
Meeting Minutes, 11 February 2021

Khartoum, Sudan



LOCATION	Khartoum, Sudan – Online
DATE	11 February 2021
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Aid Services (IAS), Mercy Corps, Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), Welthungerhilfe (WHH), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP)
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisations experiencing challenges with customs and clearances to contact United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).• Update on locations for MSUs during the rainy season to be provided at next cluster meeting by partners.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Needs and Gaps2. Refugee Crisis in Eastern Sudan and Geneina Crisis: updates from agencies3. AOB

1. Logistics Needs and Gaps

- There are no major challenges or issues reported on road transportation.
- The trucks that were unable to proceed from Zalengei to Geneina were able to move and reach their destination on 7 Feb with the cargo reaching the partners. There are currently no access challenges in reaching Geneina.
- Access constraint maps will become available again on a weekly basis within the month.
- The situation at Port Sudan has eased, with cargo being discharged normally. Partners are encouraged to share their feedback on Port Sudan, in particular their experience with obtaining customs and clearance approval, and to report if any update has been provided to OCHA on these matters.
- Partners are invited to reach out to the Logistics Cluster with input on products and information that would be useful.

2. Ethiopian refugee crisis and the Geneina crisis: Updates from agencies

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS resumed flights to Geneina with effect from 10 February.

- Access constraints for flights to Gedarif are in place till 12 April. UNHAS is therefore not able to conduct scheduled flights to Gedarif and the refugee camps. Access constraints for flights to Gedarif are in place till 12 April. On an exceptional basis (i.e. Medical evacuation - Medevac), a flight approval will be sought from relevant authorities.
- UNHAS cancelled flights to Nyala on 10 and 11 February due to access constraints. UNHAS will resume its normal flight to Nyala from Sunday 14 February.
- UNHAS El Fasher based helicopter will be down on routine maintenance from 14 through to 18 February. This will affect capacity to service deep field locations in East Darfur that are usually served from El Fasher.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Some supplies dispatched to Gedarif last week
- There is still some stock in Port Sudan, but the situation has eased. The situation with exemptions and approvals for customs clearance. Ongoing conversations with relevant authorities on expediting process of exemptions and approvals ongoing.
- Supplies for Geneina and Gedarif are still in Khartoum airport being cleared. Approval process completed but the process was challenging, in part due to new regulations imposed.
- Geneina – water trucking still ongoing at gathering points.
- Bed nets dispatched to Geneina from Khartoum with the support of WFP, stocks of Bed nets also exist in Port Sudan – relevant authorities have agreed to issue clearances for dispatch. Discussions ongoing on replenishment of stocks used in the current campaign.
- Stock of tents from Port Sudan will be dispatched to Geneina as soon as possible.
- Stock of back to school supplies for Geneina prepositioned. Plans to send more supplies on hold until further updates on opening of schools.
- Reports received on potential access challenges in Al-Fulah. The Logistic Cluster to follow up and any relevant information to be shared by partners.

United Nations High Commission (UNHCR)

- UNHCR is in the process of opening a new camp in Blue Nile.
- UNHCR intends to deliver 2,000 Core Relief items consisting of Family Kits to Blue Nile, 1,448 Family Tents, and 3 Rub Halls in the coming days.
- Efforts are also being made for the deployment of trucks and buses for the relocation of refugees to camp.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

- Have been affected by access constraints around East and West Darfur, leading to delays in staff travel and delivery of some supplies.
- Operations in Central Darfur and Red Sea proceeding normal.
- Agreement reached with vendors in Khartoum to deliver relief items to Geneina, Habila and Forboranga.

3. AOB

- Participants discussed the importance of consistency in terms of meeting participants to facilitate information sharing.
- Participants agreed to change the schedule to bi-weekly meetings, with the understanding that a meeting may be called if there is an urgent need.
- UNICEF will aim to use WFP Bilateral Service Provision for transport of supplies, including mostly emergency supplies to Geneina, Kassala, Gedarif and Al-Fulah. Clarification on time required from the time the Service Request Form (SRF) is submitted to trucks being provided for emergency supplies and normal programme supplies. As per WFP Logistics, the timeframe recommended in normal circumstances for the loading preparations is seven days. Commercial transporters have their trucks across the country and WFP advises giving at least one weeks' notice. On occasion, emergency shipments have been handled in a faster timeframe, but this depends on multiple factors – most transporters are based in Khartoum, meaning they may have trucks on standby that can be utilised in emergencies.
- WFP Bilateral Service Provision for transport is prioritised based on factors such as nature of emergency and cargo type. Providing early and as complete information as possible (cargo type, weight, volume, packaging) is advised. WFPs aims to respond to emergency requests by partners within two to three days.
- CRS raised whether it will be possible for WFP to provide status report breakdowns of fuel balance to date. WFP facing some challenges but aiming to institute breakdown and monthly reports of fuel requests this year.

The next meeting will be held on 25 February 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

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