Due to the latest political developments in Mali, where the country is split into North and South, Mopti is fast becoming a gateway to the North and may serve as a key location for humanitarian operations.

WFP has a sub-office and logistics base in Sévaré, located 12 km East/North-East from Mopti, on the main road to the North of the country (RN15). The WFP base is being used to support operations in the area of Mopti and in the North part of the country.

1.0 MISSION OBJECTIVES

- The mission objective was to gain a better understanding of existing facilities and services in Mopti and to investigate the possibility of Mopti as a possible hub for the Logistics Cluster.

2.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS / OBSERVATIONS

Transport from Mopti/Sévaré:

- Private road transporters are available (around 20 companies have an agreement with WFP) and some continue to operate from Mopti to Timbuktu and Gao.

- Seasonal fluvial transport is also available from Mopti using various sizes of pirogues and some vessels:
  - Due to the water level, cargo transport on the river is generally feasible from July until mid-November.
  - The journey from Mopti to Timbuktu (Kabara port of Timbuktu) is around 300 km and takes five days.
  - Timbuktu-Gao is a distance of approximately 700 km and takes seven days.
  - Pirogues can transport from 5 mt up to 50 mt.
  - Until last year, the transport company Comanav (Compagnie malienne de navigation), provided river transport for cargo and passengers between Koulikoro and Gao (Mopti-Gao journey takes full days). However, this year, the company did not resume its transport services from Mopti to the North.

- Fuel is available; the supply chain for fuel is once again functioning normally in Mopti/Sévaré (as it was before March 2012).

Warehousing in Mopti/Sévaré:

- Private warehouses are available in Mopti and Sévaré area.
- WFP warehouses in Sévaré are located in:
  - DNPP (Direction Nationale des Projets PAM): two permanent structures (1 x 600m² + 1 x 250 m²) and 3 MSU (Mobile Storage Unit) : 3 x 240 m². The possibility to extend warehouse capacity is very limited.
  - ORM (Office Riz de Mopti) has three permanent buildings (2 x 650m² + 1 x 200 m²), and the access for trucks of 30 tons capacity or more. Electricity is available. WFP logistics unit in Mopti is currently contacting a local company to perform essential work such as fencing and levelling works for the installation of three Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to increase warehousing capacity. The size of the compound is large (100m x 120m) and offers a significant capacity to erect additional temporary storage structures (MSUs).
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/XXXXXX or send an email to XXXXX.logs@logcluster.org

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE LOGISTICS CLUSTER

- No requests have been made by partners to the Logistics Cluster to establish a logistics base in the country.
- Mopti could serve as a potential Logistics Cluster hub. If required by partners, the Logistics Cluster could provide the following services:
  - In the ORM base, the Logistics Cluster could implement additional MSUs in order to provide temporary storage capacity to the humanitarian community (there is enough space to erect up to three additional MSUs). Temporary storage could include handling, consolidation, tracking and loading services to the users.
  - Facilitate road transport for partners from Mopti/Sévaré. The option of cost sharing should be considered.
  - Facilitate river transport for partners from Mopti to Timbuktu and Gao.
  - If necessary, the logistics hub could be staffed by dedicated Logistics Cluster national staff.
  - If needed, establish and use prefab as office in the ORM base (however, there is no internet access).
- It is mentioned that two MSUs be prepositioned in Mali, for future Logistics Cluster use.
- The Logistics Cluster extends its thanks to WFP for their support in this mission.

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