Meeting Minutes, 15 December 2020
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION: Juba, online
DATE: 15 December 2020
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS: Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Emergency Response and Development Initiative (ERDI), GOAL, Healthcare Foundation Organization (HFO), Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland, MSF Spain, MSF Switzerland, New Life Ministry South Sudan, Oxfam, Solidarités International (SI), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

ACTION POINTS:
- The Logistics Cluster to share updates on the road rehabilitation activities and plans undertaken by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and WFP.
- The Logistics Cluster to share further information on the Online Training on Medical Logistics in Pandemics (MLP) planned for February.

AGENDA:
1. 2021 Prepositioning Strategy
2. Logistics Cluster Operational Updates
3. AOB

1. 2021 Prepositioning Strategy

- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners about the importance of planning ahead for 2021 to make sure organisations take advantage of the prepositioning window when roads are accessible during the dry season.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to encourage logistics and cost efficiencies by implementing a shift in transport modalities, decreasing reliance on air transport and instead better utilising road and river transport. This strategy enables responding organisations to establish an uninterrupted supply chain that supports the delivery of humanitarian relief items to affected populations by prepositioning their required stocks early. In 2020, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 47% of all cargo movement requests by road and river, which is a 15% increase compared to 2019.
- The organisations were reminded about Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) available for loan. The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to MSUs in deep-field locations for the strategic prepositioning of relief items based on the needs of requesting organisations, as part of preparedness measures. Priority is given to organisations willing to manage MSUs as common storage facilities rather than individual use, especially in the areas prioritised for interventions by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG).
- WFP is planning (funding dependent) a road maintenance programme with UNMISS and as soon as main supply routes are open, air support on these routes will cease. Rehabilitation of some of the main

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supply roads heavily affected by floods is ongoing and the Logistics Cluster will share further details when available.

- MSF Holland provided an overview of their stock prepositioning strategy during the dry season, highlighting significant financial savings by using road instead of air transport, and a need for organisation-wide planning and inter-functional coordination to implement the strategy.
- The Logistics Cluster is currently working on updating the ‘Logistics Efficiency and Pre-positioning Strategy’ document for 2021, which will be published on the website and shared through the mailing list. To achieve what is set out in this strategy, flexibility and cooperation will be required from all organisations, as well as early procurement of pipeline supplies prior to dry season.

2. Logistics Cluster Operational Updates

Air Operation & 2020 Flood Response

- Current list of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) priority locations:
  - Reachable by air:
    - **Priority 1**
      - **Jonglei:** Ayod, Bor South, Duk, Nyirol, and Twic East;
      - **GPAA:** Pibor, Likuangole, Gumuruk, Verthet, Labarab, Dorein;
      - **Lakes:** Awerial, Ciiebiet, Rumbek East,
      - **Unity:** Leer and Panyijiar;
    - **Priority 2**
      - **Jonglei:** Pocharla, Akobo, Fangak and Uror;
      - **Upper Nile:** Renk, Fashoda, Nasir/Luakpiny and Ulang;
      - **Unity:** Koch, Mayendit and Pariang.
  - Reachable by road:
    - **Lakes:** Rumbek Centre, Yirol East and Yirol West;
    - **Western Equatoria:** Mundri East and Mundri West;
    - **Central Equatoria:** Juba and Terekeka;
    - **Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal:** Aweil West;
    - **Unity:** Abiemnhom.
- COVID-19 supplies continue to be prioritised and the Logistics Cluster remains flexible to facilitate the movement of COVID-19 related cargo 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. Partners were reminded that non-priority cargo is served as well, but as per the Logistics Cluster mandate, priority locations are served first.
- Partners were informed that the helicopter, which was temporarily transferred to Bor, has now returned to Rumbek for a two-week period to transport pending cargo to Unity state. Another helicopter will be deployed to Bor in the coming days to support cargo movement to flood-affected locations in Jonglei.

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- The Juba-based fixed wing aircraft is now operational and has resumed operations. Due to road inaccessibility between Bor riverside and airport, the fixed wing is used to support organisations to preposition critical/priority flood response cargo in Bor for onward deliveries to Jonglei. Organisations were reminded that only locations where fixed wing aircrafts can land are served out of Juba, which are very limited during rainy season.

**Road Operation**

- Organisations interested in joining any upcoming Logistics Cluster convoys are reminded to submit their request forms, respecting registration deadlines indicated in the recently published Convoy Schedule January-March 2021.
- Western Corridor Convoys are coordinated every two weeks, but frequency may increase to weekly based on demand during dry season. Currently, the Juba/Mundri/Mvolo road is used, as rehabilitation works are ongoing between Yirol and Rumbek. The Terekeka-Nyirol road is expected to be opened this week. Organisations were reminded that convoys go up to Abiemnhom only, as Bentiu remains inaccessible. The next convoy is expected to depart on 4 January.
- Convoys to the Equatoria are coordinated every two months. The next movement is planned for January 2021.
- 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.

**River Operation**

- Cargo consolidation for boat convoy #16 from Juba to Bor and #17 from Bor to locations along the Sobat river is still ongoing. Once enough interest is registered, the estimated date of departure will be communicated to partners. Interested organisations are invited to submit their SRF to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org and preposition their cargo at the Juba Logistics Cluster warehouse or Bor Logistics Cluster hub.
- Barge #11 from Bor to Malakal is on route.
- Cargo consolidation is ongoing for barge #12 from Bor to Melut. More details on locations and respective deadlines are available in the recently published River Movement Schedule January-March 2021.
- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that estimated transit times for all destinations served with river transportation is available in the River Transportation Network Diagram.

### 3. AOB/Discussion

- The Logistics Cluster announced that, in partnership with the Kuehne Foundation, the Online Training on Medical Logistics in Pandemics (MLP) will be delivered in February 2021 to humanitarian logisticians working across South Sudan. The training, provided by HELP Logistics, aims to equip aid workers with the most essential logistics and supply chain knowledge in the context of medical operations. Special
focus will be put on the current response to COVID-19. Further details, including the registration link, will be provided via the mailing list.

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the Juba-Bord road is not yet passable for commercial trucks. Although water levels have decreased, the road conditions between the riverside, airport and town mean that it is currently only accessible for specialised 8x8 trucks.
- The Logistics Cluster confirmed that the Rumbek-Wau road, which is part of the Western Corridor, is passable for 20 mt trucks.
- It was pointed out that, if the convoy routes are changed due to physical constraints, then cargo clearance documents might not be valid as they are granted for specific routes. The Logistics Cluster will look into this when convoy routes change, however, JBVMM blanket clearance for all routes is available.

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

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