

BACKGROUND

Over the past five years the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan has deepened and spread, affecting people in areas previously considered stable and exhausting the coping capacity of those already impacted. Despite a context of positive changes, the cumulative effects of war in conjunction with an extremely poor infrastructure have caused the economy to collapse, reduced crop production and livelihoods, caused underdevelopment, displacement, and weakened communities' abilities to cope with protracted crises and sudden shocks. More than 80 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and half of the population will be severely food insecure in 2019. South Sudan now faces a new challenge, with its neighbour, the Democratic Republic of Congo, currently experiencing its second largest and second deadliest outbreak of the Ebola Disease Virus. As a precautionary measure and due to the fluid cross-border movement, South Sudan has been put on high alert and has begun preparatory measures.

LOGISTICS CLUSTER ACTIVITIES

The following **range of activities and services** are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual organisations, but rather to fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and supplement the response of the humanitarian community through the provision of common services, based on need. The following services will be available to the humanitarian community on a free-to-user basis except for Road Transport costs. Should the funding fall to a level that cannot sustain the cost of operations any option for Service Provision through WFP will be communicated through the Logistics Cluster.

1. Logistics Service Facilitation:

Access permitting and depending on the availability of funds, the following services may be provided at no cost to the user (for more details see Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)).

- i. **Common Warehousing:** WFP, as the lead of the Logistics Cluster, has made available to the humanitarian community common storage warehouses in the following locations: Akobo, Bentiu, Bor, Ganyiel, Juba, Kapoeta, Koch, Malakal, Maridi, Melut, New Fangak, Pibor, Torit, Twic, Rumbek, Wau, Yei and Yida. (Common storage in the Juba dispatch hub is for transit storage only).

As pre-positioning operations will remain a primary focus during the dry season, the Logistics Cluster will provide MSUs for the strategic prepositioning of relief items based on the needs of requesting organisations, as part of advance preparedness measures. Priority will be given to organisations willing to manage MSUs as common storage facilities versus individual use especially in the Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) prioritised areas for interventions.

- ii. **Common Air Transport:** The Logistics Cluster facilitates air transport using dedicated air assets, made available by UNHAS. Air operations are free of charge for all of South Sudan in 2019 excluding refugee operations.
 - a. Priority locations/sectors are decided by the National ICWG; however additional locations will continue to receive support.
 - b. The air assets will be positioned at the dispatch hubs (Bor, Rumbek, Juba) depending on operational requests, security and availability of parking. Helicopters will be positioned in Bor and Rumbek only.
 - c. With the availability in South Sudan to charter fixed wing planes to year-round airstrips suitable for fixed wing planes to land, the Logistics Cluster does not provide air lifts to Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, Rumbek, or Wau. Only in the event of a need to deliver life-saving cargo and if approved by the ICWG will the Logistics Cluster send air assets to these locations.

- iii. **Common River Transport:** Through WFP the Logistics Cluster will facilitate river barge/boat movements to locations that are deemed accessible. The barges will be the primary transport modality for the delivery of cargo from Bor to Malakal and Melut. As additional routes become available, the Logistics Cluster will inform organisations via coordination meetings, transport plans posted on the website, and announcements through the mailing list.

- iv. **Coordination of Road Transport:** The Logistics Cluster coordinates interagency road convoys (for cargo only) when roads are physically accessible and security risks can be largely mitigated through the use of well-established access negotiation by WFP. The Logistics Cluster will detail a set departure schedule for convoys on the Western Corridor, Torit/Kapoeta, Yambio, Yei and in Jonglei State if the context allows it. Any other routes need to be requested through the Logistics Cluster using the southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org email. Detailed instructions, which must be strictly adhered to will be shared with all interested participants and the required information relayed back to the Logistics Cluster as per the requested date. Individual organisations are responsible for organising and paying for their own transport. Information on available commercial transporters will be shared upon request.

- v. **Cross border operations:** The Logistics Cluster can provide organisations guidance and support for cross border movements of NFIs from Sudan and Ethiopia through WFP Service Provision. The Logistics Cluster will support in coordination and information.

2. Information Management:

The Logistics Cluster will make information management products available with the aim of supporting operational decision making to improve the efficiency of the logistics response.

- Consolidated information on the overall logistics situation including logistics gaps and bottlenecks.
- Updated information on operational data, such as road closures and entry points, through the publication of situation updates, meeting minutes, snapshots, flash news and briefings.
- Logistics infrastructure Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/mapping tools and products.
- Other relevant information, such as customs and tax exemption updates.
- Weekly transport plans for Air, River and Road movements.
- All information will be promptly shared with organisations via the dedicated mailing list and/or through the Logistics Cluster website (<http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a>).

3. Capacity Building:

The Logistics Cluster will build on the Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course trainings provided in 2018 and increase its training offered to the humanitarian community. A dedicated Training Officer will be deployed to organise trainings in different locations of the country depending on national capacity needs.

All Standard Operating Procedures to access the above services are listed on the Logistics Cluster website (<http://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a>) or alternatively contact the Logistics Cluster at southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

As “Provider of Last Resort” WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only to provide logistics services that fill identified gaps in logistics capacity, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.