Helicopter Landing Sites in Nyeel, Unity State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s):</th>
<th>20 June 2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location(s):</td>
<td>Nyeel, Unity State</td>
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<td>Participant(s):</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster Information Management Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security:</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
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### 1.0 MISSION OBJECTIVES

To assess the availability of landing sites for Mi8 Helicopter for emergency medical evaluation (medevac) during the rainy season (approx. June-October 2012).

### 2.0 BRIEF

With the start of the rainy season, at the beginning of June, came incessant rains which have damaged the road structure and isolated the humanitarian community working at the Nyeel refugee camp in Unity State. To ensure that helicopters can operate to perform possible emergency medevac, the Logistics Cluster has conducted an assessment of Nyeel regarding available and suitable locations to land a Mi8 helicopter.

The road is currently passable for light vehicles to Bentiu, however force protection is required and the road is anticipated to become increasingly inaccessible due to heavy rains. The two identified sites below are suitable for landing a helicopter for medevac operations, however both have certain limitations.

### 3.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

**Landing Site 1 (GPS Coord. E 029° 51.190; N 09° 43.981'- 5.5km from Nyeel Refugee Camp Entrance)**

- The site is round and approximately 15 metres in diameter. The ground is compacted marrum and is raised with access to the main road. The landing site is located approximately 25 metres from the main road.
- There is a water/fuel tank on the access road to the site which can be used as a marker for pilots for site identification. The tank is currently empty.
- The site is suitable for helicopter operations, however the road leading to the Nyeel refugee camp (5.5km stretch), may be affected by excessive rains and become inaccessible. Currently the road is clear.
- On the site there is currently small vegetation that would need to be cleared in the event of an emergency medical evacuation (see photos below).

![Centre of landing site with some debris.](image-url)
The Logistics Cluster in South Sudan maintains a number of e-mail lists for the dissemination of information and discussion on logistics topics. For more information about Logistics Cluster in South Sudan, please visit our website at www.logcluster.org/ops/sss11a

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that the site be cleared of debris for medevac emergencies; A team in Nyeel should be briefed and prepared on procedures for communicating with pilots and prepping the site with “H” for landing.
- This site, located 5.5km from the Nyeel refugee camp, may become inaccessible after heavy rains. In this instance Landing Site 2 should be used.

Landing Site 2 – Main Nyeel Road (GPS Coord. E 029° 52.647’; N 09° 41.150’ – 200m from camp entrance)

- The landing site is located on the main road, and as the security situation in the area is currently volatile, landing here could be challenging. However, in the event of an emergency where the alternate landing site may be inaccessible landing on the main road could be considered as last resort option.
- The soil of the site is raised marrum with approximately a 10° angle on each side. The road measures 9 metres in width:

The Logistics Cluster – South Sudan
Assessment
Recommendations:

- Due to the level of security in the area, it is not recommended to land a helicopter on the main road through town, however, it can be considered as a last resort option for a medical emergency evacuation. The local authorities should be consulted to give permission to land briefly. The local police station is approximately 250 metres from the camp entrance.
- The road is very well compacted marrum and has good drainage which is not likely to impede access during or following heavy rains. The area outside of the road, however, has the potential to flood during heavy rains.

4.0 FOLLOW-UP

The Logistics Cluster will coordinate with UNDSS, UNHAS, and WFP regarding medevac procedures and contacts, and will also share results with the humanitarian community working in Nyeel.

Contacts:
Website: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a)

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Road is 9 metres wide with good drainage and unlikely to flood during heavy rains.