Background

In reference to the South Sudan Ministry of Health Contingency Plan for Ebola Virus Disease, the South Sudan Logistics Cluster has prepared the following Stage 1 plan identifying the current logistics capacities in the identified Priority 1 areas of Juba, Yambio, Tambura, Maridi, Torit and Yei river state in Western and Central Equatoria. Logistics capacities of the Priority 2 areas - Wau, Aweil, Kuajok and Bor - are not included in this initial plan.

The Logistics Cluster currently provides a free-to-user service for transport (air/river) and coordinates road convoys on behalf of the humanitarian community, whilst also holding a stock of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) that can be deployed on request.

The Logistics Cluster currently supports over 143 organisations in South Sudan who rely on cluster services. Should the need arise, the Logistics Cluster has the ability to scale up its support (funding dependant) to the community with any initial scale up expected to be within the provision of the existing Logistics Cluster services detailed below, as opposed to expanding any service provision within WFP.

Objectives

The purpose of this document is to identify the current status of Logistics Cluster activities within the Priority 1 locations, along with the coordination and information management mechanisms supporting the ongoing South Sudan L3 response. The information regarding services provided is relevant to the Priority 1 areas only.

Some details are still being populated hence this will remain a live document to be readily updated with new information as it comes to hand, especially if there is a shift in the dynamics of the response.

Current Activities

1. **Coordination:** Existing coordination structures are in place with coordination meetings occurring twice-monthly in Juba. Should there be a scale up, coordination at the national level will remain in Juba but with increased frequency, along with new coordination hubs in the field where relevant. The OCHA-coordinated Inter Cluster Working Group (ICWG) also meets twice-monthly with the Logistics Cluster. The ICWG, through the Needs Analysis Working Group (NAWG), also prioritises areas for common services support (via the Logistics Cluster and UNHAS).

In Yei, UNICEF provides support by hosting Logistics Cluster coordination meetings due to the current small-scale nature of the response. There is no direct cluster presence in any of the other priority areas, however this is based on current needs.

The Logistics Cluster is well positioned to bilaterally coordinate with UNHAS, UNMISS, WFP and WFP Access units to support the humanitarian response, as it has done in the past.

The Logistics Cluster also has a wide outreach to the donor community, and is working with UNMISS to expand on the current shared information flow. Contact is currently being made with donors, particularly
DFID and USAID, who hold a large stake in supporting health activities in South Sudan. This will enable the cross sharing of information while also detailing WFP activities in preparedness to foster synergies in any increased preparedness activities.

2. **Information management:** A dedicated Information Management Officer and a GIS officer support the current Logistics Cluster operations. All Information Management is centralised from the field at the national level. The GIS officer provides support for all mapping (static and real-time) for the Logistics Cluster and WFP Logistics. Both of these roles are critical to the ongoing response and for any scale up in preparedness.

The Global Logistics Cluster maintains an up-to-date website for the Logistics Cluster globally. The South Sudan page provides all information management products, UNHAS schedules, Logistics Cluster-coordinated road convoy schedules, transporter lists, situation updates, CONOPs and maps. The page can be accessed here - [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ssid11a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ssid11a)

The Logistics Cluster has also populated a common mailing list of over 800 subscribers. This list means that there is an alternative means to disseminate information to humanitarian organisations as needed and requested.

3. **Air Transport:** At present, the Logistics Cluster, through UNHAS, has a DHC-5 Buffalo plane (7 mt payload) and 3 x Mi8-MTV Helicopters (2.5 mt payload) supporting the current response where air is the only method of transportation. The landing zones available in the Priority 1 areas have been mapped and are shown on the “South Sudan EVD Targeted Areas Map”. Should these air assets be focused on the Priority 1 areas, the total uplift capacity on a daily basis (two rotations/asset) would be in the vicinity of 29 mt (volume dependant).

4. **Road transport:** In support of the humanitarian community and as a security risk mitigation mechanism, the Logistics Cluster provides road convoy coordination. The schedule for convoy departures and the instructions on clearances required/visibility etc. is available on the website. While the departures are set on a monthly or bi-monthly basis, this is dependent on current organisational needs.

The Logistics Cluster updates the physical road access map on a weekly basis, using information received from the field. This most current version is available at the following link: [https://logcluster.org/map/south-sudan-access-constraints-map-24-august-2018](https://logcluster.org/map/south-sudan-access-constraints-map-24-august-2018)

Please check [https://logcluster.org/ops/ssid11a](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssid11a) for updates.

Juba to Yei is currently accessible by road with 40 mt trucks taking 1.5 days to complete this journey. Juba to Torit is currently accessible by road with 40mt trucks taking 3 days to complete this journey. Yambio, Maridi and Tambura are currently only accessible from Juba by air.

5. **River:** There is no river access to the Priority 1 locations.
6. **Common Storage:** Refer to the South Sudan Logistics Cluster CONOPs map which can be found at the following link:


   This map provides the relevant storage in square metres currently provided by the Logistics Cluster in support of pre-positioning relief items. The Logistics Cluster also holds a stock of MSUs available for immediate deployment along with a technician who can manage the construction of these units. Currently there are 15 MSUs of 32 x 10 size in stock and ready for deployment. There is limited cold storage based in-country however the Logistics Cluster will coordinate with UNICEF and WHO should temperature-controlled/cold chain facilities be required.

7. **Capacity mapping of organisations:** Refer to the “3WOP June County/State level maps”.

   The Logistics Cluster has an ongoing project mapping the logistics capacities of organisations in the field. Due to the time taken to obtain, consolidate and map this data, in the interim the OCHA 3W maps showing organisational presence along with Cluster sector activities are being used in support of this preparedness plan.

8. **Cross-border activities:** In the current operational environment, the Logistics Cluster does not manage any cross-border operations however this can be incorporated into Logistics Cluster activities should the need arise.

9. **Staffing:** Current staffing levels support the ongoing L3 operations for the Logistics Cluster, comprised of both international and national staff. There are 10 international staff based both in Juba and the field, and 22 national staff of which 19 are field-based and 3 are based in Juba. Should a surge in staffing be required, depending on the scale, the initial plan would be to deploy existing staff to the new areas required while undertaking a temporary recruitment programme. Where possible and deemed effective to the response the Logistics Cluster would support organisations remotely who could take on a localised (field-based) coordination role.