 2024 period. The objectives of the upcoming GLM are as follows:

1. Build on the topics discussed in the previous meetings, ensuring country and global level perspectives are considered, and work towards possible solutions and best practices. Previous topics to focus on: collaboration, advocacy, operational responses, and transition.
2. Provide in-country Logistics Clusters the opportunity to participate in the Global Logistics Cluster meeting.
3. Bring in-country contextual challenges, needs, ideas, and solutions into the global conversation.
4. Facilitate online and in-person discussions to ideate new solutions and increase networking and collaboration possibilities.

- **BOS Logistics Working Group updates**

Under the Business Operation Strategy (BOS), the Logistics Cluster is co-chairing the logistics working group for the year of 2024 in partnership with UNRWA. BOS is focused on the joining efforts of the United Nations agencies to enhance double cost avoidance.

Several UN agencies with the lead of UNRWA finalized the draft for the first mutual custom clearing long term agreement. Based on OMT advice, the working group started a new discussion to have a mutual storage contract as this is expected to save the cost. The discussions are still ongoing.

- **Logistics Cluster Deir Ezzor Meeting**

The Logistics Cluster conducted coordination meeting with Deir Ezzor based partners on 9 July 2024 with attendance of partners from UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs. Meeting of the minutes available here - [Syria - Meeting Minutes - Deir ez-Zor, 9 July 2024 | Logistics Cluster Website \(logcluster.org\)](#)

Colleague from Deir Ezzor shared the main updates from the Panorama checkpoint. Panorama checkpoint is the main checkpoint in Deir Ezzor Governorate, which is located at the main entrance of Deir Ezzor City. Starting from April 2024 a new administration was appointed to

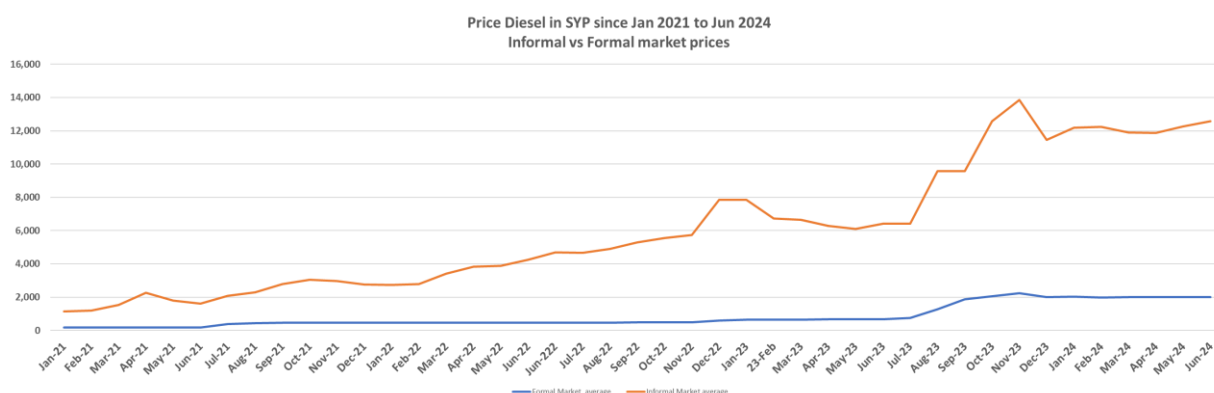
the checkpoint with new procedures causing delays and longer lead times for receiving any goods transported from outside Deir Ezzor.

- ✓ All the trucks entering Deir Ezzor should be inspected carefully, including the trucks carrying humanitarian goods and supplies.
- ✓ Although all trucks carrying humanitarian goods have facilitation letters signed by four different local security divisions and sealed from the origin source, the seal should be broken at the checkpoint with the presence of either the agency or the partner and the truck should be examined and inspected (at least one carton should be examined).
- ✓ For commercial trucks, the trucks should be fully examined and inspected with possible fees that need to be paid.

Recently, a slight change was adopted to the procedures, instead of breaking the seal at the checkpoint a focal point from the checkpoint will escort the trucks to the final offloading point, break the seal there, and inspect one carton. That only applies to trucks that will be offloaded within the Deir Ezzor city, no information on the trucks will be offloaded outside the city.

2. Fuel and Currency Exchange Rate updates

- National Formal Market Average up to June 2024 stood at 1,994 SYP per litre down from 2,004 SYP per litre in May 2024. This represents stability with slight decrease 0.49% in the formal price.
- National Informal Market Average up to June 2024 stood at 12,568 SYP per litre down from 12,266 SYP per litre in May 2024. This represents slight decrease 2.46% in the informal price.



Currency Exchange Rate for SYP vs USD:

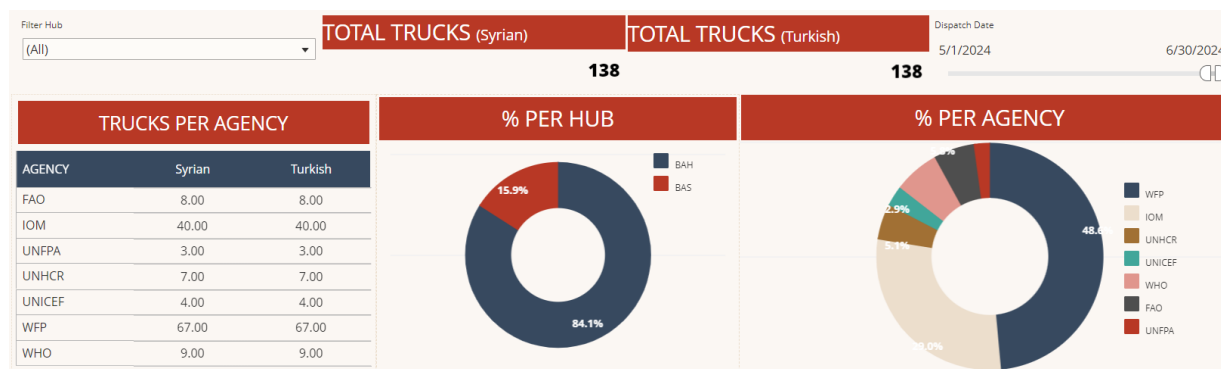
Type	Price
Parallel rate	14,895
Fixed rate	13,668
UN rate	12,500

3. Cross Border Operations

The consent-based agreement has been extended for Bab al-Hawa crossings for an additional 6 months until 13 January 2025. The Government of Syria has extended its consent for the Bab al-Salam and Al Raee crossings until 13 August 2024.

From 1 May - 30 June 2024, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transshipment of a total of 138 trucks on behalf of seven UN Agencies – UNFPA, UNHCR, IOM, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, and WHO through Bab Al-Hawa with support of newly established Humanitarian Inspection Unit under OCHA.

A total of 2279 MT of food and NFIs were delivered to people in needs in Northwest Syria.



4. Cross Line Updates

The Logistics Cluster is on standby to facilitate the inter-agency convoy to Sarmada from Aleppo in the upcoming weeks. The convoy will include six trucks from four partners: UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO. Six trucks to be moved carrying non-food items. OCHA is coordinating all the approvals for the Sarmada 12. The cross-line operation date to be shared with partners soon in coordination with OCHA. Tentative dates of the IA convoy are 15-20 August 2024.

5. On Demand Service (ODS) Provision in May-June 2024

Storage: During May-June 2024 ODS provided storage services for 170.9mt/1,292 m³ for WASH, Health and general program items in Ghassouleh, Homs and Aleppo warehouses. During May-June 2024 ODS provided release services for 42.2mt/455.2 m³ in Ghassouleh, Homs and Aleppo warehouses.

Fuel: During May-June 2024 ODS provided a total of 10,000 litres of fuel and transport services for AAH, TDH-IT and IMC.

Partners have been reminded that ODS is adopted by WFP, and they provide logistics services on the basis of cost recovery, which is different from the free-to-user services provided by the Logistics Cluster.

6. AOB

- Ayad Naman, the Logistics Cluster coordinator, will be on R&R and will be back in Damascus on 5 August 2024.

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