LOCATION
Juba, OCHA Conference Room

DATE
5 November 2019

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
• Partners encouraged to report any bureaucratic impediments to the NGO Forum and OCHA for relevant follow-up.
• Logistics Cluster to share chart of clearances and procedures for feedback and corrections.
• Partners were asked to inform the cluster about any issues faced in Mombasa Port by sharing with southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
• Partners to follow normal service request procedures for the 2019 flood response.
• Partners encouraged to take part in the Logistics Cluster End of the Year Survey when shared via the mailing list.

AGENDA
1. Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments to Humanitarian Operations
2. 2019 Flood Response
3. Training Update
4. Road Operations Update
5. River Operations Update
6. Mid-Year Survey Response
7. AOB

1. Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments to Humanitarian Operations

• Partners were given a presentation from Robert Jones, NGO Forum, on ‘Bureaucratic and Administrative Impediments’ (BAI) to remind them about the procedures to be followed when humanitarian organisations are facing such bottlenecks.
• Organisations mentioned they are facing issues with importing fuel into South Sudan (needing to provide an import license) and are being required to offload trucks in the presence of customs officials in Juba. Participants have also faced issues with additional clearances and documentation being requested at Juba Airport and field locations.
• Organisations were highly encouraged to avoid complying with any illegal payments or unusual requests given the impacts this can have on the entire humanitarian community.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a
• The NGO Forum is developing a list of mandatory clearances and procedures for various cargo and administrative processes. Once completed, the cluster will share for any feedback or corrections/additions.

• Organisations were advised that if they face any BAI (e.g. bureaucratic and administrative constraints; operational interference; restriction of movements) it is vital to report incidents to the NGO Forum and OCHA (access@southsudanngoforum.org, rjones@unicef.org, accessreporting@un.org) in a timely manner for assistance in resolving them.

• Partners were informed that OCHA and the NGO forum are currently working together to minimise the time lost to bureaucratic processes, specifically in relation to Ebola preparedness and response.

• Organisations were also informed that the delays in customs processes and Mombasa freight are also currently being addressed. These delays include difficulties in obtaining customs clearances for vehicles and first aid kits. Organisations facing these issues are invited to report them to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org. The cluster will compile these issues and share with the NGO Forum and OCHA for follow-up.

2. 2019 Flood Response

• Partners were informed that on 30 October 2019, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan declared a state of emergency in the flood-affected areas, with over 30 counties across South Sudan requesting humanitarian assistance.

• The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) have called for an emergency response for an initial period of six to eight weeks, starting early November, to support the more than 900,000 people estimated to be affected.

• The Logistics Cluster has been requested to support inter-cluster missions to flood-affected areas by transporting multi-sectoral flood survival kits through mid-December. The Logistics Cluster is in the process of augmenting its air assets in order to support the flood response without disrupting normal operations. An additional Mi8 helicopter is expected to be deployed to Bor shortly and will be dedicated solely to the flood response.

• Partners were advised that cargo for the flooding response has been prioritised by the HCT/ICWG over all other cargo. The priorities for air transport are:
  1. ICWG missions-related cargo (Survival kits: Shelter/NFI; Wash, Health and Food Security);
  2. Non-ICWG mission cargo for flood response locations;
  3. All other cargo/locations.

• The first location that have been identified for an immediate ICWG mission response is Pibor.

• Partners were also informed that service request procedures remain the same for cargo to be transported as part of the flood response. Organisations wishing to transport relief items to locations affected by the floods are requested to submit Service Request Forms (SRFs) to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org. User instructions explaining the SRF submission process are available on the Logistics Cluster website.

• Organisations were asked to share information on airstrips in flooded locations, especially if airstrips have been damaged and will need rehabilitation before the cluster’s fixed-wing plane can land.
3. Training Update

- Partners were informed that in October 2019, the Logistics Cluster conducted four trainings in three different field locations (Juba, Rumbek and Yambio) training 120 participants from 48 organisations. As part of its global Logistics Emergency Teams partnership of which Agility Group is a member, the Logistics Cluster engaged with its subsidiary Tristar, a fuel logistics provider, to deliver two trainings on warehouse safety. Remaining trainees participated in Logistics Cluster Induction and Basic Warehouse Management trainings.

- The Logistics Cluster will deliver four trainings during November in both Bentiu and Juba - a Logistics Cluster Induction Training (5 November) and a Service Request Form Training (6 November) in Bentiu and a Logistics Cluster Induction Training (13/14 November – to be confirmed) and Warehouse Management training (27/28 November – nominations closing 5 November) in Juba. Further information regarding registration, dates and locations will be communicated via the mailing list.

4. Road Operations Update

Access Constraints

- Partners were informed that the rainy season is expected to last until the end of November, slightly later than previous years, meaning that it is expected that roads will reopen later than usual this year.

- There have been no significant changes to the overall physical access situation in-country however, partners were informed that the Wau – Raja road is passable only for light vehicles (not more than 5 mt) until Deim Zubeir, after which the road is closed as the bridge in Sopo has collapsed.

- The Juba-Kajo Keji road is still difficult, with light vehicles taking approximately 8 hours to reach Kajo Keji. For transporting cargo, it is recommended to use trucks with a maximum weight of 20 mt.

- WFP is planning to conduct repairs on the road between Melut and Maban. When the repairs are finished, it will be possible to send cargo by river to Melut, then by truck to Maban.

- Participants mentioned that the junction near Mambe on the Juba-Mundri-Yambio road is very difficult to pass with trucks and requested that repairs be carried out. UNMISS advised that if there is a demonstrable humanitarian imperative, then forces may be able to dedicate assets for road repairs.

- The road between Yirol and Aluakluak is currently washed out and impassable. The cluster will inform organisations of any plans to repair this stretch of the Western Corridor.

- Organisations were reminded to share any other relevant road status updates with the Logistics Cluster to ensure the access constraints map is kept up-to-date. The latest access constraints map is available on the website.

Convoy Schedule

- Partners were informed that October convoys to Kapoeta and Yambio reached their final destinations, and the Western Corridor Convoy departed from Juba on 1 November.

- Partners were advised that the next Western Corridor Convoy is set to depart 15 November.

- The Logistics Cluster is currently accepting interest for convoys towards Yei and Yambio, which will both be with UNMISS Force Protection.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a
- Organisations were asked to advise the cluster if interested in sending cargo to Kajo Keji with a Logistics Cluster-coordinated convoy.
- Organisations were requested to respect deadlines for signing up for convoys, as much planning goes into each convoy departure to ensure risks are mitigated. Deadlines are noted in the latest Road Convoy Schedule (November/December).

5. River Operations Update

- The Bor-Renk barge departure (barge number 11) has been postponed due to a delay in obtaining the necessary clearances. The Logistics Cluster will keep partners updated as the situation changes and will advise when the barge can depart. Partners were also advised that the Logistics Cluster is currently accepting interest for the next barge movement from Renk to Bor (barge number 12) that will depart after the barge has reached Renk.
- As a result of the delayed departure of the Bor-Renk barge, boat convoy movements on the Sobat River have been impacted as some cargo loaded onto the barge is to be transshipped into these boats in Malakal.
- Depending on the timing of barge trips 11 and 12, the cluster may offer a thirteenth barge movement from Bor to Renk before the end of the year. Organisations interested in participating in future barge or boat movements are requested to submit a Service Request Form to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Partners were informed that the loading of the boat convoy from Bor to Old Fangak is ongoing. The departure to Old Fangak is dependent upon clearances.
- The Logistics Cluster River Routes Map, which shows the different locations accessible by river transport, is available on the website.

6. Mid-Year Survey Response

- Partners were presented with the cluster’s mid-year survey results. Main results show a high level of satisfaction with coordination, information management and common services, and that organisations are interested in more trainings, timely information sharing, coordination, and transport. The cluster has published a document addressing all the comments and suggestions received in this survey.
- Partners were also informed that the Logistics Cluster will send out an end of year survey around mid-November through the mailing list. Organisations are highly encouraged to take part in this survey to ensure the Logistics Cluster can address feedback.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for 19 November in the OCHA main conference room, Juba at 12:00.
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