LOCATION: Khartoum, Sudan – Online

DATE: 6 August 2020

CHAIR: Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS: Alight (American Refugee Council), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), GOAL, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Islamic Relief Worldwide, Medair, Near East Foundation, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and World Food Programme (WFP).

ACTION POINT: Partners are asked to share their needs for logistics trainings as well as information on logistics training opportunities (and related providers) available in Sudan.

AGENDA:

1. Logistics Cluster: Background and Key Functions
2. COVID-19 – Operations and Logistics
3. Rain Season and Flooding Situation
4. WFP Fuel Access Service
5. Any Other Business

1. Logistics Cluster: Background and Key Functions

- The mandate of the Logistics Cluster was reiterated in the light of the Cluster Approach adopted in 2005 to address consistent gaps and weaknesses and to improve international responses to humanitarian crises.
- Clusters are groups of organisations and other stakeholders designated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and committed to strengthen response capacity, coordination and accountability by enhancing partnerships in the following key sectors: WASH, Shelter, Protection, Nutrition, Health, Food Security, Emergency Telecommunications, Education, Early Recovery, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Logistics.
- WFP is the leading agency for the Logistics Cluster and the provider of last resort in the case of capacity deficit to adequately meet the identified needs of the humanitarian community.
- The Logistics Cluster activities are separate from, but can coordinate with, other services including WFP bilateral service provision and UNHAS.
In Sudan, the Logistics Cluster aims to provide operational coordination, produce and disseminate logistical information and facilitate access to logistics services as per the needs revealed through the Gaps and Needs Exercise (GNE) conducted in June 2020.

Key means of communications and information sharing for the Sudan Logistics Cluster include for now a mailing list (sudan.cluster@wfp.org) and a dedicated country page: https://logcluster.org/ops/sdn20a.

A Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for the country is also available at: https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Sudan.


2. COVID-19 – Operations and Logistics

The last COVID-19 coordination meeting for Western states took place on 27 July. The focal point for North Darfur reported a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Challenges related to funding to support rapid response activities as well as the transportation of medicines and other medical supplies from Khartoum by the National Medical Supplies Fund (NMSF) were also raised. Laboratories in El Fasher are functioning and are able to run COVID-19 tests locally. Only three people were in isolation in the State at the time of the meeting.

WFP is willing to support the transportation of medicines from Khartoum to the States once the distribution plan is shared by the NMSF.

3. Rain Season and Flooding Situation

The Humanitarian Aid Commissioner reported localised floods across most States in the recent days. The floods are affecting over 50,000 people.

A meeting of the Floods Task Force took place on 3 August and was attended by the focal points of the Blue Nile, Khartoum and River Nile States. Due to road access constraints, an army helicopter was used to transport relief items to flooded areas in the Blue Nile State. Forecasts shared during the meeting show above normal rainfalls across all States for the June-September 2020 period. In the light of these forecasts, more floods are expected to occur this month.

Through two helicopter flight rotations coordinated by the Ministry of Health on 2 August, UNICEF was able to bring WASH and health supplies to Bau and Wadabok areas (Blue Nile State) that have been particularly affected by the floods. The supplies, which included antibiotics, bed nets, ringer’s lactate and Integrated Management of Childhood Illness kits, were provided by UNICEF and other humanitarian agencies.

Precise needs and locations for additional relief supplies are being assessed by the State focal points and will then be shared by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
4. WFP Fuel Access Service

- The fuel transportation issues have been sorted out and fuel has now been delivered at the following WFP hubs: El-Obeid, Geneina, El Fasher, Kosti, Khartoum and Nyala. Planning for the fuel replenishment of Kadugli, Damazin, Kassala, Kutum & Kabkabiya WFP sub offices is underway.
- WFP has initiated the procurement of an additional 6.5 million litres of fuel.
- WFP is planning on increasing its fuel storage capacity at El Fasher, Nyala, Kassala, Kadugli, Khartoum, Zalingei and Mukjar with the goal to allow partners to access greater quantities of fuel at these locations. The bad conditions of drums at these two depots is another issue that WFP intends to address.

Reminder on Fuel Access Modalities

- All fuel requests for the following month need to be submitted in the last week of the current month. This means that fuel requests for September should be submitted around the week of 25th August.
- One Pro-Forma Invoice (PFI) per agency will be issued within any given month. Several fuel requests within the same month are discouraged. However, fuel can be collected in desired quantities during that month. Kindly note that the PFI goes through a process for approval hence ample time is required for this to be completed.
- A PFI is valid for one month only with the validity period always indicated in the PFI.
- In Khartoum, fuel coupons will be issued from 9 am to 11:30 am from Sunday to Thursday.
- A fuel coupon is valid for only two days. If fuel is not collected within this period, then the coupon will be cancelled, and the agency will need to get a new coupon.
- Each agency is required to have only one focal point with one alternate for matters related to fuel.
- Partners are kindly requested to not deposit payment until the PFI is approved by both parties.
- When sharing the payment confirmation, partners should ensure to also share the PFI for which the payment has been made against.

5. AOB

Logistics Trainings

- The Logistics Cluster is requesting partners to share their needs for logistics trainings as well as information on logistics training opportunities (and related providers) available in Sudan. The Logistics Cluster will then consolidate the information received and share it with all partners.
- The Logistics Cluster operates a comprehensive training programme. More information, including the training catalogue, can be found on the dedicated page of the Logistics Cluster website: https://logcluster.org/trainings
The Logistics Cluster has a free-of-charge online learning platform which can be accessed free-of-charge upon registration: Logistics Cluster Learning Management System webpage

Useful Weblinks to Key Logistics Information and Services

- OCHA Sudan: https://www.unocha.org/sudan
- Emergency Service Marketplace Platform: https://emergency.servicemarketplace.wfp.org/
- WHO Guide for requesting and receiving supplies: Weblink

The next Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, 18 August 2020 at 10:00.

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