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# Meeting Minutes, 15 October 2020

Khartoum, Sudan

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<b>LOCATION</b>	Khartoum, Sudan – Online
<b>DATE</b>	15 October 2020
<b>CHAIR</b>	Logistics Cluster
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Alight (American Refugee Committee), Catholic International Development Charity in England and Wales, Danish Refugee Council, GOAL, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, Médecins sans Frontières Spain, Mercy Corps, Near East Foundation, Norwegian Refugee Council, Première Urgence Internationale, Shelter Box, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, United Nations Population Fund, USAID, Welthungerhilfe, World Food Programme and World Vision.
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Operational Updates</li><li>2. Inflation: challenges on procurement activities</li><li>3. Any Other Business</li></ol>

## 1. Operational updates

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### COVID-19:

- According to the Federal Ministry of Health, 1,014 persons, mainly travellers, underwent a COVID-19 test on 11 October and six of them were tested positive.

### Chikungunya outbreak

- 153 cases of Chikungunya have been reported in West Darfur as of 13 October.

### Flood response

- The Logistics Cluster has produced flood response maps for the following States: [Khartoum](#), [Sennar](#), [Blue Nile](#), [West Darfur](#), [Central Darfur](#), [South Darfur](#), [North Darfur](#) and [Al-Gezira](#) States. The maps combine geographical information on road conditions as of 14 October and flooded areas through satellite data gathered during the 9-13 October period. The maps are available in both PDF and PNG formats and will be updated regularly for the states most affected by the current flood emergency.

## 2. Inflation: challenges on procurement activities

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- According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the annual inflation rose to 212 percent last month, a record high. This steep increase is negatively affecting the procurement activities of humanitarian

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organisations operating in Sudan, including when it comes to the contracting of local transporters, as reported by a growing number of both national and international aid actors.

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) shared during the meeting about its own experience of dealing with this challenge. DRC has established two scenarios after consulting with legal consultants. One approach is to pay suppliers through local banks which allow suppliers to withdraw payments in US Dollars (USD). Bank of Khartoum has been reported to allow suppliers to transfer to importers in USD up to 50 percent maximum and remaining 50 percent to be withdrawn in Sudanese Pounds as per official bank rate. It has been reported that Blue Nile Bank allows account holders to withdraw in USD up to certain threshold. The other approach is to issue payment outside of Sudan when the registered supplier in Sudan has a foreign bank account. In this case, the payment needs to legally include the VAT amount of 17 percent of the total transaction that the vendor is due to later declare and remit to the Sudanese Government.
- According to UNHCR, a recently published provision of the Central bank of Sudan now allows all suppliers to open hard currency accounts and to sell their foreign exchange currencies (e.g. USD) to other importers outside of bank arrangements. This provision is said to have contributed to the improvement of the current procurement contracting situation.

### 3. Any Other Business

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- WFP informs partners that its fleet transport service is disrupted since 5 October due to inflation-caused strikes by outsourced workers. WFP is confident that this issue will be soon resolved, and that fleet transport service will quickly resume.
- The Humanitarian Needs Overview draft has been released. The process for the elaboration of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 process has begun and is ongoing. In this regard, a consultation workshop is taking place today (15 October) with the whole humanitarian community, including donors and non-governmental organisations, in order to discuss the strategic humanitarian objectives for 2021.

#### Contacts

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Gerard Genevois	<i>Interim Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	<a href="mailto:gerard.genevois@wfp.org">gerard.genevois@wfp.org</a>
Pamela Onyango	<i>Logistics Officer</i>	<a href="mailto:pamela.onyango@wfp.org">pamela.onyango@wfp.org</a>
Gautier Ferran	<i>Interim Information Management Officer</i>	<a href="mailto:gautier.ferran@wfp.org">gautier.ferran@wfp.org</a>