

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: ADRA, CARE, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Global Communities, HI, Hand in Hand Aid Development, Hulo, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Medical Corps, INTERSOS, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), OXFAM, Premiere Urgence Internationale, Rescue, Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Save the Children, Shafak, St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee (EPDC), Terre des Hommes Italy, Turkish Red Crescent, UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).

AGENDA:

1. Status Updates
2. Syria Logistics Cluster Support
3. Any Other Business

1. Status Updates (Context and Physical Access)

UNHCR RETURNNESS OVERVIEW

- Since 8 December 2024, a total of 662,805 individuals have returned to Syria, with 301,967 of these returns occurring from the beginning of 2024 until 6 March 2025. Most returnees have come from neighbouring countries, including Lebanon, Türkiye, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. The return movements have been monitored through various border crossing points, such as Jdaidat Yabous, Al-Dabousiah, and Jousieh.
- The returnees comprise a diverse demographic, with an estimated 52% being female and 48% male. The governorates receiving the highest number of returnees include Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Latakia, and Idlib. These areas are experiencing significant population movements as individuals and families seek to rebuild their lives in their places of origin.
- The data highlights the ongoing challenges and complexities of the return process, emphasizing the need for continued support and monitoring to ensure the safety and well-being of returnees.

US AID FREEZE – OCHA GLOBAL SURVEY

- In February 2025, a survey assessed the impact of the US aid freeze on humanitarian operations in Syria. Out of 221 targeted organizations, 85 responded. The survey found that 38 organizations received stop work orders, with 12 granted waivers. The aid freeze affected 72% of the target population, reduced staffing by 40%, and decreased geographical coverage by 43%.
- Operationally, \$62.6 million in funds were frozen, with only \$17.7 million waived. This led to significant disruptions in services, coordination, and staffing. INGOs and NGOs were the most affected. The survey highlighted the urgent need for continued support and coordination to mitigate the impact of the aid freeze on humanitarian efforts in Syria.

EXTENSION OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PRIORITIES

- As discussed in the last Inter-Sector Group meeting, the Strategic Steering Group (SSG) has decided to extend the current "Humanitarian Response Priorities" document for an additional three months to align with the transition timeline. After this extension, the new unified Damascus-based coordination structure will assume responsibility for planning the second half of 2025 and the 2026 Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) process.

COASTAL & CENTRAL REGION UPDATES

- On 6 March, hostilities escalated in the coastal governorates of Latakia and Tartous, beginning in Beit Ana village and spreading to Qardaha, Banayas, Tartous, and Latakia. Despite the lifting of curfews, residents cautiously resumed daily activities amid shortages of essential commodities like bread, though fuel remains available. Security checkpoints have been established, and the M1 highway between Homs and Latakia is blocked. Civilian casualties have reached over 1000, including women, children, and medical personnel, with six hospitals attacked. Approximately 800-1100 people have been displaced to Hmeimim Base and Banyas Refinery, with others fleeing to surrounding mountains. Electricity outages are affecting water supply, forcing reliance on bottled water and community-provided water trucking services. Efforts are underway to restore electricity and water supply.
- Humanitarian organizations lack access to displaced families, urgently needing humanitarian access and response. Authorities visited Hmeimim Base to facilitate residents' return to their homes, while SARC and Civil Defence are retrieving bodies from the streets. Immediate needs for hospitals in coastal areas have been shared with health sector partners.

Partners are encouraged to visit the [Syria LogIE page](#) for the latest access updates.

BORDER CROSSINGS

Türkiye – Syria

- Bab Al Hawa: the consent-based agreement for the border use is extended for an additional six months, through to 7 August 2025 for UN trucks.
- Bab Al Salameh: agreement extended until 3 September 2025.
- Al Rae: agreement extended until 3 September 2025.
- All borders are open for commercial cargo.

Iraq - Syria

- Simalka - Fishkhabour: reported open for passengers and cargo.
- Abu Kamal - Al Qa'im: border crossing currently allows only Syrian, Lebanese, and Iraqi individuals to travel from Iraq to Syria, but not in the opposite direction. The Syria Immigration Center is almost fully rehabilitated by UNHCR, and the Syrian government has informed the Iraqi government of this progress. Approval from the Iraqi government is still awaited to fully reopen the border crossing.

- Al Waleed-At Tanf is closed.
- Rabiaa'-Al Ya'rubiyah is closed.

Jordan – Syria

- Nasib - Jaber: the border crossing points are now operational for passengers traveling in both directions, with immigration and passport control active on both sides. Cargo operations are also active, allowing transit and humanitarian cargo from Jordan to Syria, as well as transit cargo from Syria via Jordan. The Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the daily working hours for the Jaber Nassib border point are from 8:00 AM to 12:00 AM starting from 9 March.

Lebanon – Syria

- Al Masnaa - Jdidet Yabus: operational for both passenger and vehicle traffic, with immigration and passport control activated on the Syrian side. Cargo operations have also commenced following the initiation of customs formalities at the Jdidet Yabus border.
- El Aarida - Tartous: reported closed due to maintenance.
- Al Marabo – Albusiyeh: open for pedestrians.
- All other BCPs between Syria and Lebanon remain closed.

PORTS & AIRPORTS

- Lattakia Port - reported closed.
- Tartus Port – reported closed.
- Aleppo Airport – closed, estimated opening date 12 March 2025.
- Damascus Airport – open as of 7 January 2025.
- Qamishly Airport – closed, estimated opening date to be determined.

INTERNAL DISPATCHES – ROAD NETWORK

- M4: operational from Idleb Governorate to Aleppo city, not accessible in eastern Aleppo and rural areas.
- M4: Operational on the western side from Idleb to Aleppo city, but not accessible in eastern Aleppo and rural areas.
- M5: Open from Damascus to Aleppo, except for Al Rastan bridge (Homs), which is currently under maintenance and inaccessible by any transport. Vehicles, including cars, passengers, and trucks, are using an alternative route from Homs to Salamiyeh to Hama. The shorter road around Al Rastan town is also closed now.
- The sections from Homs to Tartous and from Hama to Lattakia are officially open; however, due to ongoing security incidents, it is advised to put humanitarian shipments on hold.
- M1 and 35 Primary Road: The road from Homs to Tartous and Lattakia is officially open, but security incidents and shelling have been reported. Therefore, it is advised to put humanitarian shipments on hold.

2. Syria Logistics Cluster Support

COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- Damascus cell conducting bi-weekly coordination calls with partners.
- Following the advice of the HCT, the Logistics Cluster along with other sectors are working on strategy of inclusion of the NES in its coverage for Syria, through amending the CONOPS in place.
- Second cohort of LOGIE hands-on sessions: the [Logistics Information Exchange tool](#), short LogIE, supports Logistics Cluster operations worldwide and in [Syria](#) by streamlining information sharing, enhancing data management, and fostering community collaboration during disaster response and preparedness activities. The tool allows the humanitarian community to view and report physical access constraints, and to create own customized maps. During the hands-on session, partners will gain a common understanding of the LogIE tool and its key functionalities and learn how to access, report, and print situational information. Partners can fill the registration form [here](#). Dates of the upcoming sessions are below:
 - English session II (online): 12 March 2025, 14:00-14:50 (Damascus time)
 - Arabic session (in-person, in Damascus): 12 March 2025, 10:00-12:00 (Damascus time)

SERVICES

- From 24 February to 6 March, the Syria Logistics Cluster facilitated the cross-border operations at the Reyhanli hub. 225 UN trucks carrying 2998 mt of humanitarian aid crossed the Bab al-Hawa borders from Türkiye to Syria.
- Since the activation of the CONOPS, the Syria Logistics Cluster received 12 storage requests.
- The Logistics Cluster has placed an order to get eight mobile storage units (MSU) to the country as part of the contingency stock needed to augment mobile storage locations in Syria.

3. Any Other Business

HUMANITARIAN WAREHOUSE CAPACITY SURVEY

- To facilitate the coordination of storage requests between partners, an overview of their capacities, needs, and gaps is essential. This involves collecting information on warehouse locations, capacities (including temperature control), willingness to share, and identifying any gaps. A survey has been launched to gather this data, open until March 15th, COB.
- Selected partners have been contacted via email to confirm the reported data, ensuring accuracy and completeness. Additionally, all partners are requested to report their storage capacity through the [survey](#) or report on the [LogIE form](#), enabling a comprehensive understanding of available resources and areas needing support. This coordinated effort aims to optimize storage solutions and enhance collaboration among partners.

Next Syria Logistics Cluster Coordination Call is scheduled for 25 March at 13:00 (Syria Local Time).

CONTACTS

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