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# Meeting Minutes, 14 October 2024

Syria Operation, Damascus



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<b>LOCATION</b>	Damascus (in-person and online)
<b>DATE</b>	14 October 2024
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Cluster Coordinator
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Action Against Hunger (AAH), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), German Red Cross, Gruppo Di Volontariato Civile (GVC), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), OXFAM, Première Urgence Internationale, Save the Children, Secours Islamique France, Terre des Hommes Italy, Terre des Hommes Switzerland, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP).
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Unfolding crisis – Influx of People from Lebanon to Syria</li><li>2. Logistics Cluster Updates</li><li>3. Fuel and Currency Exchange Rate Updates</li><li>4. On Demand Services in August-September 2024</li><li>5. Cross Border Operations</li><li>6. AOB</li></ol>
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Follow up on the implementation of the new customs clearing circular</i></li><li>• <i>Provide updates on the transport price increase from the WFP transportation unit</i></li><li>• <i>Schedule a new date for the Global Logistics Meeting (In-Person or Online Session)</i></li><li>• <i>Share the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Jordan-Syria-Lebanon Inter-Agency Convoys</i></li></ul>

## 1. Influx of people from Lebanon to Syria

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- According to the latest Situation Report issued by UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), approximately 276,000 individuals have entered Syria. Of these, 70% are Syrians and 30% are Lebanese. There are five crossing points, with the majority (80%) of arrivals using the Masnaa crossing leading to Damascus. However, the Masnaa road was bombed on 4 October 2024, rendering it unusable for vehicles.

- Basic services are being provided upon arrival by partner organizations. Transportation is available for extreme cases. Lebanese arrivals are being hosted in collective shelters across the country, with an estimated 40 centres in use. Most Syrians are staying with host communities. The situation remains very fluid and may change rapidly.
- The Flash Appeal was launched on 07 October 2024, aiming to raise 324 million USD to address the needs of an anticipated 480,000 people over the next six months. The Logistics Cluster (LC) anticipates a potential fuel shortage in Syria due to increasing demands. To address this, the LC estimates a requirement of 2.5 million USD to cover the purchase, handling, and distribution of 652,800 litres of fuel for transporting displaced individuals and 1,087,800 litres for heating needs. Once funding is secured, the LC will develop criteria and modalities for fuel distribution.
- The LC has submitted a funding request to support the following key activities within Syria:
  1. Provision of fuel to partners for humanitarian response efforts.
  2. Provision of fuel for the transportation of people to shelter concentrations.
  3. Provision of free transport and storage services subject to demand.

### Useful sources:

[Lebanon | Logistics Cluster Website](#)

[UNHCR Website | October 2024](#)

## 2. Logistics Cluster Updates

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- **Gaps and Needs Analysis Exercise**

The Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) is the standard tool utilized by the LC for assessing and identifying gaps, bottlenecks, and needs in field-based operations.

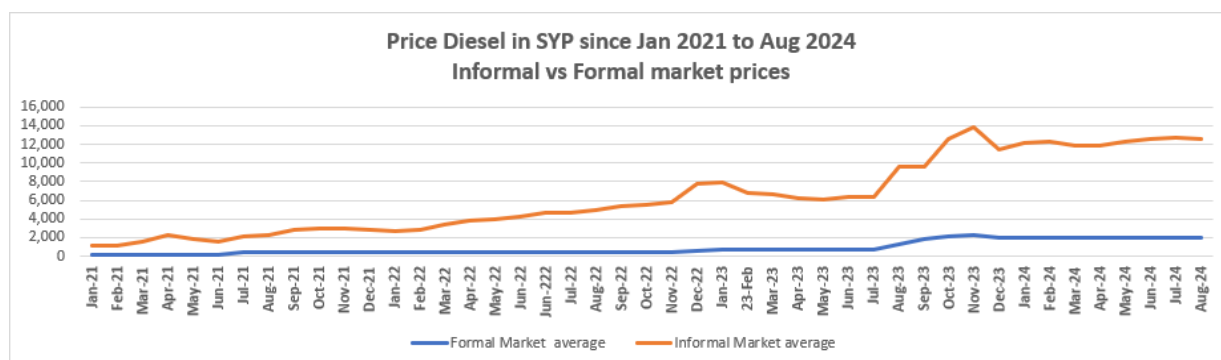
A total of 27 partners participated in the online survey, and 10 selected partners were interviewed in person. The Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) has built a dashboard to compile and analyse the data. The final report will be published on the website and shared with partners in the fourth quarter of the year.

- **Global Logistics Meeting (GLM)**

The in-person session of the Global Logistics Meeting, originally scheduled for 8 October 2024 in Damascus, has been postponed due to security concerns. The Logistics Cluster will provide updated details of the meeting to all humanitarian partners shortly after endorsement with the security unit.

### 3. Fuel and Currency Exchange Rate Updates

- National Formal Market Average up to August 2024 stood at 1,999 SYP per litre down from 2,035 SYP per litre in July 2024. This represents decrease 1.7% in the formal price.
- National Informal Market Average up to August 2024 stood at 12,612 SYP per litre down from 12,734 SYP per litre in July 2024. This represents decrease 0.9% in the informal price.



#### Currency Exchange Rate for SYP vs USD:

<b>Parallel rate</b>	14,825
<b>Fixed rate</b>	12,562
<b>UN rate</b>	13,600

### 4. WFP On Demand Service (ODS) Provision in August-September 2024

Syria Logistics Cluster facilitated the WFP On Demand Services provided in August and September 2024.

- **August 2024**
  1. Storage services provided for 52.3 mt/321.6 m3 of shelter items in WFP Aleppo warehouse on behalf of UNHCR.
  2. Storage services provided for 0.166 mt/1.913 m3 of health and logistics items in Ghassouleh warehouse on behalf of UNFPA.
  3. Handling services provided for 35.8 mt/515.5 m3 of health, logistics and WASH items in Ghassouleh, Aleppo, and Homs warehouses on behalf of UNFPA.

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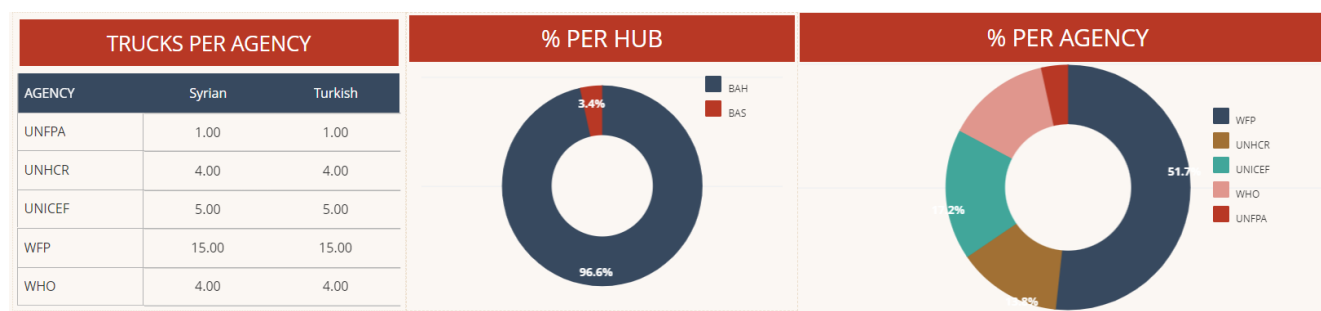
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## • **September 2024**

1. Under ODS services, WFP provided storage services for 2.3mt/ 7.7 m3 of health and logistics items in Qamishly warehouse for UNFPA. Similar storage services of 3.3 mt/ 15.8 m3 of health items were provided in Ghassouleh warehouse in Rural Damascus.
2. ODS provided handling services for 11.6mt/ 120.4 m3 in Ghassouleh warehouse and Homs warehouse for UNFPA.
3. To support the recent arrivals from Lebanon due to the recent escalation in hostilities, WFP provided 20,000 litres for UNHCR. Another quantity of 988 litres of fuel were provided to INTERSOS.

## 5. Cross-Border Operations

- The consent-based agreement has been extended for Bab al-Hawa crossings for an additional 6 months, through 13 January 2025.
- The Government of Syria has extended its consent for the Bab Al-Salam and Al-Rai crossings for three months, until 13 November 2024.
- From 1 August - 30 September 2024, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transshipment of a total of 29 trucks on behalf of five UN Agencies – UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO through Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salam with monitoring support of Humanitarian Inspection Unit of OCHA.
- A total of 502.9 mt of humanitarian aid was delivered to people in needs in Northwest Syria.



## 6. AOB

- **New Circular from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers:** The Presidency of the Council of Ministers sent a circular to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy approving the authorization of the General Directorate of Customs to amend the border point for the entry of imported goods from Lebanon, noting that this decision may be stopped later when the border crossings between the two countries return to their normal status.

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## CONTACTS

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