LOCATION: Juba, online

DATE: 19 May 2020

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster


ACTION POINTS:
- Partners operating along the Sobat river to share water level information.
- Logistics Cluster to inform partners on any updates with regards to RRC clearance requirements.
- Logistics Cluster to share PPE request status information to partners that have already submitted theirs through PPE Common Request System.

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

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.
- The list of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) priority locations remains similar to the last released list as per below. Partners have been advised to monitor road conditions as some priority locations may shortly become unreachable by road due to the start of the rainy season.
  - **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
- To ensure a timely response, the Logistics Cluster will remain flexible and can utilise its air assets to move COVID-19 related cargo even if the final destination is reachable by other transport means. Partners interested in transporting COVID-19 related cargo should contact the Logistics Cluster team at southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
Organisations are encouraged to submit Service Request Forms (SRFs) early and position their cargo at the relevant Logistics Cluster transit warehouse.

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

Road Operations Updates

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

A Western Corridor Convoy (WCC) departed Juba on 8 May and is currently en route, while the WCC initially scheduled for 15 May has been cancelled due to lack of interest. The next WCCs are scheduled for 22 and 29 May and organisations interested in joining should submit their Logistics Cluster Convoy Request Form to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

A convoy towards Jonglei (Ayod, Lankien and locations in between) departed Bor on 15 May and is currently en route, while the convoy initially planned for 14 May towards Gumruk – Pibor has been cancelled due to lack of interest. Partners were advised that the Greater Jonglei region is currently experiencing heavy rainfalls and that roads are expected to become impassable shortly.

The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the road to Pibor is still open to 20 mt trucks but is expected to close very shortly. As such, the Logistics Cluster is not planning to coordinate any additional convoys towards this destination.

The Logistics Cluster recently scheduled three road convoys to the Equatorias (Kajo Keji, Yambio, and Yei). The convoy to Yambio departed Juba on 14 May and is currently en route while the one to Kajo Keji has been cancelled due to lack interest. The Logistics Cluster is currently waiting for final access clearances to proceed with the departure of the convoy towards Yei, initially planned for 15 May.

Organisations interested in joining upcoming Logistics Cluster convoys are encouraged to submit their request forms, respecting registration deadlines available on the Convoy Schedule May – June 2020.

Partners were informed that the Logistics Cluster has started including Beyond Responses planned movements in the weekly transport plan. Organisations wanting to move cargo to deep field locations nearby Bentiu, Bor and Wau are advised to consult the Logistics Cluster website for the latest information.

River Operations Updates

Offloading of Barge #5 that reached Malakal on 15 April and transhipment of cargo for Boat #7 destined to locations along the Sobat River (Jikmir, Mandeng ang Ulang) is currently ongoing. Offloading is expected to finish this week, after which time the barge will proceed to Melut and Renk and the boat to the Sobat River.

Loading of Barge #6 from Bor to Renk is ongoing and the Logistics Cluster is no longer receiving interest for this trip. Organisations interested in moving cargo along this route are requested to submit their Service Request Form and RRC clearances for Barge #7, planned to depart around 20 June.

The Logistics Cluster organised an ad hoc boat trip (#8) from Bor to Old Fangak, Atar, Canal, Khorfulus and Chuil, which departed on 16 May.
Partners were informed that the Logistics Cluster is introducing boat convoys ex-Bor and towards Sobat river locations to avoid delays caused by transhipment in Malakal and to increase efficiency. Loading of Boat Convoy #9 towards Tonga, New Fangak, Kaldak and Sobat river locations is ongoing in Bor.

The Logistics Cluster is currently consolidating cargo for Boat #10 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 River 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.

**Bureaucratic Impediments**

- In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in existing bureaucratic impediments has been observed by Logistics Cluster partners:
  - Over the past weeks, partners raised concerns regarding a circular released by the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) on 4 May indicating cancellation of road movements across South Sudan. Partners were informed that this circular has been revoked and that road movements and Logistics Cluster convoys are currently permitted to operate.
  - Organisations reported new requirements implemented by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) on truck drivers (drivers list, destination and COVID-19-free certificate required for road movements). The Logistics Cluster has raised this impediment through the appropriate channels and discussions are ongoing. In the meantime, the Logistics Cluster has been using WFP RRC clearances for coordinated convoys and no issues have been reported.
  - Partners recently reported that higher prices are being charged by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to get the required permit for humanitarian cargo movements. This information was passed to OCHA and NGO Forum colleagues to raise.

- Organisations with further information on the issues mentioned above or any other bureaucratic impediments are invited to advise the Logistics Cluster to ensure these constraints are being raised through appropriate channels. Organisations are encouraged to follow pre-existing procedures to request cargo movement clearances.

**2. COVID-19 Updates**

**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 Personal Protective Equipment (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 an inter-agency technical team composed of WHO and other health
partners. The Logistics Cluster will also facilitate air transport services when needed. For further information, please contact covid19.ss@one.un.org.

- Organisations that have already submitted their requests were informed that the technical team will prioritise requests taking into consideration the very limited in-country stocks and the existing global shortage. Information on the status of their request will be communicated by the inter-agency technical team shortly.

- Since the launch of the common PPE request system on 4 May, the number of requests have far outpaced the availability of in-country stocks to fulfil all of them. A total of 47 requests from 22 organisations has already been received.

- WHO’s COVID-19 Supply Coordinator presented to partners key information on WHO’s strategy with regards to PPE:
  o In light of the global PPE shortage, organisations are highly encouraged to apply rational use of PPEs to optimise the distribution process. Partners are invited to read WHO’s recommendations for the rational use of PPE which provides strategies for optimisation of PPE use.
  o WHO launched the COVID-19 Supply Portal to facilitate the request of critical health supplies by national authorities and implementing partners supporting COVID-19 National Action Plans. This tool has been put in place to ensure a centralised system enabling consolidation of needs at country level. For further information, organisations can contact ekeyap@who.int.

Border Status Updates – COVID-19

- Partners were presented with the below border status updates, also shared weekly via the Logistics Cluster mailing list:
  o Air Border Status:
    - Following the official reopening of South Sudan airspace for domestic, regional and international flights, international air transport is now allowed for humanitarian cargo, passengers and evacuation flights. Organisations must consult Presidency and High-Level Task Force communications to ensure staff respect indicated travel rules (including 14 days quarantine, COVID-19 test, PPE requirements, etc.)
    - Interstate flights in South Sudan are operational but remain limited to organisational essential travel movements only. Humanitarian cargo movements are ongoing.
  o Land Border Status (Road and River):
    - All international land and river borders in South Sudan remain open for humanitarian cargo. Screening and testing requirements for truck drivers is ongoing and generating 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 are encouraged to follow existing procedures and submit requests for necessary cargo movement clearances.

- Organisations who require further information on the border status of neighbouring countries can consult the COVID-19 page on the Logistics Cluster website for regular Cargo Entry Point Updates. An interactive map version is also available here.
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 a higher level.

**WFP Aviation Global Passenger Air Services**

- Partners were informed that as part of its service provision under the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP has launched a passenger air service to ensure that health and humanitarian workers are not restricted by commercial transport closures and can rapidly reach the areas where they are most needed, in full compliance with countries’ public health procedures.
- Flights are currently being offered to selected destinations throughout East and West Africa, from where connections can be made to destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the US. After receiving authorisations from the Civil Aviation Authorities, WFP Aviation has announced flights to and from South Sudan on 21 and 28 May 2020.
- Further resources, including booking procedures and deadlines, costs and travel and arrival requirements, were shared with partners via the Logistics Cluster mailing list and are available on the online [Humanitarian Booking Hub](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssa11a) platform.
- As a reminder, the coordination of these services is being done at a global level and therefore organisations with an international presence should liaise with their headquarters to access these services. National NGOs interested in such services are requested to email [covid19.aviationglobal@wfp.org](mailto:covid19.aviationglobal@wfp.org) for registration.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for 2 June at 12:00 and will be held online.

**Contacts**

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[https://logcluster.org/ops/ssa11a](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssa11a)