Meeting Minutes, 23 February 2021
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION
Juba, online

DATE
23 February 2021

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
American Refugee Committee (ARC), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Child's Destiny Development Organization (CHIDDO), Emergency Response and Development Initiative, Healthcare Foundation Organisation (HFO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), INTERSOS, Joint Aid Management (JAM), Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières Spain, Médecins Sans Frontières Swiss, Medicair, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), New Life Ministry South Sudan, Oxfam UK, Solidarités International (SI), United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), World Relief (WR)

ACTION POINTS
- Logistics Cluster to coordinate first convoy to Boma and Pochala in Jonglei State.
- Partners to inform the cluster if there are needs to increase Western Corridor Convoys frequency to weekly.
- Organisations to take advantage of the dry season and pre-position cargo by road ahead of the rainy season.
- Medicair to share GPS coordinates of Nyiliech payam with the Logistics Cluster.

AGENDA
1. Logistics Cluster Operational Updates
2. 2020 End of Year User Feedback Survey
3. AOB/Discussion

1. Logistics Cluster Operational Updates

Air Operation Updates
- Current list of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) priority locations:
  - Reachable by air:
    - 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.

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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.

- Facilitation of transport of COVID-19 supplies continue to be prioritised by the Logistics Cluster. Partners who need to transport such cargo should submit their Service Request Forms (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 has been removed from the Logistics Cluster fleet on 1 February 2021 for a two-month period. The current fleet of air assets, facilitated through the Logistics Cluster, consists of the fixed wing aircraft based in Juba and one helicopter only, based in Bor, which will support deliveries ex-Rumbek on ad-hoc basis when enough requests have been consolidated.

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that airstrip assessments of Boma, Nyal, Ganyiel and Mabior will take place in the coming weeks to assess potential fixed wing accessibility.

- ARC asked the Logistics Cluster if Ulang, located in Upper Nile, is served with air operations. The Logistics Cluster informed partners that Ulang is reachable by river and reminded partners that the Logistics Cluster does not facilitate air transport to any locations reachable by road/river.

**Road Operation 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](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssl1a). As illustrated on the map, the main supply roads of the country have now become accessible to 40 mt trucks, however roads in Jonglei remain inaccessible and are expected to open in the coming month.

- Partners were informed that the road to Boma and Pochala is now open to trucks up to 20mt. As such the Logistics Cluster will no longer transport cargo to these destinations by air but instead add these two locations as an extension to the Kapoeta convoy.

- The Logistics Cluster informed partners that roads leading from Bentiu to Central Unity (e.g. Koch, Leer) are now accessible to commercial trucks and organisations are encouraged to pre-position cargo in deep field locations using the Beyond Bentiu road operations.

- 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 could increase to weekly upon request, as the road to Bentiu is now accessible. The next convoy is expected to depart on 26 February. Organisations interested should email southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org prior to the deadlines indicated in the above schedule.
The Logistics Cluster coordinated an ad-hoc convoy to Kapoeta expected to depart on 23 February. Partners were reminded that although convoys to Equatoria States are coordinated every two months, the Logistics Cluster will remain flexible in facilitating ad hoc convoys during the dry season to take advantage of roads being fully 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.

- Partners were reminded that four of the six counties prioritised for the response scale-up to food insecure counties (Tonj East/North/South and Aweil South) are served through the Beyond Wau Response, as the Logistics Cluster has not received any SRFs to transport items to these counties.
- Maps detailing destinations and reachable locations are available on the Logistics Cluster website.

Oxfam asked the Logistics Cluster whether Lankien, located in Jonglei State, is accessible by road. The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the six counties located north of Bor, including in Jonglei Nyirol where Lankien is located, remain inaccessible for road operations. WFP is starting rehabilitation work on the dykes and roads north of Bor in order to make it accessible for pre-positioning before the rainy season. In the meantime, Lankien is a location served with the fixed wing aircraft from Juba.

SI asked the Logistics Cluster if there is any WFP rehabilitation plan for the Sopo bridge located between Wau and Raja. The Logistics Cluster informed partners that the Sopo bridge is not part of WFP’s road rehabilitation plan as it focuses mainly on the Jonglei area. However, partners informed the Logistics Cluster that trucks are still able to bypass the bridge to access Raja. Additionally, WFP Logistics informed the Logistics Cluster that there is an alternative road from Aweil that also enables access to Raja with trucks.

River Operation Updates

- Partners were reminded that the Juba – Bor road is now open, organisations are requested to pre-position their cargo in Bor for both onward river and air Movements.
- Following a Logistics Cluster mission to Panyijar county, the cluster is looking into expanding river operations to both Ganyiel and Nyal, two of the locations most reliant on air operations.
- Partners were also informed that WFP Logistics will start river operation to ex-Malakal to Pagil, Mogok and Ayod in Jonglei. As per its 2020 strategy, the Logistics Cluster will also look into serving the mentioned locations through river operations instead of air transport.
- Upcoming boat convoys scheduled for March are detailed below, with estimated times of departure to be confirmed once enough cargo has been consolidated. Interested organisations are invited to submit their SRF to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
  - First week of March – boat convoy #2 from Malakal to the Sobat river (organisations with cargo already positioned in Malakal to submit interest – planning is ongoing);
  - Second week of March – boat convoy #2 from Bot to the Sobat river;
  - Second week of March – boat convoy #4 from Bor to Menime-Haat-Old Fangak.

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• Organisations were notified that the Zeraf river mouth ex-Bor is currently inaccessible, requiring the boat convoys to pass via New Fangak. As such, to ensure maximum efficiencies and timely deliveries, the Logistics Cluster recommends partners to allocate cargo destined to Old Fangak, Menime, Haat and Wan Machar from Malakal.

• The first barge of 2021 departed Bor on 29 January and is currently offloading cargo in Melut.

• Cargo consolidation is ongoing for barge #2 from Bor to Melut, which is expected to depart in the last week of March. However, the Logistics Cluster notified partners that cargo that has already been registered might be co-loaded on a WFP barge and as such be dispatched prior to end of March. Interested organisations are invited to submit their requests prior to the deadline indicated in the River Movement Schedule January-March 2021.

• Organisations were informed that humanitarian operations in Renk are still on hold due to insecurities. OCHA is coordinating a high-level mission aimed at resuming activities. As such, registered SRFs will be served after access and security has been cleared for Logistics Cluster river movements.

• The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that estimated transit times for all destinations served by river transportation are available in the River Transportation Network Diagram.

• Medicair requested the Logistic Cluster if Nyiliech (Manyo county, Upper Nile State) is a location served by river from Malakal. The Logistics Cluster requested Medicair to share GPS coordinates of the location bilaterally in order to determine which transport modality can serve this location.

2. 2020 End of Year User Feedback Survey

• A total of 38 participants took part in the Logistics Cluster 2020 End of Year User Satisfactory Survey. The Logistics Cluster achieved an overall satisfaction of 97.5%. The breakdown shows that most participants are located in Juba and as such the Logistics Cluster reminded partners to disseminate the survey with their field-based staff accessing common logistics services.

Coordination pillar

• The Logistics Cluster obtained a satisfactory score of 97.37% with regards to coordination. The main recommendations to improve the Logistics Cluster coordination performance is to increase partner engagement and participation in coordination meetings and resume coordination meetings at field hubs level. Partners were reminded that the Skype Logistics Coordination group is monitored by partners themselves with the objective of addressing specific issues the Logistics Cluster is not able to support with (e.g. extra space in trucks for road convoys).

Information Management (IM) pillar

• The Logistics Cluster obtained a satisfactory score of 100% with regards to Information Management (IM). The main recommendations to improve the Logistics Cluster IM performance is to incorporate sub-national level information and reduce amounts of convoy-related emails on the mailing list. As part of the 2021 Logistics Cluster strategy, the Logistics Cluster will increase deep field coordination which will enable better channelling of information from sub-national level. The Logistics Cluster noted the recommendation on convoy emails to mailing list and will address it shortly. Partners were reminded to use existing resources on the Logistics Cluster website, that contains an archive of all documents.

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shared via the mailing list. The Logistics Cluster also encouraged Juba-based logisticians to share information with their field level colleagues or ensure they are part of the mailing list.

**Common Logistics Services Pillar**

- The Logistics Cluster obtained a satisfactory score of 100% with regards to common logistics services. Main recommendations are classified per transport modality:
  - **Air transport services**: To address several recommendations to increase air operations, the Logistics Cluster reminded partners that the Logistics Cluster strategy aims at reducing reliance on air operations and expanding river and road operations when possible. Partners that need certain items in their Service Request Forms to be delivered more urgently than other items should specify this to the Logistics Cluster who will try to support, bearing in mind the need to maximise aircraft payloads.
  - **River transport services**: As the main feedback received was regarding the longer lead-time faced by partners with waterway transport, the Logistics Cluster reminded partners that river schedules are tentative and depend on the amount of cargo consolidated & requests received to facilitate the departure. Partners are recommended to plan ahead taking into consideration the longer lead-time on river operations.
  - **Road Transport services**: Partners were requested to share any challenges faced after convoy departures with the Logistics Cluster to ensure relevant units are informed in a timely fashion and are able to take necessary actions. Organisations were reminded that the South Sudan Logistics Cluster website contains information with regards to clearance processes and procedures related to road transport services.

- Partners that would like to make additional recommendations or further discuss the 2020 End of Year User Feedback Survey are invited to contact blessing.dzambo@wfp.org and sabri.benzaid@wfp.org.

### 3. AOB/Discussions

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) informed partners that they will share a one-pager document providing information on the Humanitarian Hubs projects across South Sudan and how it can benefit other organisations with the Logistics Cluster. The Logistics Cluster will disseminate it via the mailing list.

- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners on the importance of fully taking advantage of physical road accessibility during the dry season to pre-position cargo in strategic locations. The main findings from the Logistics Cluster mission to Nyal and Ganyiel is that there is a very limited pre-positioning strategy in place for Non-Food items in deep field locations which forces the Logistics Cluster to rely on air operations during the rainy season. Partners were invited to consult the Logistics Efficiency and Pre-positioning Strategy 2020-2021 and ensure they integrate logistical efficiencies as part of their operational planning.

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

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