

Operation: South Sudan

Concept of Operations

25 August 2011

Background

The Logistics Cluster was activated in October 2010 by the Emergency Relief Coordinator in Southern Sudan. It seeks to provide relevant and timely logistics services to the humanitarian community by strengthening partnerships and enhancing the ability of organizations to rapidly respond to new situations across the country.

South Sudan remains one of the least-developed areas in the world with a population of approximately 8.5 million spread across a vast area of 650,000 square kilometers. Annual rains between June and November affect the majority of South Sudan's underdeveloped road network, isolating communities in need and hampering humanitarian operations.

With independence on came an increase in the number of returnees from the north. Since October 2010, over 330,000 returnees have arrived requiring significant support from the humanitarian community along return corridors and in settlement areas.

Formal secession on 09 July 2011 damaged trade ties with South Sudan's largest trading partner, Sudan, and a combination of unclear customs arrangements and temporary border closures continue to restrict the movement of both commercial and relief items through northern corridors.

Gaps and Needs

Delivery of relief items in South Sudan poses significant logistical challenges to the humanitarian community; transport, information and coordination and required in order to move large volumes of supplies over vast distances in a country with a poorly developed infrastructure and limited commercial transport capacity.

Objectives and Activities

In an effort to help support humanitarian organisations overcome current logistics constraints across South Sudan, the Logistics Cluster offers coordination and prioritization of emergency cargo through a range of complementary common services designed to improve efficiency. The following services are available to the humanitarian community on a free-of-charge basis:

Common Transport: In partnership with IOM, the Logistics Cluster offers an augmentation of transport capacity through a common transport network of road and river services. The Logistics Cluster has the capacity to reach nine out of the ten states via a road network with a planned expansion into Jonglei state when the rains subside and roads re-open. To compensate for road closures in the east of the country, the Logistics Cluster also offers a common river service by barge and boat along the Nile between Juba, Bentiu and Renk.

Common Warehousing: In partnership with WFP and under management by various Logistics Cluster members, nine mobile storage warehouses have been established in eight strategic locations across South Sudan with plans to establish another three warehouses upon request. Current warehouse locations include Wau, Alek, Wunrok, Turalei, Aweil, Bentiu, Malakal and Raja.

Emergency Road and Airstrip Spot Repair: In partnership with UNOPS, the Logistics Cluster offers a strategic road and airstrip rehabilitation service in order to reduce logistical bottlenecks and improve key supply corridors based on agreed prioritization by Logistics Cluster members.

Information Management and GIS:

Based in Juba, the Logistics Cluster has dedicated information management capacity, including GIS / mapping services, with the aim of coordinating logistics operations and supporting improved operational efficiency. To this end, the Logistics Cluster offers the following services:

- Consolidation of humanitarian logistics information including identification of logistics gaps and bottlenecks;
- Facilitation of regular Logistics Cluster meetings in Juba, Wau and Malakal and in other key locations including Wunrok and Bentiu on an ad hoc basis when necessary;
- Updates on key operational data including road status, common service schedules and prioritization of cargo through the publication of sitreps, snapshots and other reports on an ad hoc basis as required;
- Cargo tracking for supplies moved and stored via the common transport and warehousing mechanism;
- Updated maps of logistics infrastructure to facilitate decision-making for transportation of humanitarian cargo;
- Online platform for the sharing and dissemination of logistics information at www.logcluster.org and through dedicated mailing lists.

Contact Details

For all cargo requests, please contact southsudan.cargobooking@logcluster.org

For all GIS / mapping requests, please contact southsudan.maps@logcluster.org

For all other enquiries, please contact southsudan.logs@logcluster.org

The Logistics Cluster office is located in the WFP compound in Juba. All forms are available online at www.logcluster.org