Meeting Minutes, 5 May 2020
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION
Juba, online

DATE
5 May 2020

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
• Partners to submit interest for incoming convoys in Equatoria, Jonglei and towards the Western Corridor.
• Partners operating along the Sobat river to share water level information.
• Logistics Cluster to share information on PPE Common Request System.
• Logistics Cluster to share Weekly Border Status Updates.
• In COVID-19 context, partners to share any identified logistics gaps and challenges with Logistics Cluster.

AGENDA
1. Logistics Cluster Operations Updates
2. COVID-19 Updates
3. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Operations Updates

Air Operations Updates
• The Logistics Cluster has four air assets available to serve the humanitarian community from its three dispatch hubs in South Sudan: two fixed-wing planes based in Juba, one helicopter in Bor, and one helicopter in Rumbek.
• 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.
• Organisations are encouraged to submit Service Request Forms (SRFs) early and position their cargo at the Logistics Cluster transit warehouses.
• Current list of the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) priority locations by mode of transport:
  o Reachable by air:
    • Akobo West: Walgak, Wiechjol, Kaikuny, Buong
    • Pibor County: Likuangole

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Road Operations Updates

- Organisations were reminded to share any relevant physical road accessibility updates with the Logistics Cluster. The Access Constraints Map is published weekly and the latest version is available here.
- The Western Corridor Convoy (WCC) that departed Juba on 17 April has reached its final destination, while the WCC convoys that departed Juba on 24 April and 1 May are both currently en route. The next WCC are scheduled for 8 and 15 May and organisations interested in joining should submit their Logistics Cluster Convoy Request Form to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- The convoy that departed Bor on 18 April towards Jonglei (Ayod, Lankien and locations in between) also reached its final destination. Partners were advised that the Logistics Cluster is organising two convoys towards Pibor (14 May) and Jonglei – Ayod and Lankien (15 May). Interested organisations should submit their interest.
- As rains are expected to start earlier this year, UNICEF requested to bring forward planned convoys to Jonglei, if possible. The Logistics Cluster has not yet received any interest for these convoys, however, if enough interest is consolidated to coordinate convoys, the Logistics Cluster will accommodate this request.
- Road convoys to the Equatorias (Kajo Keji, Kapoeta, Yambio, and Yei) are scheduled once every two months. The Logistics Cluster is organising convoys towards all the mentioned locations between 13 and 19 May and organisations are encouraged to submit their request forms to the Logistics Cluster, respecting registration deadlines available on the Convoy Schedule May – June 2020.
- Organisations wanting to move cargo to deep field locations are able to utilise the Beyond Responses in Bentiu, Bor and Wau. Interested organisations should contact Logistics Cluster team members in those locations for further information and should arrange to preposition their cargo in relevant locations. Beyond Response Destinations maps detailing reachable locations are available on the Logistics Cluster website.
- MAF requested logistics colleagues to contact ssd.logmgr@mafint.org in case they have trucks or empty containers moving from Torit to Juba.

River Operations Updates

- Offloading of Barge #5 that reached Malakal on 15 April has been delayed due to congestion at Malakal riverside. Offloading is expected to start this week after which the barge will proceed to Melut and Renk.
- No requests have been received for Barge #6 from Renk to Bor; partners interested in transporting cargo on this route are requested to submit SRFs as soon as possible.
- Barge #7 from Bor to Renk is expected to depart after returning from Renk. The Logistics Cluster has already consolidated requests for approximately 600 cubic metres of barge capacity and organisations interested in joining this river movement should submit their requests and RRC clearances.
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- Boat #7 from Malakal to Jikmir and other locations along the Sobat river is expected to depart Malakal after cargo has been transhipped from Barge #5 into boats.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently consolidating cargo for Boat #8 from Bor to Old Fangak. Organisations interested in transporting cargo along this route are requested to submit their interest to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Organisations operating along the Sobat river are requested to urgently share any relevant information with regards to water levels and river accessibility with the Logistics Cluster. 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.
- Organisations are invited to consult the recently published River Movement Schedule, May – July 2020 for further information on planned river movements.

2. COVID-19 Updates

**Logistics Cluster Activities for COVID-19 Response**

- Partners were advised 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.

- **Common Storage Services:**
  - Partners were advised 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.). The Logistics Cluster is also currently in the process of acquiring further storage space in Juba. Partners were also reminded that storage space is available for COVID-19 materials in the existing Logistics Cluster hubs. Organisations interested in storing such items are should submit their requests, specifying location and duration of the request, to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
  - 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 areas prioritised by the ICCG for interventions.
  - Partners were informed that the Logistics Cluster supported WHO and Ministry of Health to set up one 10 x 32 m MSU in Juba to expand the John Garang Infectious Diseases Unit.

- **Air Operations:**
  - Partners were informed that the Logistics Cluster is facilitating access to flights transporting COVID-19 humanitarian cargo using existing air assets, following ICCG priority locations. Where needed, the Logistics Cluster will use air cargo transport, rather than road and river operations to ensure a timely response in the COVID-19 context.
  - Organisations were reminded that the Logistics Cluster is still facilitating access to air transport for non-COVID-19 humanitarian cargo.
  - The service request procedures remain the same as usual and organisations should continue to:

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- Submit SRFs to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org;
- Pre-position cargo to appropriate dispatch warehouse on time;
- Ensure that field teams are ready to receive cargo and follow standard procedures on the day of expected flights.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Common Request System**

- As a member of the COVID-19 National Steering Committee, WFP through the Logistics Cluster continues to work with WHO, the Ministry of Health and other health actors on the processes for requesting and releasing PPE stocks which are currently stored by the Logistics Cluster.
- The common PPE request system has been launched and WFP/Logistics Cluster will consolidate requests for prioritisation by the technical team. The Logistics Cluster will also facilitate air transport services when needed. The Logistics Cluster will shortly share with partners an email providing details on the request and release process (including a full list of items available as part of PPE kits). For further information, please contact karolina.greda@wfp.org and brian.langdon@wfp.org.

**Border Status Updates – COVID-19**

- Partners were presented with the below border status updates, which the Logistics Cluster will share with partners on a weekly basis moving forward:
  - **Air Border Status:**
    - International air transport allowed for humanitarian cargo and medical evacuation flights.
    - Interstate flights in South Sudan are limited to organisational essential travel movements only. Humanitarian cargo movements are ongoing.
  - **Land Border Status (Road and River):**
    - All international land and river borders in South Sudan remain open for humanitarian cargo. Testing requirements for truck drivers are being introduced, which is expected to cause some delays:
    - Domestic interstate cargo movements are operating as normal. As per communication from the High-Level Task Force, humanitarian cargo is exempt from any restrictions on interstate movement.
- Organisations who require further information on the border status of neighbouring countries can consult the [COVID-19 page](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssp11a) of the Logistics Cluster Website for regular Cargo Entry Point Updates. An interactive map version is also available [here](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssp11a).
- Partners experiencing any issues importing humanitarian cargo into South Sudan either by air, road or river can email the Logistics Cluster, who can follow up to have these constraints addressed at higher level.

**WFP Emergency Service Marketplace – Global Common Services**

- Partners were informed that as part of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP is offering global common services to support the humanitarian community. These services will include free-to-user international cargo movement from international consolidation hubs to regional staging areas. Should there be a demonstrated need and no available commercial capacity, then these services may extend to the movement of cargo from regional staging areas to affected countries. Further
resources including a FAQ, a plan of upcoming WFP cargo flights and prioritization methodology are all available on the dedicated COVID-19 page the Logistics Cluster website.

- As the coordination of these services is being done at a global level, organisations with an international presence should liaise with their headquarters to access these services. National NGOs interested in such services are requested to email global.serviceprovision@wfp.org for registration.

3. AOB

- Partners raised whether PPE distributions are being prioritised for health partners or if PPE is available for all types of organisations. The Logistics Cluster reiterated that WFP is not involved in the prioritisation process as this is being done by technical experts, and encouraged partners to contact WHO for such matters.
- SCI asked for further clarifications on how the latest High-Level Task Force press releases are affecting inter-state movements, including for truck drivers. The Logistics Cluster informed partners that UNHAS is currently finalising Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to provide clarity on air passenger movements in South Sudan. With regards to road transport, the Logistics Cluster has not been made aware of any difficulties being faced by partner organisations moving cargo inter-state. Partners facing constraints in moving cargo around the country due to COVID-19 restrictions are encouraged to email the Logistics Cluster.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for midday 19 May and will be held online.

Contacts

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