LOCATION: Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal
DATE: 18 February 2014
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Focal Point – WFP Logistics
PARTICIPANTS: WFP, AWODA, ACF, DRC, OCHA, NRC, Samaritan’s Purse, Tearfund, Who, WVSS, UNICEF,

ACTION POINTS:

- Logistics Cluster will share all relevant documents and templates with Cluster members (SRFs).
- Logistics Cluster partners to share storage locations and transport capacity currently available.
- By 28 February, all physical inventories and logistical requests are requested to be submitted to the Logistics Cluster.
- Partners were requested to provide information to the Logistics Cluster regarding physical access constraints throughout the state and en route to NBeG.
- Cluster leads should identify logistics staff from their organizations who should attend the monthly Logistics Cluster meeting to ensure coordination of response and full utilization of assets available.

AGENDA:

1. Introduction
2. Common Storage and Transportation
3. Access Constraints Update/Plan for Prepositioning
4. Frequency of Logistics Cluster Meetings/Attendance

Introduction

- Due to the infrequency of meetings, the Logistics Cluster Focal Point (WFP Logistics Staff Member) provided a brief update regarding Logistics Cluster activities in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (NBeG).
- OCHA requested that all members frequently attend the Logistics Cluster meetings and there should be a focal point present from each humanitarian agency to enable the sharing of information regarding logistical gaps and bottlenecks.

Common Storage and Transportation

- The Logistics Cluster has 13 trucks available throughout the country and two are currently in the NBeG/WBeG area (managed by IOM). Samaritan’s Purse also has one truck which could be utilized by partners.
- Airlift capacity is available under the Logistics Cluster but as a last resort and for life-saving items only (contact southsudan.cargobooking@logcluster.org for more information).
- Any requests for transport or storage services should be directed to southsudan.cargobooking@logcluster.org and the respective Logistics Officer in Juba will reply to your request with details and options.
- WFP has storage in Aweil Town, Nyamel, Malualkon, and Ariath which can be shared with partners for short-term solutions. Partners should note that World Vision manages the warehouse in Malualkon; all others are managed by
WFP.

- Partners requested the Logistics Cluster to evaluate the possibility of installing additional storage in Gok Machar and Aweil South, however the WFP Cluster Focal Point noted that deliveries can be made from Aweil Town where there is currently space for additional items and therefore additional storage is not critically needed.

- Partners were reminded that the Logistics Cluster is a supplier of last resort and has limited capacity to deliver on behalf of all humanitarian agencies in South Sudan. As such, the Logistics Cluster Focal Point stressed that prepositioning should be a critical priority for partners during the brief dry season as many of the roads will become cut off as early as May.

- The Nutrition Cluster suggested partners have a separate stock for regular programming and emergencies which could help reduce challenges for prepositioning for rainy season and emergency needs.

- UNICEF noted that they are currently utilizing some government capacity for their core pipeline items which may be available to other partners. The Logistics Cluster and UNICEF will discuss bilaterally to determine if the government has spare capacity for prepositioning of regular programming supplies.

- Partners discussed the possibility of a workshop to explore options and share plans for prepositioning. WFP and OCHA will discuss bilaterally and advise partners during the next coordination meeting. OCHA noted they do not have funding currently available for a workshop; however they will follow up with the State Ministry of Infrastructure regarding flood emergency response or increasing IDP emergency response.

Access Constraints

- The main challenge organizations face in relation to prepositioning is road accessibility during the rainy season from the storage locations to the beneficiary distribution points. Partners are requested to provide inputs to the Logistics Cluster regarding anticipated needs during the rainy season and areas where access is likely to be restricted due to floods.

- The Education Cluster noted that they currently have stocks which need to be delivered in Aweil West, North, East, South, and Centre and will share the Education Cluster’s needs for transport with the Logistics Cluster. The stocks are currently being stored in the State Ministry of Education and NRC compound.

- The WASH Cluster suggested all cluster members review their contingency plans from January to June under the current crisis response.

- The Child Protection and Nutrition Clusters noted that they are currently reviewing their stocks and prepositioning strategy and will revert to the Logistics Cluster a consolidated list of any gaps and needs.
OCHA reiterated that Clusters should be critically evaluating their stocks and needs and send a consolidated list to OCHA so any needs can be communicated to Juba.

DRC encouraged all partners not to only rely on WFP for transport and storage but to ensure that focus is on sharing resources (storage and transportation) and making any excess capacity available to partners.

**Frequency of Logistics Cluster Meetings/Attendance**

- OCHA recommended that all Cluster leads at the state level remain engaged with the Logistics Cluster.
- One participant noted that the lack of consistency of meeting dates was a concern and likely the cause of low attendance.
- OCHA will circulate the monthly calendar of meetings for NBeG State, including the next Logistics Cluster meeting which will be in approximately one month’s time (TBC).

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