Background

The WFP Logistics Coordination Unit (WFP-LCU) formerly operating under the name UN-JLC, is an inter-agency common service designed to facilitate logistics coordination for complex and large-scale emergencies. The service is provided under the custodianship of the World Food Programme. In addition to fulfilling its mandate for logistics coordination in Sudan since 2003, WFP-LCU worked with partners to establish the NFI Common Pipeline in 2004. Since its inception, WFP-LCU has acted as overall NFI Common Pipeline manager and in March 2009 assumed management of Pipeline warehousing operations. In addition, at the request of the UN Country Team WFP-LCU has acted as Sector Lead for the Non-Food Item (NFI) and Emergency Shelter (ES) Sector in Sudan since 2007.

NFI Common Pipeline Management

The NFI Common Pipeline is a successfully-managed inter-agency project, ensuring the timely provision of essential NFIs and emergency shelter to populations who have lost their household possessions as a result of conflict or disaster. It provides approximately 90 percent of the Sector requirements in Darfur. Maximizing economies of scale, the Pipeline promotes supply chain efficiencies by reducing costs, avoiding duplication of efforts, standardizing items distributed, and thus promoting effectiveness.

WFP-LCU acts as overall manager of the NFI Common Pipeline, which is a partnership comprised of WFP-LCU, UNICEF, IOM, OCHA, RCO and national and international NGOs. In addition, WFP-LCU also manages NFI Common Pipeline warehousing operations, with warehouses in El Obeid, El Fasher, Nyala and Geneina.

WFP-LCU also acts as Sector Lead for the NFI & ES Sector in Sudan. Primary activities performed by WFP-LCU as Sector Lead include spearheading planning, reporting and fundraising activities as well as collecting information on other pipelines to avoid duplication, and tracking physical distributions.

2010 Achievement:
- Re-establishment of NFI Common Pipeline operations following the revoked registration of 16 NGOs by Government of Sudan, including:
  - Assumption of management for NFI Common Pipeline warehouses in Khartoum, El Obeid, El Fasher, Nyala and Geneina.
  - Identification of alternative needs assessment and distribution partners for the majority of locations in Darfur, and coordination of inter-agency response as necessary.
- 428,022 households served by the NFI Common Pipeline in Darfur and ROS.

2011 NFI & ES Plans
- Support 210,000 households in Northern Sudan through the NFI Common Pipeline.
- Assess the impact of the construction of emergency shelters in Northern Sudan with UNEP, develop an environmental strategy and implement a pilot project on alternative building technology.

Logistics Coordination

As the core mandate of the organization, logistics coordination is WFP-LCU’s second key area of focus in Sudan, where it facilitates cost-effective and efficient humanitarian operations through the provision of relevant and timely logistics services. Close contact with and regular formal surveys of humanitarian logistics requirements help WFP-LCU meet the coordination and information needs of partners. WFP-LCU’s logistics activities are divided into 3 key areas:

Logistics Common Services Coordination:
- WFP-LCU works with partners to present common services to the humanitarian community that will effectively maximize available resources. 2010 achievements include:
  - Facilitation of cargo movement for UNHAS and UNMIS
  - Mapping and GIS Services

Logistics Assessments
- WFP-LCU’s Sudan-wide assessments research existing infrastructure and logistical procedures and consolidate relevant information. Localized surveys of roads, bridges and infrastructure identify logistical constraints impeding the delivery of humanitarian goods and services. Assessment findings are disseminated to the humanitarian community for further action. 2010 achievements include:
  - Leadership/participation in localized assessments of existing infrastructure, fuel availability and to support Emergency Preparedness & Response (EP&R) activities

Logistics Information Services
- WFP-LCU compiles and disseminates relevant and timely logistics-related information about and for humanitarian logistics operations in Sudan. In 2010, WFP-LCU supported 175 humanitarian agencies with logistics information on road access, customs duties and tax exemption procedures and fuel price trends.
- WFP-LCU’s Mapping Unit in Khartoum produces logistics maps showing existing infrastructure and logistical constraints and tracks the progress of rehabilitation activities. In 2010, WFP-LCU distributed a total of 859 hard copy maps and created 18 specialized maps on request.
- In May 2010, WFP-LCU launched the WFP-LCU Darfur Mapping Project based in Khartoum. The project is intended to provide refreshed roads and infrastructure data in the Darfur States to update and improve the existing logistics GIS data including logistics planning maps.
- In addition, WFP-LCU facilitates key coordination meetings for logistics, and transport.

2011 Logistics Plans
- Expand use of available Common Transport Services
- Proceed with WFP-LCU Darfur GIS project
- Continue to conduct logistics assessments in response to identified needs; Provide repository for data
- Maintain the Sudan Commercial Suppliers Contact List

WFP-LCU Contacts

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