

LOGISTICS COORDINATION MEETING

MINUTES – 18 AUGUST 2011

Date: 18 August 2011 – 1000 hours
Location: WFP Khartoum, Regional Office - Conference Room
Next meeting: 15 September @ 1000hrs,

1. Action Items

ISSUE	RESPONSIBLE	DECIDED	TIMING	ACTION
ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO WORK ON CUSTOMS ISSUES	WFP-LCU	ASAP		WFP-LCU to work with agencies in establishing a working group for the export and transit procedures of moving cargo to the Republic of South Sudan.
ORGANIZE FOLLOWUP MEETINGS ON THE CUSTOMS INITIATIVE	WFP-LCU & OCHA	28 AUG 2011		WFP-LCU & OCHA will organize meeting with agencies after the upcoming holidays and discuss the findings. If there is need, further clarification will be sought from the relevant authorities.
CUSTOMS REGULATIONS FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN	OCHA & IAS		ONGOING	OCHA Sudan and IAS to share any relevant information on customs regulations for the Republic of South Sudan.

Agenda and discussion of previous action items and approve minutes from 21 July 2011.

Completed action items were removed from the table – pending actions items reflected above
 Minutes of the last meeting held on 21 July 2011 were circulated and posted on the following link
<http://www.logcluster.org/ops/sudan>

2. OCHA Brief on Customs Initiative

OCHA briefed participants of the customs initiative formulated in 2010 which led to the signing of the MOU with World Customs Organization to facilitate customs procedures at global level, related to humanitarian relief items. The Model Customs Facilitation Agreement between the UN and States/Governments, developed by OCHA and approved by the World Customs Organization (WCO), includes recommended measures to expedite customs clearance procedures, such as simplified documentation and inspection procedures, the temporary or permanent waiving of duties and taxes on imports, and arrangements for clearance outside official working hours and locations. In 2011, through its networking OCHA assisted Liberia and Libya to clear relief items.

OCHA Sudan shared with participants three documents on the resolution, model agreement and implementation plan of the customs initiative. The documents will be posted on the following link
<http://www.logcluster.org/ops/sudan>

The meeting deliberated on establishing a working group to document customs and documentation related issues for transit cargo. The identified issues will be used as a collective initiative for further discussion with the relevant authorities to jointly work on humanitarian agency framework that will help to facilitate simplified customs procedures for delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Action Point: WFP-LCU will work with agencies in establishing members of the working group for the export and transit procedures to move cargo to the Republic of South Sudan.

WFP-LCU & OCHA will organize meeting with agencies after the upcoming holidays and discuss the findings. If there is need, further clarification will sought from the relevant authorities.

Question: What are we going to do with Medical items in the warehouses, about to expire, is there a transitional council to push the relevant authorities on requirements for transit cargo to the Republic of South Sudan?

OCHA Sudan advised that bilaterally discussions with the relevant authorities can be organized on urgent issues with movement of cargo, but there is need to identify concrete challenges which are common to all humanitarian agencies, on what is not working now after the secede.

The issue of customs regulations for the republic of South Sudan was raised. OCHA Sudan advised that they will advise their offices in the South to check for information, with relevant bodies and WFP will continue working with Logistics Clusters in South Sudan. IAS advised that they are collecting information on customs requirements through their contacts in Juba.

Action Point: OCHA Sudan and IAS to share any relevant information on customs regulations for the Republic of South Sudan.

During the meeting a number of logistics constraints were discussed, but the meeting agreed to concentrate on customs regulations for transit cargo. Participants were advised to be precise when discussing customs requirements with relevant authorities.

Attached is a copy of the draft flow chart relevant to custom procedures which will form part of the future discussions.

3. Consolidated Transport

WFP-Logistics Coordination Unit shared a flowchart depicting the consolidated transport initiative which is still under development and implementation will depend on the need by the humanitarian community for logistics capacity. (Copy attached)

4. Security

WFP Security presented on a brief overview about security situation and improvements in situations along the El Obeid – Darfur supply corridor as well as the protocol and Blue Nile states.

5. GIS and Mapping

WFP- LCU gave a brief overview of it GIS products developed to support logistics planning. For any relevant information to share please contact sudan.wfpocu@wfp.org, to allow updating of the maps or request for maps.

6. UNHAS

UNHAS advised participants that they are awaiting clearance to resume flights between Khartoum and Juba. The flights schedule will be 3 times a week. The meeting was advised that the runway in West Darfur (Um dukulani) is unserviceable due to the recent heavy rains in the area. UNHAS advised that all bookings for flights should be done 3 days before departure dates and to be at the airport in time before the flight departs.

UNHAS advised that 2 helicopters were introduced to support humanitarian operations the Republic of South Sudan and that UNMISS has since increased its flights between Khartoum and Juba to manage its demobilization process.

7. AOB

WFP advised that they are managing the logistics support for UNMISS demobilization process by transporting vehicles and containers through Kosti to the Republic of South Sudan.

The use of new currency between the north and south Sudan is still to be clarified by the relevant authorities.

Next meeting is scheduled for 15 September 2011.

Annex 1

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