Meeting Minutes, 7 April 2020
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION  
Juba, online webinar

DATE  
7 April 2020

CHAIR  
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS  
Action Against Hunger (AAH), American Refugee Committee (ARC), Association of Christian Resources Organization serving South Sudan (ACROSS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Doctors with Africa (CUAMM), International Medical Corps (IMC), INTERSOS, Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Switzerland, Peace Winds Japan, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Save the Children (SCI), Solidarités International (SI), The Johanniter, World Vision International (WVI)

ACTION POINTS  
• Organisations to share any other relevant physical road accessibility updates with the Logistics Cluster.
• Organisations to pre-position cargo in deep-field locations during dry season.

AGENDA  
1. Air Operations Updates
2. Road Operations Updates
3. River Operations Updates
4. Common Storage Updates
5. COVID-19 Updates
6. AOB

1. Air Operations Updates

- The Logistics Cluster has four air assets available to serve the humanitarian community in South Sudan: two fixed-wing planes based in Juba, one helicopter in Bor, and one in Rumbek.
- The Weekly Transport Plan is published on the Logistics Cluster website, however it can be subject to change due to the current situation. The Logistics Cluster will keep organisations informed of any changes via the mailing list and website.
- Current list of the ICCG Priority Locations by mode of transport:
  - Reachable by air:
    - Akobo West: Walgak, Wiechjol, Kaikuny, Buong
    - Pibor County: Likuangole
  - Reachable by road:
    - Nyirol County: Waat
    - Pibor County: Manyabol, Gumuruk, Pibor
    - Ayod and Duk Counties: Gorwai, Duk Padiet
The Logistics Cluster coordinates convoys to all priority locations reachable by road (further details in the ‘Road Operations Updates’ section below).

Organisations were reminded that weather and other updates must be shared with the UNHAS radio room before 7:30 on the day when a flight is scheduled. Lack of contact from focal points will result in flight cancellation. The Logistics Cluster team (southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org) should be copied in all emails regarding air operations.

IMC asked if air operations had been affected due to the first COVID-19 case confirmation. Following the announcement of the first COVID-19 case in South Sudan, the Logistics Cluster experienced some disruptions, including cancellation of one flight ex-Juba. However, there is no plan to suspend the operations and other flights ex-Bor were executed as per the schedule both yesterday and today. The Logistics Cluster will share any information regarding operational changes via the mailing list.

2. Road Operations Updates

Organisations were reminded to share any relevant physical road accessibility updates with the Logistics Cluster. The latest Access Constraints Map is available here.

Road convoys to the Equatorias (Kajo Keji, Kapoeta, Yambio, and Yei) are scheduled once every two months (minimum of seven trucks need to participate in a convoy as recommended by the WFP Security and Access Units). The last convoy to Kajo Keji scheduled for March was cancelled due to low interest from organisations, and the next one will be scheduled for 19 May. Solidarités International asked if the Logistics Cluster could support with a movement to this location outside the convoy schedule, when organisations move on their own. The Logistics Cluster can only support with movements which are part of the coordinated convoys by closely engaging with WFP/Access Units to mitigate potential risks. Organisations wishing to move independently of this are recommended to check the security status with NGO Forum, INSO and UNDSS and to consult the Logistics Cluster Access Constraints map for the latest physical access information for that road.

The Logistics Cluster team in Rumbek reminded organisations that the road to Koch is passable and organisations can request the Common Transport Service (CTS) to deliver their cargo to Koch and other Beyond Bentiu locations. Organisations were reminded that the cluster does not fly cargo to locations where the roads are passable, except in extreme emergency conditions.

The Logistics Cluster published two maps with an overview of Beyond Response locations for the two hubs to support planning by organisations:


The Western Corridor convoy route is now open all the way to Bentiu and Yida. Organisations are invited to submit their interest to join the Logistics Cluster-coordinated convoys organised every week.

The latest Convoy Schedule is available here. Upcoming convoys are also announced via the Logistics Cluster mailing list.
3. River Operations Updates

- Barge #4 offloaded in New Fangak and Old Fangak and subsequently returned to Bor to load cargo for trip #5. Expression of interest to participate are no longer being accepted.
- Barge #6 from Renk to Bor is scheduled to depart in April and requests can be submitted up until 7 April.
- Barge #7 from Bor to Renk is also expected to depart after returning from Renk. Organisations are invited to submit their requests and RRC clearances.
- Boat #4 from Malakal to Jikmir and other locations along the Sobat river is scheduled to depart this week. The cargo has been already consolidated.
- Boat #5 from Bor to Menime has already departed and offloaded in Haat.
- Boat #6 from Malakal to Jikmir is expected to depart in the third week of April once cargo from the barge has been cross-loaded on to boats.
- Organisations are requested to submit their interest for any of these movements by sending a Service Request Form (SRF) to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Organisations were also reminded that the river transport takes longer than other modes (for example the journey from Bor to Malakal takes one week) however, additional time needs to be considered as the lead times also depend on the number of stops, time needed for loading/offloading in these locations, as well as schedule changes due to cargo availability to ensure a full barge is sent. Organisations need to preposition cargo in Malakal/Bor and plan supplies for at least two months ahead.
- Organisations are invited to check the latest schedules, river operations strategy, and maps of river locations on the website.

4. Common Storage Updates

- Organisations were reminded that the Logistics Cluster provides Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in deep-field locations for the strategic prepositioning of relief items based on the needs of requesting organisations, as part of advance preparedness measures. Priority is given to organisations willing to manage MSUs as common storage facilities versus individual use, especially in the areas prioritised by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) for interventions.
- The Logistics Cluster Concept of Operations map provides an overview of all common storage sites, including those managed by other organisations. Additionally, the Logistics Cluster has installed two more MSUs in Motot (managed by Tearfund) and in Gumuruk (managed by ZOA and ACROSS). Additionally, common storage sites in Mabior, Ulang and Mandeng are expected to come online in the next few weeks. The Concept of Operations map will be updated accordingly.
- Organisations interested in using common storage services in any of the deep field locations can reach out directly to organisations on the ground managing these sites. The Logistics Cluster’s objective is to
foster field-level coordination and support the humanitarian community with additional storage capacity.

- Solidarités International asked about the procedure for requesting an MSU loan in Raja. Organisations requiring additional storage capacity in deep field locations can send an email with details to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

5. COVID-19 Updates

- Following the declaration of a COVID-19 pandemic, the Logistics Cluster shared information on preparedness measures, including those published on its website. For technical guidance on COVID-19 organisations can refer to the World Health Organization’s dedicated page here.

- According to information from WFP and other sources, border crossings remain open for humanitarian cargo. The Logistics Cluster continues to monitor the situation and will share any updates immediately via the mailing list.

- Organisations were encouraged to continue to pre-position their cargo in deep-field locations ahead of the rainy season by using road and river transport. Some disruptions due to the current situation are expected and the Logistics Cluster expects organisations to remain flexible.

- The Logistics Cluster will support with transport and storage of response cargo if necessary, as per standard procedures. Additional temperature-controlled storage space of 260 m² has been made available in Juba (Lologo warehouse) for COVID-19 related materials (PPE, buckets, soaps, etc.). Space is also available in field hubs (Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, Nimule, Rumbek, Wau, Yambio and Yei).

- ACF asked about the current stock levels of PPE in South Sudan. The Logistics Cluster will share contact details of the WHO focal point who is in a position and capacity to comment on this bilaterally.

- ARC reported that the COVID-19 related materials for transportation to various field locations were rejected by UNHAS. The Logistics Cluster is following up with UNHAS colleagues on any issues related to air operations from Juba and will share information via the mailing list. However, light cargo transport requests, which are outside the Logistics Cluster activities, should be followed up on with the UNHAS booking office at southsudan.unhascargo@wfp.org.

- PAH reported that the RRC office shared a circular regarding preventative procedures for drop-off and collection of clearances in view of COVID-19. The document will be shared via the mailing list along with these meeting minutes.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for 21 April and will be held online.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssf11a
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