MEETING MINUTES

Juba, South Sudan

11 December 2012

Chair: Logistics Cluster Coordinator


Action Points:

- Logistics Cluster investigated clearance procedures for carrying cash with officials at Juba Airport. Based on participant feedback additional information is needed. Logistics Cluster to follow up.
- Organisations are encouraged to continue to submit any tax exemption or customs clearance challenges to the Logistics Cluster with the details on the impact on operations.
- The Logistics Cluster will investigate Fire Brigade regulations in Juba to see if the investigations and charges are required.
- Organizations were requested to send information to the Logistics Cluster should they require additional storage and to identify their needs for 2013 in each location.
- Organizations interested in procurement issues could form a sub-group; Logistics Cluster can facilitate this meeting.

Agenda:

1. Operational Update/Humanitarian Overview
2. Common Transport Services
3. Access Constraints
4. UNOPS Update
5. UNHCR Update
6. A.O.B.

Operational/General Humanitarian Update:

- Action Points from the Last Meeting: Logistics Cluster has investigated clearance procedures and carrying of cash with officials at Juba Airport, however based on feedback from participants the Logistics Cluster will attempt to gain written guidance on procedures to be distributed to partners; Organizations are encouraged to continue to submit any tax exemption or customs clearing challenges to the Logistics Cluster with the impact on operations; the Logistics Cluster has attempted to contact officials at the Fire Brigade in Juba however the correct official was not available. The Logistics Cluster will follow up again; Organizations were requested to send information to the Logistics Cluster should they require additional storage and to identify their needs for 2013 in each location however nothing has been received. The Logistics Cluster will meet with the User Group next week to discuss prepositioning the storage units.

General Humanitarian Update:

- Around 2,800 new refugees were registered in Yida over the week, continuing the trend of increased arrivals over the past few weeks.
- In Warrap State, a malaria prevention campaign by health partners reached almost 50,000 people displaced by conflict in Abyei.
- In Juba, about 1,900 returnees waiting at a temporary transit site were relocated to a permanent settlement at Kuda in Terekeka County.

Common Transport Services

- The Logistics Cluster CTS Officer provided an in depth analysis of the services provided in 2012 and current movement figures. Some highlights include:
  - CTS Objectives: provide essential logistical support to the humanitarian community by 1) filling the gaps, 2) supplement organization’s capacity by augmenting using CTS, 3) support the growth of the commercial market, not compete. Use a multi-modal approach via air, road, and river transport. The
Logistics Cluster current fleet consists of: 2Mi8-MTV helicopters (departing 20 December), 13 CTS Trucks, one fixed wing aircraft, and access to boats and barges.

- **Overview of 2011 vs 2012:** Service Request Forms (SRFs) received (255 vs. 888), number of users (66 vs. 90), volume dispatched (8,435 m$^3$ vs. 16,660 m$^3$), and weight dispatched (3,830mt vs. 5,042mt). Increase represents the broader portfolio of services offered and the increase in need of the humanitarian community.

- **Item Category:** The highest five (volume) commodity types that were sent were: 1) WASH, fuel, vehicles, household equipment, and hygiene materials, respectively.

- **Locations:** The top five locations items were sent were: 1) Malakal, Maban, Melut, Yida, and Agok. The figures represent both the humanitarian need and the significant capacity that barges provide for response in Upper Nile State.

- **Users:** The top five users of CTS were: IOM (4,079 m$^3$), WFP (1,191 m$^3$), 3) MSF-H (1,138 m$^3$), UNICEF (1,046 m$^3$), UNHCR (961 m$^3$).

- **Achievements:** Establish complete supply chain solutions (i.e. Maban, Jonglei, Yida), innovative techniques for cargo prioritization, interagency collaboration/coordination, increased accountability to users, and the Logistics Cluster survey underlined CTS as an integral part of organization operations.

- **Challenges:** Limited access to barges, accurate cargo tracking, managing expectations (provider of last resort), limited resources/availability of trucks, and operational constraints (timeliness, weight, volume calculations).

- **Dry Season Strategy 2013:** Rethinking trucking capacity, trucks will be prepositioned in key hubs and used for difficult to reach destinations or where commercial capacity does not exist: Wau - two (60mt/90m$^3$), Malakal - six (160mt/245 m$^3$), Bentiu - two (60mt/90m$^3$), and Bor - three (70mt/110 m$^3$). River transport will be organized on a rough schedule of: one barge/month and two boats/month to Malakal. Air services will be reviewed on an “as and when needed” basis. The Logistics Cluster will also be implementing a new tracking system and increase visibility in the field in 2013.

- **Common services** are operating as normal and requests are received and responded to on an ongoing basis.

**Common Storage:**

- The Logistics Cluster by-monthly interagency stock report compiled and released to users. The Logistics Cluster is looking closely in the Maban area to identify with partners if additional storage is needed. Additionally, the Logistics Cluster is working with UNHCR to identify whether common storage facilities can be shared and maximize usage to partners.

**Common Transport Services:**

- **Barge:** IOM and the Logistics Cluster secured one additional NFI barge last week and loading is to be finished by tomorrow. The barge has been loaded with UNICEF, ARC, Mentor Initiative, GOAL, WV, and Solidarités’ cargo. Logistics Cluster CTS Officer will visit Juba Port this afternoon and determine if additional space is available.

- **Barge 666:** loaded on 31 October, suffered a breakdown of the pusher just outside of Juba and is now going to depart with the barge currently being loaded. They are scheduled to depart by the end of the week and will take approximately 4-5 weeks to arrive in Malakal.

- **River transport** has multiple requests to transport light vehicles to Malakal using barges. However, a flat deck barge will not be available soon and as the roads have begun to open, organizations should consider driving their vehicles to Malakal. The Logistics Cluster can organize convoys.

- **Trucks:** Trucks out of Juba using CTS are no longer available because commercial companies are available for organization’s usage. The CTS fleet has been deployed to the field; two trucks in Wau, two trucks departing for Bentiu in convoy – Save the Children, Mercy Corps, and Mentor Initiative cargo are going to be delivered along the way to Bentiu, six trucks are available in Upper Nile, and three trucks are available for Juba/Bor (Jonglei).

- **Air:** There has been a sharp decrease in need for air assets as the roads begin to open. The Buffalo fixed wing aircraft delivered an ambulance for Samaritan’s Purse and nutritional supplements for IMC to Maban.

- **Organisations** were informed that both the contract for helicopters and Buffalo fixed wing aircraft will end on 20/21 December.

**Access Constraints Update**

- **Assessment ongoing between Ayod and Malakal (by IMA World Health)** They will be able to give us more information regarding the accessibility of the road in the coming days.
During the previous Logistics Cluster meeting a participant highlighted the road between Pariang and Tonga on the map could be the incorrect route. However, the road which is commonly used by the humanitarian community is the secondary road below (highlighted in red due to inaccessibility).

UNDSS is also conducting a broad road assessment of main trunk roads in South Sudan and will provide updates in a few weeks. In Unity/Jonglei/Upper Nile, the roads change yearly based on where tracks dry first and where the roads have become washed out or damaged.

Participants were requested to send any inputs on road accessibility so it can be shared with the humanitarian community.

Organisations again expressed concern over delays in processing tax exemptions due to the absence of the Director General of Customs, however the process is working and organisations are receiving their exemptions eventually. The Logistics Cluster reiterated that for any actions to be taken on behalf of the humanitarian community, we need to document clearly the delays and discrepancies in processing of tax exemption in order to liaise with the government.

**UNOPS Update**

- UNOPS is beginning repair work on the Juba-Mundri road section at Jambo. The works will be conducted for seven days only due to funding constraints however it is expected to significantly increase accessibility.
- In Maban, 1,400m on the airstrip has been completed. Organisations are requested to contact UNHAS regarding options to fly large planes onto the airstrip for more technical information. Additionally, organizations are requested to contact the Logistics Cluster focal point in Maban prior to flying into the airstrip to avoid congestion.
- In Yida, the airstrip has been completed up to 600m long and 12m wide. An assessment team is also going to Yida and Pariang to determine the future needs of the airstrips in both locations. Additionally, an assessment is being completed on the Yida-Panyang-Pariang-Nyeel roads.

**UNHCR Update**

- As anticipated, as the rains have subsided significantly there has been an influx of refugees into Unity State. However, concerns exist over the militarization of the camp with a large amount of weapons present and the proximity of the Yida camp to the border with Sudan.
- UNHCR continues to attempt to determine new sites to move the refugees from Yida and has examined Jamjeng as a potential new site. UNHCR is looking at a possible move in February of all of the refugees in Yida, however are not sure of the new site and if the refugees will move. Initial talks with chiefs in the camp have indicated that the refugees will be prepared to move.
- In Upper Nile, PAE and UNOPS have managed to open the roads for all season access.
- The influx population is expected to come in especially poor nutritional condition and as such partners have been requested to scale up their nutrition programs and preposition supplies in preparation.

**A.O.B.**

- ICRC has contacted the Logistics Cluster regarding a procurement supplier list for South Sudan. The Logistics Cluster will send out information to the mailing list and facilitate a sub-group to discuss vendors and procurement.
- Due to the holidays and an anticipated decrease in organizational capacity during December, the Logistics Cluster will hold the next meeting on the following Tuesday 18 December at 10am.
- The first meeting of 2013 will be held on Tuesday 08 January at 10am.

**Contacts:**
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