
Meeting Minutes, 8 September 2021

Syria Operation, Qamishli



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

LOCATION	Qamishli
DATE	8 September 2021
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (AAH), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OCHA to advocate for reduced lead time at Tabaqa checkpoint for temperature-sensitive items.• Logistics Cluster and partners to compile a supplier list for northeast Syria.• Logistics Cluster to share results of airlift survey.• Logistics Cluster to send out rapid assessment of temperature controlled storage needs.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Updates2. Operational Updates3. Gaps and Needs

1. Logistics Cluster Updates

Field-level coordination:

- As agreed during the last meeting in Qamishli, the Logistics Cluster will be holding meetings in Qamishli every three months.
- The next cluster coordination meeting will be held in December. Further details will be shared closer to the time.

Staffing

- The Logistics Cluster updated partners on staff movements over the next coming months.

2. Operational Updates

Dara'a

- The Logistics Cluster is providing inter-agency coordination support and has availed free-to-user access to transportation options for the humanitarian emergency response for Dara'a.

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Rukban

- As part of the inter-agency mission to Rukban, the Logistics Cluster will support ground-level logistics coordination support and as previously agreed, will coordinate the allocation of 30,000 litres of diesel for the fleet of vehicles and a generator.

Fuel

- WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, is procuring 100,000 litres of diesel to be stored in its depots in Tartous, Homs, and Rural Damascus.
- At the last inter-sector coordination meeting in Damascus, the Logistics Cluster raised the issue of the last-resort fuel provision service discussed with the Damascus-based INGOs in April 2021.
- As preparedness, OCHA and the DINGOs are to agree on a prioritisation system in the event of a serious fuel crisis.
- The Logistics Cluster will share an update by the next coordination meeting.

Diesel Prices

- In the northeast, the Informal Market Average up to August 2021 stood at SYP 692 per Litre. This represents a 24% increase over June 2021.
- For a full breakdown, please refer to the WFP Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) data [here](#).

3. Gaps and Needs

Northeast Syria Humanitarian Dispatches

- Currently, waiting time for humanitarian trucks at Tabaqa checkpoint is between one to two days.
- One organisation raised they are facing longer delays. OCHA to provide bilateral support to the organisation to help reduce leadtime.
- Organisations highlighted the need for particular care to be taken when dealing with temperature-sensitive items at the checkpoint, and to reduce waiting time for these to a minimum.
- Any unforeseen delays to shipments transporting sensitive items by road to the northeast can render them unusable.
- Organisations requested advocacy for allowing more flexibility and faster processing time shipments transporting sensitive items.
- OCHA suggested highlighting the sensitivity of the items on the Facilitation Letter.
- In addition, OCHA will support with advocacy to the relevant authorities to find a sustainable solution.

Procurement

- Several organisations raised challenges relating to commercial movement of NFIs through Tabaqa checkpoint.
- This has a knock-on impact on procurement to the northeast via direct delivery at place (DDP).
- The Logistics Cluster to compile and maintain a supplier list dedicated for the northeast to facilitate procurement from within the region.. The list will be made up of suppliers compiled from partner inputs.

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- Partner suppliers are resorting to airlifting the items to avoid the checkpoint, however this is increasing cost.
- The Logistics Cluster to share results of airlift assessment with partners which will help gauge volume of need for service to avoid checkpoint.

Accessing Cluster Services

- Partners were reminded that their organisation is responsible for obtaining all necessary approvals for the movement of their cargo from cluster-facilitated storage facilities.
- Partners are invited to contact Peter Liddiard for clarification on the procedure if necessary:
peter.liddiard@wfp.org

Cluster Storage

- Partners raised the challenge of storing sensitive items in Logistics Cluster MSUs in Qamishli.
- During the intense heat of the summer months, temperatures inside the MSU can reach up to 50 degrees Celsius.
- Currently the Logistics Cluster avails some limited storage that keeps temperature, however partners say more space is required.
- Several organisations highlighted a gap in temperature controlled storage capacity in Qamishli.
- The Logistics Cluster will undertake a rapid assessment to gauge the total needs and exact requirements for storage at different temperatures.

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