Sudan Operation

Sudan – Global call meeting minutes

10 May 2023

LOCATION	Online (Rome, Italy)
DATE	10 May 2023
CHAIR	Global Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	ACTED, Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee), Direct Relief, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK (FCDO), HULO COOP, Humanity & Inclusion-Atlas Logistique, Humedica International Aid, IMPACCT Working Group, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins Sans Frontières International (MSF), Save the Children, ShelterBox, The UPS Foundation, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Vision (WVI)
AGENDA	1. Action points 2. Situation Update 3. Entry Points status 4. Local Market Capacity 5. Plans 6. AOB
ACTION POINTS	• Partners to share their estimated pipeline (and special needs) and current storage capacity in key locations for cargo consolidation (form) • Logistics Cluster to clarify if the reefer connectors are functioning or not in Port Sudan. • Logistics Cluster to share with global partners UNHAS communication on the airbridge PSU-ADD.

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1. Action points review

- The Logistics Cluster to share a more detailed plan on the support activities to partners' cargo consolidation activities. – ACTIONED. The concept of Operations is available online
- Partners to share their estimated pipeline, current storage capacity in Abeche, Port Sudan and Jeddah and special needs for cargo consolidation (form) – ONGOING. The survey has been shared and continues to be available here
- The Logistics Cluster to confirm with shipping companies if sea transport is functioning normally between Jeddha and Port Sudan. ACTIONED. It was confirmed with some private sector companies that shipping lines are covering the route between Jeddha and Port Sudan.
- The Logistics Cluster to clarify the procedures and requirements to airlift cargo to Jeddah and then ship it to Port Sudan – ONGOING. IMPACCT Working Group is working on clarifying the procedures.

2. Situation Update

- The new Regional Logistics Coordinator is Fiona Lithgow, she will be based in Nairobi, supporting the regional response and the Sudan Logistics Cluster coordinator, Ali Awan, who is based in Sudan.
- A brief update on the humanitarian situation based on OCHA, UNHCR and IOM reports was provided.
- As expected, humanitarian access remains as one of the main challenges, and the situation remains very volatile.
- Sudan – Airports:
    - Airspace remains closed
    - Port Sudan Airport Operational and Customs offices opened
    - Port Sudan ad hoc landing permits granted. Some partners have already landed cargo.
- Sudan – Sea Port
    - Operational and functional, shipping line still calling the port and customs offices opened.
- Sudan - Land Border crossing points
    - Galabat (SDN) /Metema (ETH): border and customs opened
    - Kosti/Rabak (SDN) / Renk (SSD): border and customs opened
    - Umm Rawq (SDN) / Am Dafok (CAR): border and customs opened
    - Argeen (SDN/EGY) border and customs opened. Gov of Egypt has approved a humanitarian corridor to Sudan
    - Maragibir (SUD) / Adre (TCD): land border crossing point officially closed. All the entry points from Chad are being continuously monitored as this might be an option for a humanitarian corridor once re-entry is possible.
- IMPACCT Working Group is also working on clarifying the procedures and options in place to move cargo from other countries, such as Chad and Saudi Arabia.
- A partner inquired about the use of Suakin Port instead of Port Sudan. WFP Shipping shared that, when compared to Port Sudan Port, the port may not be properly equipped with handling equipment.

- Another partner inquired if reefer connectors are functioning at Port Sudan. The Logistics Cluster will provide additional information as, despite there are 60 refers container plug points, there have been reports of electricity cuts.

3. Local Market Capacity

- Field partners continue flagging the banks' closure as one of the main issues hampering their operations.
- Fuel access is limited in the country, but some service providers are functional in Port Sudan.
- Movement of fuel to other areas is extremely challenging.
- Transporters movement was recorded on some routes (Southeast), but security incidents were reported.
- Security contractors are equally impacted, facing challenges to ensure security at facilities.
- Connectivity issues (power supply issues) – WFP opened internet access to partners in Port Sudan

4. Logistics Plan

Some partners shared updates on their logistics plans during the meeting:

UNHAS

- Yesterday the last rotation between Jeddah and Port Sudan took place. The aircraft has been repositioned in Addis Ababa to start a service between Addis Ababa and Port Sudan.
- The plan is to carry out the first flight on 15 May, Sunday, and all the information has already been disseminated with the partners.
- The initial plan is to have two flights per week (on Sunday and Thursday), although there are still ongoing discussions on shifting the service to Nairobi. If approved, this could affect this initial plan, although the Sunday flight from ADD to PSU is confirmed.
- A partner inquired about the possibility of having flights from Abeche. At the moment is not being considered since UNHAS is focusing on identifying sustainable routes, and the fuel challenges in Chad could affect this.
- UNHAS clarified that this flight is mainly a passenger flight, although it can carry some light cargo but without a particular solution for temperature-controlled cargo.

ECHO

- ECHO has funded, in partnership with UNHRD, some flights ex Dubai to PSU.
- The first one landed yesterday, and there will be one or two additional flights (Ex Dubai). These will take place tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. So far, it has been confirmed cargo from 3 partners, and there is an effort to try to include more. ECHO flagged that the cargo has to be immediately distributed after landing to avoid congestion.
- ECHO, together with HULO, is exploring the possibility of arranging flights from Europe to Chad. Partners are encouraged to contact Hulo if they are interested in this possibility (EUHAB@hulo.coop)

- ECHO offered its capacity to fund some of the sea shipping activities connecting Jeddah to Port Sudan Port under the Logistics Cluster, including the management of the reefers or cold chain support.
- ECHO is continuously assessing the need in coordination with the Logistics Cluster to identify the need for new airlifts.

UNHCR

- The focus has been on Chad to reach N'Djamena – including the organization of two airlifts in the last week. UNHCR highlights the problem of fuel shortages in Chad.
- UNHCR also shared its replenishment strategy for the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

UNICEF

- UNICEF shared its operations in the Central African Republic, Chad and Egypt.
- Planning charter flights for PSU

IOM

- IOM shared its dispatch plan, which is still under discussion.
- IOM was already providing support to partners.

Humanitarian Health Supplies (HHS) Group

- At the country level, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA are working on some collaborations for storage and transport.
- There is an identified gap for medical storage in Port Sudan for 2 to 8C storage. They are also looking at the reefer capacity and how to ensure temperature-controlled storage in PSU.
- Regarding transport, due to the access limitation and the current capacity, it is challenging to find the required transport. Trying to contact all the previous service providers in cold chain logistics in the country.
- Regarding movement from Chad, one of the challenges identified is how to transit from Chad to Sudan, as importation and re-exportation of medical items are complex processes. Advocacy for bonded storage could be a potential solution for this issue.
- If the Logistics Cluster is able to provide a solution in terms of assets, HHS partCan the coalition manage the cold chain even if the assets are provided. It would need to be discussed.

HI-Atlas Logistique

- HI is going to send a logistics team to Chad to assess the logistical challenges. Encourage partners in the field to reach out to them (c.mevel@hi.org)
- The Logistics Cluster suggested liaising with the National Logistics Working Group already in place in the country.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC Cluster)

- The ETC Cluster is not activated at the moment, but it could be activated shortly.
- As all the systems are connected to Khartoum, there is a high exposure to blackouts.
- Currently supporting partners in Port Sudan.
- Also, working with UNHCR on support to the refugees.

LOGISTICS CLUSTER

- On the basis of the preliminary information and assessments and the needs and inputs shared by the partners, the Logistics Cluster has updated the Concept of Operations describing the planned intervention, which can be found here

5. AoB

- The responses to the pipeline and storage needs survey were shared. Four partners have shared their information. The survey continues to be open and accessible here.
- The Sudan HRP is being revised, and the deadline is within two days. Partners are encouraged to share their initiatives to be included in the overall HRP.
- Many partners have reported being present in some areas of the country and facing critical challenges to ensure the supplies.

The next Global Logistics Cluster call will be held next week, an invite will be circulated among partners.

Contacts

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