
Meeting Minutes, 15 June 2021

Syria Operation, Damascus



This is an unofficial UN meeting record and should not be considered as a verbatim account of the UN meeting or position.

LOCATION	Damascus, Syria
DATE	15 June 2021
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East (GOPA), Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), Intersos, Oxfam, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), ZOA International.
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Logistics Cluster to share UNHAS User-Group meeting minutes via mailing list.• Logistics Cluster to follow up on the status of the Note Verbale (NV) for fuel importation.• Logistics Cluster to monitor fuel situation in rural Aleppo. Partners encouraged to share details if any.• Logistics Cluster to share market analysis template for price data collection.• Logistics Cluster to begin collecting information on I/NGO shipments to Northeast Syria as discussed and agreed among participants.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Updates2. Coordination3. Logistics Gaps and Needs4. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Updates

- **Gaps and Needs Exercise:** The exercise has been completed with 16 out of 25 organisations agreeing to be interviewed. A final report of findings will be shared July 2021 to partners and at a global level. The report will ensure the anonymity of responses.
- **Air cargo transport:** Funds for this service expired on 25 May and will be returned to the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF). The funds were not spent due to delays in obtaining approvals for cargo movement.. After consultation with partners, the transport service will not be extended.

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- **Cross-line mission to Atareb:** To date, no formal approval has been received to move forward with the mission.
- **Movement Approvals – COVID 19:** Partners informed the Cluster that there is a new procedure that requires relief items being transported from Damascus to the northeast relating to COVID-19 (including masks and hand sanitiser) to obtain Ministry of Health approval.
- **Movement Approvals – Note Verbale (NV):** MoFA sent a NV in March regarding the import and movement approval mechanism for humanitarian organisations. Based on information gathered by the Cluster through its survey and bilateral discussions with partners, OCHA drafted a NV response to MoFA. Partners will be informed of any updates on the matter.
- **UNHAS:** The air passenger service continues its operations from Damascus to Aleppo and Qamishli. For further information, you can go to the cluster webpage [here](#).
- The Logistics Cluster will share the UNHAS User-Group meeting minutes with partners via the mailing list.

Fuel

- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners of the proposed contingency plan in place, and its capacity to provide support where needed.
- The Damascus-based NGOs (DINGOs) and Sector Coordinators are to agree on an allocation system and have it endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).
- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) mechanism that is available through WFP.
- SLAs do not require financial commitment, and can be used for logistics preparedness as the SLA allows organisations to access any WFP provided service.
- The Logistics Cluster will also follow up on the importation NV and keep partners updated on progress.
- There has been reports of organisations facing some challenges in obtaining fuel for delivery of relief items in rural Aleppo. The Logistics Cluster will continue to monitor the situation.

Diesel Prices

- National Formal Market Average up to April 2021 stood at SYP 174 per Litre.
- National Informal Market Average up to April 2021 stood at SYP 2,267 per Litre. This represents a 48% increase over March 2021.
- For a full breakdown, please refer to the WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) data [here](#).

2. Coordination

- After partners highlighted a gap in procurement related information sharing, one INGO has taken the lead in establishing an NGO-led Procurement Working Group.
- This Procurement Working Group will work closely alongside the Logistics Cluster and the already established UN Procurement Working Group.
- Terms of Reference will be drafted and shared to define the scope of work of the working group.

3. Logistics Gaps and Needs

- Several partners discussed and raised questions regarding import procedures, including customs and approval mechanisms.
- OCHA Access Working Group and the Logistics Cluster will liaise with the organisations to address any specific inquiries organisations may have.

4. AOB

Market Survey

- The Logistics Cluster will share a template for collecting information on transport and storage costs for organisations operating around the country.
- The data will be used for analysis of logistics costs for the overall response.
- In addition to the above, the Logistics Cluster collects data on transportation details of UN agencies from Damascus to the northeast on a monthly basis.
- The cluster suggested to extend this data collection exercise to I/NGOs, and encourages I/NGOs to share their data.
- The above will form part of a wider initiative by the Logistics Cluster to collect additional information on transportation and supply routes, warehouse capacity and locations around the country, as well as import routes for a holistic understanding of the overall humanitarian logistics operation in Syria.

Contacts

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