Meeting Minutes, 21 April 2020
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION
Juba, online webinar

DATE
21 April 2020

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
American Refugee Committee (ARC), Concern Worldwide (CWW), Hold The Child, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Internews, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Relief International (RI), Rural Community Action for Peace and Development (RUCAPD), Save the Children International (SCI), Solidarités International (SI), Tearfund, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), USAID/OFDA, World Vision International (WVI)

ACTION POINTS
• Partners to submit SRFs early and bring cargo to warehouse on time for air transportation.
• Partners to preposition as much cargo as possible in field locations before the start of the rainy season.
• Partners to share any other relevant physical road accessibility updates with the Logistics Cluster.
• Partners operating along the Sobat river to urgently share with the Logistics Cluster information on water levels.
• In COVID-19 context, partners to share any identified logistics gaps and challenges with Logistics Cluster.

AGENDA
1. Air Operations Updates
2. Road Operations Updates
3. River Operations Updates
4. Common Storage Updates
5. Logistics Cluster Field Hubs Updates
6. COVID-19 Updates
7. 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 helicopter in Rumbek. Partners were informed that the Rumbek helicopter is now operational after one month of maintenance.
• 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:
  o Reachable by air:
    • Akobo West: Walgak, Wiechjol, Kaikuny, Buong
    • Pibor County: Likuangole
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- Reachable by road:
  - Nyirol County: Waat
  - Pibor County: Manyabol, Gumuruk, Pibor
  - Ayod and Duk Counties: Gorwai, Duk Padiet

- Partners were reminded that the Logistics Cluster always serves all locations using the most efficient transport modality (road and river) including locations along the Sobat river (e.g. Ulang).

- SCI asked if priority is given to COVID-19 related cargo. The cargo prioritisation procedure remains the same and follows recommendations from ‘ICCG Priority Locations’ determined through the Needs Analysis Working Group. Organisations should contact the cluster at southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org if they have COVID-19 related cargo for storage or transportation.

- Following the announcement of the first COVID-19 case in South Sudan, the Logistics Cluster experienced some initial and minor disruptions. However, air operations have not been impacted further and the cluster is able to operate daily cargo flights ex Bor, Juba and Rumbek without any delays. The Logistics Cluster will share any information regarding operational changes via the mailing list.

- Partners were informed that due to the COVID-19 context, the Logistics Cluster is required to submit flight schedules three days in advance to obtain the necessary clearances. Organisations are encouraged to submit Service Request Forms (SRFs) early and position their cargo at the Logistics Cluster transit warehouses.

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.

- The latest Western Corridor Convoy (WCC) departed Juba on 17 April and is expected to reach Bentiu in the next days. The next WCC is scheduled for 24 April however the registration deadline has already passed. Organisations interested in joining a WCC convoy are invited to register for the one scheduled on 1 May. Partners were reminded that the route is passable for 40 MT trucks all the way to Bentiu and Yida and that the WCCs depart every Friday.

- Road convoys to the Equatorias (Kajo Keji, Kapoeta, Yambio, and Yei) are scheduled once every two months. The Logistics Cluster organised an ad hoc convoy to Kapoeta to transport COVID-19 preparedness material, which arrived successfully on 14 April. Organisations interested in moving supplies to any of the mentioned locations are encouraged to submit the Logistics Cluster Convoy Request Form to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

- The Logistics Cluster Bor team coordinated the departure of a convoy towards Jonglei (Ayod, Lankien and locations in between) on 18 April. The Pibor convoy initially scheduled for 16 April was cancelled due to lack of interest. Partners are encouraged to take advantage of the very short window available to move cargo by road to Jonglei locations as the road is expected to become impassable as soon as the rainy season starts.

- The Logistics Cluster emphasised the importance of pre-positioning as much cargo as possible in field locations over the next few weeks. Both the predicted early start to the rainy season, which will start impacting road accessibility, and the uncertainty with regards to movement restrictions due to COVID-19 are key aspects to take into consideration for cargo movement planning.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a
• Concern Worldwide expressed challenges in obtaining clearances required by authorities to move supplies to Bentiu. The Logistics Cluster advised partners to consult the Humanitarian Convoys – Operational Guidelines, which explains the documentation required for any road movement.
• The latest Convoy Schedule is available here. Upcoming convoys are also announced via the Logistics Cluster mailing list.

3. River Operations Updates

• Barge #5 arrived in Malakal on 15 April and is expected to start offloading on 22 April before proceeding to Melut and Renk.
• Barge #6 from Renk to Bor is scheduled to depart in May. No requests have been received yet. Partners interested in transporting cargo on this route are invited to submit SRFs as soon as possible.
• Barge #7 from Bor to Renk is expected to depart after returning from Renk. The Logistics Cluster already consolidated requests for approximately 60% of the barge capacity and organisations interested in joining this river movement are invited to submit their requests and RRC clearances.
• Boat #4 from Malakal to Jikmir and other locations along the Sobat river departed Malakal on 12 April. Organisations transporting cargo in this boat convoy are requested to send cargo receipt confirmation to the Logistics Cluster.
• Boat #6 from Bor to Old Fangak departed on 18 April and is currently en route.
• Boat #7 from Malakal to Jikmir is expected to depart in the last week of April once cargo from the barge has been cross-loaded onto boats.
• Organisations operating along the Sobat river are requested to urgently share with the Logistics Cluster any relevant information with regards to water levels and river accessibility. Partners were informed that the Logistics Cluster is planning on using smaller capacity boats to continue river operations along the Sobat as long as water levels permit.
• The Logistics Cluster notified partners that river operations were slightly affected due to movement restrictions imposed on UN compounds in Malakal causing delayed offloading. However, operations are now back to normal.
• Organisations are requested to submit their interest for any of these movements by sending a SRF to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
• 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. Priority is given to organisations willing to manage MSUs as common storage facilities versus individual use, especially in the areas prioritised by the ICG for interventions.
• The Logistics Cluster recently published the updated Concept of Operations and Concept of Operations map providing a detailed overview of all common storage sites available in South Sudan, including those managed by partner organisations.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a
The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that an additional temperature-controlled storage space has been made available in Juba at the Lologo warehouse to store COVID-19 related materials (Personal Protective Equipment, buckets, etc.). Organisations interested in storing such items are invited to submit their requests to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

5. Logistics Cluster Field Hubs Updates

- Taking into consideration the COVID-19 context and governmental restrictions on gatherings, Logistics Cluster coordination meetings have been suspended in all field hubs. Organisations are invited to share online meeting invitations with their teams in the field hubs.

Rumbek Logistics Cluster hub update
- The Logistics Cluster’s Rumbek operations are back to normal as the helicopter has returned from maintenance. Organisations are invited to submit their SRFs for cargo transportation.
- The COVID-19 global pandemic has not impacted the Logistics Cluster’s ability to operate. However, partners have reported difficulties in delivering services to beneficiaries due to operational scale-down. Humanitarian coordination meetings can no longer take place due to the lockdown imposed on UNMISS Rumbek.

Bentiu Logistics Cluster hub update
- Logistics Cluster operations in Bentiu have not been significantly impacted by COVID-19, and the below services continue to be available to the humanitarian community:
  - Common storage services;
  - Private charter flights cargo reception;
  - Beyond Bentiu Response (BBR) with WFP support;
  - Common Transport Services (CTS) to Protection of Civilian (POC) sites, Bentiu, Rubkona and Bentiu town – BBR operations currently not operated by CTS;
  - Facilitation of WCC arrival.
- Partners were informed that the road to Mayendit headquarters is currently passable but is only expected to remain accessible for the next two weeks. Therefore, organisations with cargo for Mayendit headquarters and locations in between are encouraged to take quick action and register interest for BBR.

Malakal Logistics Cluster hub update
- Even though operations have initially been delayed by movement restrictions for UN staff, the Logistics Cluster and partners have been able to proceed with cargo movement within Malakal town, POC sites, the riverside and airstrip.
- The Malakal Logistics Base extension work is ongoing. The Logistics Cluster will extend its storage capacity available to partners in Malakal as part of this extension project.
- The Logistics Cluster Malakal hub has set aside an emergency storage space for partners to store COVID-19 related items.
- IOM and the Logistics Cluster have set up handwashing stations in the Logistics Base available to all partners to ensure mitigation measures are taken against the spread of COVID-19.
6. COVID-19 Updates

- Partners were informed that in this COVID-19 pandemic context, the cluster is maintaining its current strategy and will remain flexible and continue adjusting common logistics services as needed. Organisations are invited to consult the recently published strategic document ‘Logistics Cluster Activities for COVID-19 Response’ which provides further information.

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners on the COVID-19 pandemic impact on operations by listing the below identified disruptions and mitigation measures:
  - Air Operations: As mentioned above, the Logistics Cluster is requested to submit flight schedules three days in advance to receive necessary clearances. As a mitigation measure, partners are requested to plan ahead, submit SRFs early and bring cargo on time to transit warehouses.
  - River Operations: As mentioned above, the Logistics Cluster experienced cargo offloading delays in Malakal. To ensure continuity of operations, the Logistics Cluster, through WFP, have continuously negotiated with local authorities.
  - Road Operations: CTS operations and Beyond Responses have experienced a slight disruption due to movement restrictions for UN staff. Operations have resumed for all CTS operations to ensure continuity of humanitarian supplies delivery.

- According to information from WFP and other sources, border crossings remain open for humanitarian cargo. The cluster is monitoring the situation and will share any updates via the mailing list.

- Overall, the impact of COVID-19 on cargo movement has been minor. However, UNHAS operations and humanitarian passenger movements have been subject to disruptions, resulting in the cancellation of all UNHAS passenger flights on 17 and 20 April. The latest High-Level Task Force press release stated that all UNHAS flight passengers need to test negative for COVID-19 before being able to fly. Testing is to be done at the National Blood Bank in Juba.

- The Logistics Cluster continues to share any relevant COVID-19 related information on its website. Additional resources recently published include:
  - Information on COVID-19 from WHO and CDC in COVID-19 Resources box on our webpage;
  - UNHAS Flight Schedule effective from 16 April;
  - UNHAS Revised Deadlines for bookings and cancellations;
  - COVID-19 Public Health Passenger Locator Form – mandatory for every UNHAS passenger;
  - COVID-19 Guidance to Import Goods for Humanitarian Operators;
  - The Global Logistics Cluster has created a dedicated GLC COVID-19 webpage providing useful information at the global level.

- Partners were informed that in order to request COVID-19 cargo flights into Juba International Airport (JIA) from other countries, organisations are expected to:
  - Submit a letter to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and RRC;
  - Include in the letter: type and amount of cargo; purpose of the cargo; a section mentioning that aircraft crew will not exit the aircraft in JIA;
  - Attach packing list;
  - Submit the request at least 72 hours in advance of the anticipated flight.
• Partners were reminded that, even in the COVID-19 context, the Logistics Cluster does not currently offer cargo importation services from neighbouring countries (e.g. Uganda).
• Organisations were informed that any requests related to Personal Protective Equipment must go through WHO.
• The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that in this COVID-19 context the operational environment is constantly evolving and therefore flexibility and coordination will be essential from both the cluster and partners. Organisations are requested to share any logistics gaps and challenges faced with the Logistics Cluster.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for 5 May and will be held online.

Contacts

Fiona Lithgow  
*Logistics Cluster Coordinator*  
southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org  
fiona.lithgow@wfp.org

Jessie Cochran  
*Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator - Operations*  
jessica.coehran@wfp.org

Brian Langdon  
*Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator - Preparedness*  
brian.langdon@wfp.org

Blessing Dzambo  
*Logistics Officer*  
blessing.dzambo@wfp.org

Consolata Muriuki  
*Logistics Officer*  
consolata.muriuki@wfp.org

Diko Amariah  
*Logistics Associate - Cargo Tracking*  
diko.amariah@wfp.org

Sabri Benzaid  
*Information Management Officer*  
sabri.benzaid@wfp.org

Karolina Greda  
*Training Officer*  
karolina.greda@wfp.org

Mohamed El Husseini  
*GIS Officer*  
mohamed.elhusseini@wfp.org

Richard Izakare  
*Administrative Assistant*  
richard.izakare@wfp.org