Meeting Minutes, 12 January 2021
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION
Juba, online

DATE
12 January 2021

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Aid Intervention for Development Organization (AAIDO South Sudan), Child’s Destiny Development Organization (CHIDDO), Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Malteser International, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Spain, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Mobile Humanitarian Agency (MHA), National Relief and Development Corps (NRDC), Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Save the Children International (SCI), Sudan Evangelical Alliance Partners (SEA Partners), Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Tearfund, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), World Relief (WR)

ACTION POINTS
• Logistics Cluster to share with partners the January – December 2020 infographic.
• Partners to complete the 2020 End of Year User Feedback Survey.
• Logistics Cluster to remove Rumbek-based helicopter from its fleet at the end of January.
• Organisations to submit interest for joining Western Corridor Convoys all the way up to Bentiu.
• Organisations to submit nominations for Online Training on Medical Logistics in Pandemic before 15 January.

AGENDA
1. 2020 in Numbers – Logistics Cluster Achievements
2. 2020 End of Year User Feedback Survey
3. 2021 Dry Season Strategy
4. Logistics Cluster Operational Updates
5. COVID-19 Updates – PPE Common Request System
6. Online Training on Medical Logistics in Pandemics (MLP) – HELP Logistics

1. 2020 in Numbers - Logistics Cluster Achievements

• The main 2020 achievements highlighted by the Logistics Cluster are:
  o The drastic expansion of road and river transport modalities which accounted for 47% of the 7465 mt of cargo transported in 2020. This resulted in a 14% decreased reliance on air operations compared to 2019 and enabled the transportation of an additional 1000 mt.
  o A total of 190 organisations supported through coordination, information management, trainings and facilitation of common services.
  o The publication of 234 Information Management products on the Logistics Cluster website.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssid11a
• The Logistics Cluster highlighted that a large part of these achievements can be attributed to the great collaboration accomplished with all partners throughout the year, who showed great flexibility by adapting to the transport modality shift strategy. The Logistics Cluster is looking forward to continuing this collaboration in 2021 to keep driving logistics and costs efficiencies in the South Sudan humanitarian response.

• The Logistics Cluster will share with partners the January – December 2020 infographic, that will provide further details of the 2020 achievements.

2. 2020 End of Year User Feedback Survey

• Partners were informed that the Logistics Cluster 2020 End of Year User Feedback Survey is now open and can be accessed at the below link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/End_2020_South_Sudan_Cluster_User_Feedback_Survey

• Partners are highly encouraged to complete the survey to provide feedback on how they assess the Logistics Cluster’s performance and whether their organisation’s needs are being met. This will enable the Logistics Cluster to tailor its strategy and better support partners.

• The Logistics Cluster will provide a report of practical findings by the end of March 2021.

3. 2021 Dry Season Strategy

• The Logistics Cluster informed partners that most of the major supply roads in South Sudan are now accessible to all vehicle types, including all Equatoria convoy locations as well as the Western Corridor all the way up to Bentiu. As such, partners are highly encouraged to take advantage of this window to pre-position the adequate amount of cargo ahead of the 2021 rainy season.

• With the aim of further decreasing reliance on air operations in 2021 and as roads are now drying up, the Logistics Cluster decided to remove the Rumbek-based helicopter for a two-month period, starting end of January.

  o Life-saving urgent cargo will still be transported by air to remote locations on an ad hoc basis using other existing air assets, but only if enough requests have been consolidated.
  o Organisations are encouraged to plan ahead, taking into consideration that the lead time to transport items to Unity State is significantly longer by road than by air.

• The Logistics Cluster updated and disseminated through the mailing list the Logistics Efficiencies and Pre-positioning Strategy 2020-2021. To achieve what is set out in this strategy, flexibility and cooperation will be required from all partners, as well as early procurement of pipeline supplies prior to dry season.

4. Logistics Cluster Operational Updates

Air Operation & 2020 Flood Response

• Current list of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) priority locations:

  o Reachable by air:

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- **Jonglei – below counties:**
  - **Akobo:** Wechkoang (Dengjok Payam), Markath (Bilkey Payam), Wechyieryier (Nyadit Payam), Wechgokthiang (Alali/Gakdong Payam);
  - **Ayod:** Western flank Wau, Pajiek, Mogok and Pagil;
  - **Bor South:** entire county;
  - **Duk:** Poktap, Duk, Payuel, Padiet and Panyang;
  - **Twic East:** entire county.

- **GPAA:** Pibor, Kozchal, Manyabol, Vertet.
  - Reachable by road:
    - **Warrap – below counties:**
      - **Tonj East:** Makuach, Wunlit, Payeng, Ananatak, Palal and Paliang payam;
      - **Tonj South:** Tonj, Manyangok, Thiet and Jak Payam;
      - **Tonj North:** Rual Bet, Pagol, Manalor, Akop, Aliek, Kirik and Awul.

- **Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal:** Aweil south.

- COVID-19 supplies continue to be prioritised by the Logistics Cluster. Partners who need to transport such cargo should submit their SRFs via email to 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.

- Organisations were informed that the Rumbek-based helicopter is currently still operational before it will be removed from the Logistics Cluster fleet at the end of January 2021 for a two-month period. There are currently two helicopters positioned in Bor following the deployment of an additional helicopter at the end of December 2020 to support the transportation of items to flood affected and highly food insecure locations. This additional asset has been deployed for a two-month period and will be operational until 20 February 2021.

- The Juba-based fixed wing aircraft is operational and can access an increasing number of locations as airstrips are drying up. As an example, both Pibor and Akobo airstrips can now be served ex-Juba instead of ex-Bor. The Logistics Cluster will continue monitoring airstrip conditions to ensure using the fixed wing aircraft when possible as it has a greater tonnage and volume capacity than the helicopters.

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that requests for locations to be added to the UNHAS regular schedule need to be submitted through the UNHAS Online User Group Committee. Invitations for the committee are shared via the Logistics Cluster mailing list.

**Road Operation**

- 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. As illustrated on the map, many roads have now become accessible to 40 mt trucks, however roads in Jonglei and Unity (south of Bentiu) remain inaccessible and are expected to open up in the coming month.

- Partners were informed that the Juba-Bor road is not yet passable for commercial trucks and as such, the Logistics Cluster continues to support organisations to pre-position their cargo destined to Jonglei and Upper Nile in Bor using the fixed wing aircraft.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssf11a
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 now that the road to Bentiu is accessible. The next convoy is expected to depart on 15 January and the deadline to submit interest by emailing southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org is 13 January.

Convoys to the Equatoria are coordinated every two months. The next movement is planned for the last week of January and all locations are accessible to 40 mt trucks.

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.

As roads are now drying up around Bentiu and Wau, Partners were reminded that the Logistics Cluster will not fly to locations accessible through the Beyond Responses.

Maps detailing destinations and reachable locations are available on the Logistics Cluster website.

Partners were informed that for the first time since the Beyond Responses was introduced in 2015/16 in collaboration with IOM, over 1000 mt of cargo has been transported to deep field locations within a calendar year (2020).

River Operation

The first boat convoy of 2021 has departed Bor towards locations along the Sobat river on 7 January. Upcoming boat convoys scheduled for January are detailed below. Interested organisations are invited to submit their SRF to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

- 15 January - boat convoy #2 from Juba to Bor (registration deadline: open);
- 27 January – boat convoy #3 from Bor to the Sobat river (registration deadline: 15 January);
- 27 January – boat convoy #4 from Malakal to the Sobat river (registration deadline: 15 January);
- 28 January – boat convoy #5 from Bor to Old Fangak (registration deadline: 14 January).

Loading of barge #1 from Bor to Melut and destinations in between has already started, and it is expected to depart by the end of the week when clearances have been received.

Cargo consolidation is ongoing for barge #2 from Bor to Melut, which is expected to depart in the last week of January. 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 by river transportation are available in the River Transportation Network Diagram.

Partners were informed that in 2020, the Logistics Cluster coordinated a total of 27 river movements, 10 more than in 2019, which enabled the transport of 2325 mt of humanitarian cargo through waterways.
5. COVID-19 Updates – PPE Common Request System

- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that the personal protective equipment (PPE) Common Request System is still in place in 2021 and that procedures to request access to such commodities remain similar. In 2020, 283 requests from 93 organisations have been approved, allocating a total of more than 3.2 million PPE items from the common pool created by WHO, WFP and IOM, to be received in more than 250 locations across South Sudan.

- Instructions and request form have been disseminated through the Logistics Cluster 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. Online Training on Medical Logistics in Pandemics – HELP Logistics

- Partners were reminded that the Logistics Cluster, in partnership with the Kuehne Foundation, will deliver the Online Training on Medical Logistics in Pandemics (MLP) 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.

- The deadline to submit nominations is Friday 15 January 2021 and the confirmed list of accepted participants will be shared on Monday 18 January by COB (there is no limit of nominations per organisation). Partners can apply using the online form.

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled for 9 February 2021 at 12:00 and will be held online.

Contacts

Fiona Lithgow  Logistics Cluster Coordinator  fiona.lithgow@wfp.org
Blessing Dzambo  Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator - Operations  blessing.dzambo@wfp.org
Brian Langdon  Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator - Preparedness  brian.langdon@wfp.org
Consolata Muriuki  Logistics Officer  consolata.muriuki@wfp.org
Diko Amariah  Logistics Associate - Cargo Tracking  diko.amariah@wfp.org
Lemi Angelo John  Logistics Associate – Juba Hub  lemi.john@wfp.org
Sabri Benzaid  Information Management Officer  sabri.benzaid@wfp.org
Karolina Greda  Logistics Officer - Preparedness  karolina.greda@wfp.org
Richard Izakare  Administrative Assistant  richard.izakare@wfp.org

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