



WFP/UNJLC LEBANON SPECIAL OPERATION SO 10536

Country:	Lebanon
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Establishment of a UN Joint Logistics Centre Providing Logistics Support to the Logistics Cluster in Lebanon
Duration:	25 July 2006 – 24 October 2006 (3 months)

Abstract

The current conflict between the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) and Lebanon is affecting large swathes of the Lebanese population. The continuation of hostilities has the potential of further impinging on the lives of 500,000 civilians who have already fled their homes. Large scale infrastructural damage has been caused to the road network as well as communication systems further exacerbating the capacity of humanitarian relief operations.

This Special Operation provides UNJLC with the resources to expediently deploy and set up the support elements requested by the Logistics Cluster to assist with the UN's humanitarian operation.

1. Project Background

To facilitate the supply of humanitarian relief materials to areas of Lebanon most affected by the recent hostilities, Logistics Cluster, on behalf of the United Nations, will establish supply routes into Lebanon through the Beirut International Airport using UN chartered aircraft; through the Ports of Beirut, Tripoli and Tyre using UN chartered vessels; and across the El Aarida border crossing using UN managed and marked fleets.

As a member and support element of the Logistics Cluster, UNJLC's mission for the Lebanon crisis is to complement and co-ordinate the logistics capabilities of co-operating humanitarian agencies as and when directed by its Field Steering Group (the Logistics Cluster). The UNJLC is activated when intensified field-based inter-agency logistics co-ordination is required. Given the magnitude and complexity of the Lebanon crisis, an independent UNJLC Special Operation (SO) is required and justified.

The UNJLC deployed in the field is integrated into the prevailing UN Co-ordination structure. In the case of the Lebanon crisis, the UNJLC reports to the Country Team (CT)/Logistics Cluster in Lebanon. The local WFP offices will provide administrative and technical support to the UNJLC. The Chief UNJLC will take operational decisions based on the CT/FSG's guidelines. The UNJLC Core Unit in Rome will backstop the UNJLC deployment.

It is assumed that the military conflict in Lebanon will likely have far reaching consequences for the humanitarian needs of the Lebanese population and the country's infrastructure. In order to ensure a coordinated approach, the UNJLC will need to deploy systems to collect and analyse all available logistics information, create an information platform and disseminate to the wider humanitarian

community, take all precautionary actions for identifying and resolving logistics bottlenecks particularly in the early stages of the emergency.

2. Project Objective(s)

The key objectives of this Special Operation are:

- To act as prioritization body for the humanitarian community for the UN managed supply chain service provided by WFP;
- To maintain a database of critical humanitarian supplies in the region and disseminate this and other critical logistics-related information in a timely and effective manner;
- To develop and maintain an archiving system so that information collated in the emergency will be accessible at any time from the UNJLC web-site;
- To provide information on customs procedures, flight clearances, fees etc and when required, intervening to assist with concessions or waivers on behalf of the humanitarian community;
- To liaise with the relevant Authorities to avoid undue congestion on Lebanon's infrastructure, particularly in the air sector, and to coordinate any assistance these entities may provide to humanitarian logistics operations in order to avoid congestion on the transport corridors serving Lebanon;
- To serve as inter-agency focal point for the generation and dissemination of maps and spatial data related to logistics and transportation infrastructure and to collaborate in Humanitarian GIS activities in the region

3. Project Implementation

COMPONENT 1: *Central Coordination Platform for Humanitarian Logistics Operations in the Lebanon:*

The UNJLC aims to collectively identify and assist in the elimination of logistics bottlenecks of common interest to the humanitarian community to avoid wasteful competition among agencies. Related to this task, UNJLC will facilitate the cargo and dispatch schedule for the UN managed supply chain service, based upon the humanitarian priorities set by the National Authorities and the UN Country Team.

To collect, compile, analyse and consolidate all logistics information, including the agencies commodities tracking data, a thorough information management process will have to be implemented. This task will require an information cell, composed of an Information Management Officer, a Reports Officer, a Spatial Data Coordinator and a Cartographer with experience in humanitarian logistics and at least three support staff. The mapping of all this information requires the support of a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) hardware and software to produce and maintain updated maps. Relevant information will be collected by the UNJLC Logistics Officers, who will report directly to the Operations Coordinator and will be based in UNJLC satellite offices/load points inside Lebanon. The Logistics Officers will also be expected to prioritize cargo at their respective load points.

Dissemination of all consolidated logistics information will be done via the UNJLC website with a view to supporting individual Agency logistics planning efforts. The creation and maintenance of this website will require the support of the Core Unit database manager and web- and content master.

UNJLC will if necessary, advise on procedures for importing/exporting commodities and may be required to engage the services of a Customs Expert or utilize existing capacity in the Core Unit,

COMPONENT 2: *Administrative Support Costs:* In addition to administrative support staff (carrying out functions such as web assistants, office administrator etc) and local/national staff, UNJLC will purchase essential items of the flyaway kit (such as office and ICT equipment). Installation and maintenance of the ICT equipment to support UNJLC/Lebanon and its satellite offices will be done in a coordinated effort with WFP to insure efficiency and maximise savings.

Management Structures for the UNJLC Special Operation: A coordination structure is established in the UN Operational Structure in Beirut under an Operations Coordinator who is responsible for managing UNJLC field based officers.

The Chief UNJLC will, in consultation and coordination with the Director ODC, be the Allocation Manager, responsible for the allocation and utilization of available funds.

Exit Strategy: The UNJLC operation will run for an initial three-month period with a possible extension depending on the level of humanitarian logistics support required and advice from the CT/FSG. The objectives of the UNJLC are to optimise and complement the logistics capabilities of cooperating agencies during the initial phase of the Lebanese emergency. After the initial relief phase, humanitarian activities will focus on rehabilitation and/or resettlement and UN Agencies' logistics will revert gradually to their normal activities. The UNJLC may assist in the initial phase of this process by creating the necessary logistics coordination structures including capacity building and on-the-job training if requested by the humanitarian community. Demobilisation of equipment will be done under the supervision of the UNJLC Core Unit in Rome. All assets procured and acquired under the SO, will be assigned to UNJLC operations and if necessary stored at strategic locations awaiting future use.

5. Monitoring & Evaluation

- This Special Operation will be monitored by the Chief UNJLC and the Operations Coordinator (the latter who will be based in Larnaca, Cyprus).