Meeting Minutes, 17 November 2020
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION Juba, online
DATE 17 November 2020
CHAIR Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS Association of Christian Resource Organizations Serving Sudan (ACROSS), Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid (Cordaid), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Child’s Destiny And Development Organization (CHIDDO), Community Health And Development Organization (CHADO), Concern Worldwide (CWW), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Humane-Aid for Community Organization (HACO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Spain, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), Solidarités International (SI), Tearfund, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

ACTION POINTS
• Logistics Cluster to provide information on road accessibility to Koch (Unity State).
• Logistics Cluster to share the ‘Logistics Efficiency and Pre-positioning Strategy’ for 2021 via mailing list.
• Logistics Cluster to send form and detailed instructions of the PPE Common Request System.
• Partners to share updates on physical road accessibility, particularly for smaller vehicles, with southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

AGENDA
1. Air Operations Updates
2. Road Operations Updates
3. River Operations Updates
4. Logistics Efficiencies and Pre-positioning Strategy
5. COVID-19 – PPE Common Request System
6. AOB/Discussion

1. Air Operations Updates

- Organisations were reminded to submit accurate weather and other clearances to the UNHAS radio room before 7:30 am on the day when a flight is scheduled. Lack of contact from focal points will result in flight cancellation.
- COVID-19 related cargo continues to be prioritised. The Logistics Cluster remains flexible to facilitate the movement by air, even if the destination is reachable by road or river. Partners who need to transport COVID-19 related cargo should email southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Current list of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) priority locations:
  o Reachable by air:

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssl11a
- **Ayod**: Western flank - Wau, Pajiek, Mogok and Pagil;
- **Duk**: Poktap, Payuel, Padiet and Panyang;
- **Greater Pibor area**: Kozchal, Manyabol, Vertet;
- **Pochalla**: Whole county;
- **Twic East**: Multiple locations.
  - Reachable by road:
    - **Awerial**: Multiple locations;
    - **Rumbek East**: Multiple locations;
    - **Tonj East and South**: multiple locations.

- Partners were informed that following the temporary relocation of the Rumbek-based helicopter to Bor, the Logistics Cluster has managed to clear a large proportion of the cargo backlog. There is currently 73 mt of cargo remaining to be dispatched from Bor to 12 locations on behalf of 10 partners. The helicopter will return to Rumbek on 21 November for a two-week period to clear pending cargo to Unity state before returning to Bor to support cargo movement to flood-affected locations in Jonglei.
- The Juba-based fixed wing aircraft is currently not operational due to contractual challenges. The aircraft is expected to resume operations in the upcoming 10 days. Due to road inaccessibility between Bor riverside and airport, the fixed wing will be used to support organisations to pre-position critical/priority flood response cargo in Bor for onward deliveries to Jonglei.
- Partners were reminded that non-priority cargo is served as well, but as per the Logistics Cluster mandate, priority locations are served first.
- A partner requested support for air transportation of cargo to Pibor. The Logistics Cluster informed partners that Pibor is served with helicopters from Bor and that interested organisations should submit their SRFs. The cargo will need to be pre-positioned in Bor. If the cargo is destined for priority locations, the Logistics Cluster will exceptionally support with air transportation from Juba to Bor as the road is still inaccessible.

2. Road Operations Updates

- Organisations were reminded to share any physical road accessibility updates with the Logistics Cluster by emailing southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org. The Access Constraints Map is published weekly and is available here. Latest information received includes updates on the road sections along the Western Corridor that were previously not passable in Wulu, Langdit and Tonj, which are now accessible with difficulties.
- The latest Western Corridor Convoy (WCC) departed Juba on 6 November and is currently en route. The next WCC is scheduled to depart on 20 November and can go up to Abiemnhom.
- Convoys to Equatorias (Kajo Keji, Yambio and Yei) have already departed or will depart Juba in the month of November. This is the last opportunity to join convoys to these destinations in 2020. The convoy to Yambio initially scheduled for 16 November has been cancelled due to lack of interest from organisations, while the one to Kajo Keji is expected to depart before the end of the week. Deadline to register interest for convoys to Kajo Keji (departure 24 November) and Yei (departure 30 November) is this week (17 November and 23 November, respectively).
Organisations interested in joining any upcoming Logistics Cluster convoys are urged to submit their request forms, respecting registration deadlines indicated in the recently published Convoy Schedule November-December 2020.

Organisations interested in transporting cargo to deep field locations in Unity, Northern and Western Bahr El Ghazal through the Beyond Bentiu and Beyond Wau Responses are invited to consult the Weekly Transport Plan, which details available locations, and submit their interest to the Logistics Cluster. Beyond Response Destinations Maps, detailing reachable locations, are available on the Logistics Cluster website.

The Logistics Cluster Bentiu team reported that roads from Juba to Unity (Bentiu and Koch) are starting to dry and there is a chance for the road to Bentiu becoming passable in December. The Logistics Cluster will provide further information on Koch accessibility shortly as one of the partners indicated that a planned mission to this location in the coming days.

The Logistics Cluster informed partners that Maper and Mayendit are served by helicopter from Rumbek during the rainy season as roads are inaccessible. Organisations interested are encouraged to submit their SRF.

The Juba-Bor road is not yet passable for commercial trucks. Although water levels have decreased, the road conditions between riverside, airport and town mean that it is currently only accessible for specialised 8x8 trucks.

Solidarités International (SI) asked for an update on physical accessibility between Mathiang and Maiwut for 4x4 vehicles. The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that the Access Constraints Map monitors road conditions for truck movements and invited organisations to share information with SI on smaller vehicle movements for this route (juba.log.coo@solidarites-southsudan.org).

The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that UNHAS can support with ad hoc passenger movements to flood affected locations which are not part of the regular schedule, as long as it is an inter-agency mission and does not only serve a single organisation.

The Logistics Cluster informed partners that WFP engineering is still rehabilitating the road section between Yirol and Rumbek, which was heavily affected by the floods. The road is expected to open by the end of 2020.

3. River Operations Updates

Boat convoy #14 from Malakal to locations along the Sobat river has been loaded and is expected to depart on 18 November together with a boat convoy carrying WFP food.

Boat convoy #15 from Juba to Bor, initially postponed, is now scheduled to depart during the third week of November, but only for SRFs with onward river transportation from Bor. Due to the road inaccessibility between Bor riverside and airport, registered SRFs for final destination Bor, or for onward air transportation to priority locations, will be flown from Juba once the fixed wing aircraft becomes operational.

Cargo consolidation for boat convoy #16 from Bor to locations along the Sobat river is still ongoing and once enough interest is registered, the estimated date of departure will be communicated to partners.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssid11a
Interested organisations are invited to submit their SRF to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org and pre-position their cargo at the Bor Logistics Cluster hub.

- Barge #9 (Bor to Malakal) has reached Malakal after departing Bor on 10 November and is awaiting cargo offloading.
- Cargo consolidation is ongoing for barge #10 (Bor to Melut). The loading is expected to depart in the next two weeks after cargo from boat convoy #15 has been cross-loaded onto the barge. Following recent security incidents in Renk, the final destination of this barge will be Melut. Operations to Renk will resume when clearances have been granted by WFP Access and Security units.
- Partners were reminded that boat convoys are available from Bor to Old Fangak and to destinations along the Sobat river, as well as from Malakal to Tonga and Sobat river locations. More details on locations and deadlines are available on the schedule found here.
- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the lead time from Juba to Kaka with river transportation is approximately 10 days. However, taking into consideration the cargo transhipment in Bor and time needed to offload partner’s cargo to other locations, the delivery of items is expected to take longer.
- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that estimated transit time for all destinations served with river transportation is available in the River Transportation Network Diagram.

4. Logistics Efficiencies and Pre-positioning Strategy

- Recognising that organisations are currently heavily engaged with the flood response, the Logistics Cluster reminded partners that it is also important to start planning ahead for 2021 to make sure organisations take advantage of the pre-positioning window when roads are accessible during the dry season.
- So far in 2020, the Logistics Cluster transported 47% of all requested cargo by road and river (15% increase compared to 2019). The Logistics Cluster will continue to advocate for operational efficiencies by aiming to keep expanding the use of road and river transport. The Logistics Cluster is planning to remove the Rumbek-based helicopter from the dry season schedule to reduce operational costs and ensure consistent support throughout the year.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently working on updating the ‘Logistics Efficiency and Pre-positioning Strategy’ document for 2021 and will share it through the mailing list.

5. COVID-19 – PPE Common Request System

- Following the arrival of an additional order of EU funded personal protective equipment (close to 70 mt) worth USD 4 million, procured by WFP through the UN Supply Portal, the PPE Common Request System is now open to non-health partner organisations. This system facilitates the distribution of limited PPE stocks in country.
- The requests are consolidated on a weekly basis and the inter-agency technical team allocates PPE based on the information presented. All requesting organisations will receive feedback on the request and further instructions on the release procedure. Organisations were reminded that submitting the request does not guarantee fulfilment of the request or assure PPE availability.
The Logistics Cluster will disseminate detailed instructions and the request form through the mailing list. In case of any questions, organisations are requested to contact the Logistics Cluster team: brian.langdon@wfp.org or karolina.greda@wfp.org.

6. AOB/Discussion

- ACROSS inquired if any organisation has planned movements to Boma and is willing to support them in transporting cargo to this destination. Organisations in a position to support ACROSS are invited to email logistics@across-ssd.org.
- ICRC is currently planning to build an incinerator to ensure proper disposal of expired medical items as recommended by WHO. Organisations interested in joining this effort are invited to directly contact rdunia@icrc.org.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for 15 December at 12:00 and will be held online.

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