Meeting Minutes, 14 January 2020
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION          Juba, OCHA
DATE              14 January 2020
CHAIR             Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Ahayou South Sudan Relief Agency (ASSRA), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Association of Christian Resource Organizations Serving Sudan (ACROSS), CARE International, Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), Child’s Destiny Development Organization (CHIDDO), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Healthcare Foundation Organisation (HFO), Humane-Aid for Community Organization (HACO), IsraAid, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Joint Aid Management (JAM), Lacha Community and Economic Development (LCED), Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières France, Mentor Initiative, Mercy Corps International (MCI), Mobile Humanitarian Agency (MHA), Nile Orphan Care (NOC), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Oxfam UK, Relief International, Rural Health Services (HRS), Tearfund, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDOR), USAID/OFDA, Water for South Sudan (WFSS).

ACTION POINTS
• Logistics Cluster to publish January – December 2019 infographic.
• Organisations to pre-position cargo in deep-field locations during dry season.
• Organisations encouraged to adjust their stocking strategy to transport modality shift.
• Partners to share ideas of topics that could be addressed during Special-Focus Coordination Meetings.
• Logistics Cluster to communicate information on Jonglei road rehabilitations.
• Logistics Cluster to produce and share a strategic document on Beyond Responses.
• Partners interested in joining the Logistics Working Group to contact log.ssud@pah.org.pl

AGENDA
1. 2019 Logistics Cluster Achievements
2. 2020 Logistics Cluster Strategy
3. Road Operations Updates
4. River Operations Updates
5. AOB/Discussions

1. 2019 Logistics Cluster Achievements

• The main 2019 achievements highlighted by the Logistics Cluster are:
  o The reduced reliance on costly air operations achieved mainly through the expansion of road (beyond responses) and river (serving locations along El Zharaf and the Sobat rivers) transport modalities;
  o The competition of 1,140 Service Request Forms throughout the year;
  o 671 partners’ staff trained in eight locations across South Sudan to increase national logistics capacity, achieved through strong collaborations with partner organisations.

• The Logistics Cluster will share with partners the January – December 2019 infographic, that will provide further details of the 2019 achievements.

https://logcluster.org/opas/sss11a
2. 2020 Logistics Cluster Strategy

The Logistics Cluster anticipates 2020 to be a challenging year. The political-economic context, a shorter dry season, and an overall decrease in funding are the main challenges organisations will have to incorporate into operational planning. In 2020, the Logistics Cluster’s budget is estimated to be USD 22 million, a decrease compared to previous years. Therefore, the two main pillars of the cluster’s 2020 strategy will be ‘Logistics Efficiencies’ and ‘Coordinated Logistics Response’.

**Logistics Efficiencies**

- Due to unprecedented flooding, it is expected that the 2020 dry season will be shorter, especially considering that some of the main roads, usually passable from December, are still not passable. Consequently, it was emphasised that organisations should make the most of this short window to move humanitarian cargo by road.
- In 2020, the Logistics Cluster will reduce the use of air transport during the rainy season, therefore organisations should pre-position required items in deep field locations to avoid last minute restocking during the rainy season.
- Except for lifesaving emergencies, the Logistics Cluster will not fly to any location that is reachable by other means of transport (road and river). Organisations are therefore strongly encouraged to adjust their stock levels strategies, as it takes longer to deliver items by road and river (air transport: days; road transport: weeks; river transport: months).
- The Logistics Cluster also plans to reduce the number of minimum guaranteed hours requested per aircraft during the dry season, ensuring the most efficient utilisation of air assets.

**Coordinated Logistics Response**

- As part of its strategy, the Logistics Cluster will reduce the frequency of coordination meetings to once per month, as opposed to once every two weeks. This decision was made to enable the cluster to conduct more Special-Focus Coordination Meetings to address specific topics (e.g. transport modality, geographical areas, etc.) in more detail with relevant actors. The Logistics Cluster aims to have more working groups for in-depth coordination.
- Partners are encouraged to share with the Logistics Cluster any ideas/topics that could be addressed during Special-Focus Coordination Meetings. If situations require increased logistical intervention, it is always possible to organise ad hoc coordination meetings.
- To ensure organisations are equipped with relevant logistics updates and information, the Logistics Cluster will implement a new information management product that will summarise critical logistics information. As these documents will be shared through the mailing list, organisations that haven’t yet registered should do so on our [website](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssl11a) by clicking on “Signup for our mailing list” at the bottom of the webpage.
- The Logistics Cluster will continue working closely with cluster coordinators to ensure important messages, such as logistics efficiencies, are disseminated through the cluster systems.

3. Road Operations Updates

**Access Constraints**

- Partners were informed that the Western Corridor is still not open all the way up to Bentiu as the road is still cut between Turalei and Mayom. UNMISS has undertaken rehabilitation work on this road section and organisations should expect the road to be open within a few weeks to start moving cargo to Benitu.

[https://logcluster.org/ops/ssl11a](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssl11a)
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- The Juba-Terekeka-Yirol-Rumbek road is rehabilitated and passable for 40 mt trucks. Partners were advised the Western Corridor Convoy will no longer pass via Mundri.
- The Western Corridor road is open to 40 mt trucks until Aweil. Organisations were advised that the road from Wau to Bentiu is open up to Turalei for 20mt trucks and are therefore encouraged to start pre-positioning cargo up to Aweil.
- Partners were also informed that both UNMISS and WFP are currently conducting road assessments in Jonglei. WFP will oversee the road rehabilitation from Bor to Mabior-Ayod, whereas UNMISS is considering rehabilitation possibilities on the Bor-Pibor axis (heavily damaged). The Logistics Cluster will communicate further information with partners when available.
- Partners were also advised that roads leading to Koch and Leer from Bentiu are now accessible to 40 mt trucks. Consequently, Beyond Bentiu Response (BBR) operations can now resume.
- 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 advised that from 1 March 2020, the Logistics Cluster will adjust the Road Convoy Schedule. The main change will apply to road convoys in the Equatorias (Kajo Keji, Kapoeta, Yambio, and Yei) as their frequency will be reduced to once every two months. Analysis of previous years shows that an average of five convoys per year were coordinated to these destinations. The frequency will reduce to ensure there is enough interest to organise a convoy.
- Partners interested in joining convoys planned for January towards the Western Corridor, Kapoeta, and Yambio are invited to consult the latest Road Convoy Schedule (January/February) and submit their interest via email to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org. Organisations must consult and respect the submission deadlines in the schedules as the Logistics Cluster will be stricter regarding deadlines in 2020.
- Convoys from Juba to Kajo-Keji and Lainya Yei are organised on ad hoc basis and organisations interested in transporting cargo to these destinations are invited to express their interest by email to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org

Beyond Responses

- The Logistics Cluster emphasised that the reduced reliance on air operations was due to the success of the Beyond Responses. They have enabled the delivery of cargo to deep field locations (e.g. Koch, Leer) that were previously only reachable by air.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently working on a strategic document providing in-depth information and details of all locations reachable from Bentiu and Wau with the Beyond Responses. The document will be presented shortly to partners.
- Partners were reminded that the Logistics Cluster has Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) available for loan in case organisations require additional storage in locations where they wish to pre-position cargo. Organisations are encouraged to contact the cluster at southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org if interested in an MSU for common storage in field locations.

4. River Operations Updates

- In 2020, the Logistics Cluster will focus on expanding river operations along the Sobat river.
  - This expansion is critical to reduce reliance on air transport as locations such as Mandeng and Ulang are among the locations that required the most air transport support.
Partners were advised to take into consideration that it can take up to eight weeks from departure ex-Bor as humanitarian cargo needs to be transhipped into boats in Malakal.

To implement this expansion, the Logistics Cluster is going to deploy an additional six MSUs in Malakal.

In case of emergency, the Logistics Cluster will remain flexible to the use of air transport on an exceptional basis.

Partners were informed that the Bor-Renk barge (barge number 1) has departed in early January after being on hold for a few months due to access challenges. As a result of a significant amount of work carried out by the WFP access unit, river operations are now back to normal.

As soon as barge number 1 arrives in Malakal, cargo destined to locations along the Sobat river will be transhipped into boats. Cargo is expected to be delivered to final destinations before the end of January.

The first boat convoy of the year arrived in Old Fangak on 11 January 2020.

Organisations interested in participating in future barge or boat movements are invited to consult the weekly transport plan and were reminded to submit SRFs to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

The Logistics Cluster River Routes Map, which shows the different locations accessible by river transport, is available on the website.

5. Training Update

- In 2020, the Logistics Cluster will build on the 2019 achievements and continue offering trainings to the humanitarian community to build national capacity.
- Partners were informed that the Advanced Humanitarian Logistics training will take place in Juba from 21-30 January 2020. This training will be facilitated by academics representing the University of Sao Paulo.
- Organisations were advised to consult the Training Schedule for information on upcoming trainings.

7. AOB

- Partners expressed their interest to reinstate the Logistics Working Group initially created last year for logisticians to meet and discuss existing gaps. Organisations interested in joining this working group are invited to contact log.ssud@pah.org.pl.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for 11 February in the OCHA main conference room, Juba at 12:00.

In the meantime, the Logistics Cluster has scheduled a Special-Focus Coordination Meeting on river transport on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 12:00 in the OCHA main conference room.

The target audience for the special focus meeting includes:

- Organisations already using Logistics Cluster river transport;
- Organisations planning to use Logistics Cluster river transport in 2020;
- Organisations operating in locations along the Nile, El Zharaf, and Sobat rivers in Jonglei and Upper Nile States.
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## Contacts

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