
Meeting Minutes, 3 September 2020

Khartoum, Sudan



LOCATION	Khartoum, Sudan – Online
DATE	3 September 2020
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	American Refugee Committee, CARE, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, Concern, Danish Refugee Council, EMERGENCY, International Aid Services, Mercy Corps, Near East Foundation, Norwegian Church Aid, Medair, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Triangle Generation Humanitaire, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, USAID, World Food Programme and World Vision.
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners are encouraged to share with the Logistics Cluster road access information they come across, in order to update the physical access constraints map which is circulated weekly.• Custom clearance and in-country transport authorisations: Partners to share feedback with the Logistics Cluster regarding potential issues and bottlenecks faced in these areas.• Partners are asked to share with OCHA (Salah Koko - koko@un.org) the gaps and needs identified in areas affected by the floods as well as the types and quantities of relief supplies dispatched as part of their response activities.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Operational updates - COVID-192. Rain Season and Flooding Situation3. Partner Overview: UNICEF's activities and logistics operations in Sudan4. WFP Fuel Access Service5. Any Other Business

1. Operational updates - COVID-19

- The last COVID-19 coordination meeting with State focal point took place on 31 August and included reports from the following States: West Darfur, North Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan and White Nile. No new COVID-19 cases, or only a minimal increase, were reported for these States. However, most States mentioned gaps in anti-malaria medicines.
- West Darfur: Commercial flights for passengers resumed this week between Geneina and Khartoum with no quarantine measures imposed upon arrival.

- The still-in-vigor 8 pm to 6 am curfew in Port Sudan is constraining the seaport operations as the port operates at reduced capacities during this timeframe.

Partners updates:

- WFP has received the distribution plan from the National Medical Supplies Fund (NMSF) for COVID-19 medicines and supplies. The distribution has started through WFP fleet in Central Darfur and White Nile and will continue next week for a total of six states.
- UNICEF has completed the distribution of 50.6 mt of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and oxygen concentrators to 14 States.

2. Rain Season and Flooding Situation

- The last flood task force meeting took place on 30 August in the presence of the Commissioner of the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC). HAC reported that an estimated 400,000 households are affected by floods. The meeting focused on the availability and use of sandbags to contain future floods expected until the end of the rainy season (mid/end-September). OCHA requested all humanitarian organisations with capacity to support this effort.
- An inter-agency assessment attended by HAC, OCHA as well as representatives from various humanitarian clusters took place on 2 September in Khartoum State. The meeting's conclusions and outcomes will be shared further with partners.

Partners updates:

- In Blue Nile State, UNICEF reported that the road bridge connecting the northern part of Rossiers town (13 kilometres north of Damazine) to the rest of the locality has collapsed. As a result, the road cannot be used. Heavy rains hit Abu Hugar area in Sennar State and covered the main highway Damazine- Sennar. Ensuing floods resulted in restricted vehicular movement until the water level lowered. Two UNICEF trucks remain immobilised.
- UNICEF provided 15 tents to the Ministry of Social Development and Labor for families that had to be evacuated following the heavy rains that recently affected Khartoum.
- UNHCR is currently supporting the response to the flood situation with the provision of non-food items (NFIs) in the Jebel Aulia, Mayo area through Danish Refugee Council and in Ed Daein through American Refugee Committee. UNHCR also indicated that the agency will receive an emergency airlift of flood relief items on 4 September.
- In order to support OCHA in the facilitation of a coordinated response and effective advocacy to HAC, partners are requested to share with OCHA (Salah Koko - koko@un.org) the gaps and needs identified in areas affected by floods as well as the types and quantities of relief supplies dispatched as part of their response activities.

3. Partner Overview: UNICEF's activities and logistics operations in Sudan

- UNICEF's main hub and distribution centre is in Khartoum. The organisation also has several warehouses in the following locations: Nyala, Geneina, El Fashir, Kadugli and Khartoum. The organisation's cumulated storage capacity is 7,000 cubic meters (CBM) with approximately 3,000 CBM of temperature-controlled storage, 1,650 CBM of dry storage and 2,400 CBM of backup temperature-controlled storage. The organisation distributes to all 18 states of the Sudanese territory and has a stock value that varies between USD 4 million and USD 8 million. UNICEF has relied on local transporters and most recently on WFP bilateral transportation service when the ramping inflation impeded the establishment of long-term agreements with commercial transporters.
- UNICEF has received USD 3.8 million worth of COVID-19 supplies. 50.6 mt of the stock received (the equivalent of USD 2.5 million) have been dispatched so far and the distribution to 18 states continues.
- Starting in March, UNICEF prepositioned 163 mt of supplies in 18 states in anticipation of the raining season.
- Since January 2020, USD 13 million worth of emergency and programme of supplies were received by UNICEF at Port-Sudan and some are currently under clearance. The equivalent of USD 3.8 million of COVID-19 and other programme supplies were received through air shipments.

Logistical challenges

- Fuel shortage in the local market still remains one of the main challenges in terms of movement of supplies.
- The combination of the rain season and poor road infrastructures remains a challenge to the accessibility of some states. Although the prepositioning of relief items prior to the flood season helped UNICEF mitigate these constraints, the COVID-19 outbreak created an additional challenge for the distribution of supplies in regard to this particular emergency. In this context, trucks are moving slowly and are sometime immobilised due blocked roads.
- The lockdown has drastically affected the clearance of most off-shore supplies at both airport and port. The custom authorities were operating with very reduced capacity and the clearance of COVID-19 supplies was therefore prioritised with the support of the Ministry of Health. At Port-Sudan, the use of two cranes instead of 11 under normal circumstances heightened the congestion of the port. In normal time, custom clearance takes three to four weeks but the backlog caused by the lockdown coupled with the current state of insecurity at Port-Sudan could result in clearance time of two months or more.

4. WFP Fuel Access Service

- The current level of WFP fuel stock is low. Therefore, WFP can only partially meet the fuel needs of partners and organisations. Although fuel is currently in transit from Port Sudan, the shipment will most likely take around 10 days before it reaches WFP main depots.

- WFP is initiating the procurement of an additional 6.5 million litres of fuel.
- Fuel in transit to WFP main depots is as followed:
 - 40,000 litres in transit to El Fasher to be received soon;
 - 48,000 litres in transit to Geneina from Port Sudan and scheduled to arrive in approximately 10 days;
 - 130,000 litres in transit to Kosti;
 - 68,000 litres in transit to Nyala.
- The stock capacity at Zalengei will be increased in two to three month time.

5. Any Other Business

- Partners are reminded to send their WhatsApp number if they wish to be included on the WhatsApp group that the Logistics Cluster will soon create in order to facilitate the immediate exchange of logistical information.
- No roll-out date is available regarding the COVID-19 supply tracking tool developed by WFP. Partners are requested to keep using the dedicated spreadsheet that was circulated in July in order to share their COVID-19 supplies currently in the pipeline.
- The Logistics Cluster is eager to receive more detailed feedback from partners regarding their experiences with custom clearance as well as in-country transport authorisations. Such feedback are critical in order to enhance the Logistics Cluster's understanding of the issues faced and leverage its ability to advocate, in conjunction with OCHA, on these issues.

**The next Sudan Logistics Cluster coordination meeting
is scheduled on Thursday, 17 September 2020, at 10:00.**

Contact

Gerard Genevois	<i>Interim Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	gerard.genevois@wfp.org
Pamela Onyango (Currently on leave)	<i>Logistics Officer</i>	pamela.onyango@wfp.org
Gautier Ferran	<i>Interim Information Management Officer</i>	gautier.ferran@wfp.org