Sudan Operation

Global call – meeting minutes

17 May 2023

LOCATION	Global (online)
DATE	17 May 2023
CHAIR	Regional Logistics Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	Africa CDC, Alight, Concern Worldwide (CWW), Direct Relief, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom (FCDO), German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), Human Appeal, International Medical Corps, Humanity & Inclusion – Atlas Logistique (HI), IMPACCT WG, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium (MSF-B), Save the Children International (SCI), Solidarités, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), Welthungerhilfe, World Vision International (WVI)
AGENDA	1. Revision of previous action points 2. Entry Points Status 3. Logistics Cluster: Operational updates for Por Sudan bridge 4. Logistics Cluster: General updates 5. Logistics Cluster: What is needed from partners 6. Partners updates
ACTION POINTS	• Logistics Cluster to provide continuous information on the status of the entry points through a Snapshot. Partners to share additional information. • Logistics Cluster and IMPACCT to share information on the customs procedures in place in Port Sudan for the importation of humanitarian cargo. • Partners wishing to access Logistics Cluster-facilitated services to share in advance their needs (if estimated). • The Logistics Cluster to centralise coordination efforts into one single meeting that will be disseminated through the Sudan mailing list. • Logistics Cluster to coordinate with Humanitarian Health Supplies Group (WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA) on how to overcome the current gaps in Port Sudan for temperature-controlled cargo

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1. Revision of previous action points

- The Concept of Operations and its map are available online. As the situation remains fluid, it was noted that the Concept of Operations is a live document that will be adjusted to better support partners' logistics operations as the situation develops.
- The operationalisation of the sea bridge between Jeddah and Port Sudan is almost ready; the procedures will be shared in the upcoming days.
- The Standard Operation Procedures to request access to storage and transport services are available online. The forms (online and offline) are also available through the website, including the instructions (online-instructions and offline-instructions).

2. Entry Points Status

- The Logistics Cluster shared the first snapshot disseminated through the mailing list. Partners are encouraged to join the mailing list through the Sudan webpage.
- As of 17 May and per the information available, the main entry point into Sudan remains Port Sudan, both by air (several humanitarian cargo airlifts have landed at the airport in the past days) and by sea.
- WFP is monitoring daily the status of the entry points and is currently working with the authorities to clarify the status of the Metema-Galabat (Ethiopia border) and Argeen (Egypt) borders. The latest information is that both entry points are only being used by commercial traders, but there have not been notifications on humanitarian cargo moving through the entry points.
- Partners were reminded of the importance of sharing new information in this regard as it will inform the rest of the humanitarian community and allow the map to be up to date with the latest information available. As the situation is highly volatile, this information may change on a daily basis.
- Regarding the border crossing point Adre-Maragibir (with Chad), it is officially closed, and there is a close coordination with the Logistics Working Group already active in the country.
- WFP is also looking at the Renk crossing point in South Sudan, as this would allow for river transport movement.
- It was also clarified that if partners face bureaucratic impediments, this will need to be raised to OCHA as this does not fall under the Logistics Cluster mandate. In this sense, the Logistics Cluster will support this engagement and liaison when needed. OCHA will be asked to present at the next Logistics Cluster meeting on how organisations can channel bureaucratic access issues through to OCHA.

3. Logistics Cluster: Operational updates for Port Sudan bridge

- The Logistics Cluster provided an overview of the current setup to support humanitarian activities, always subject to funding and transport capacity availability.

- To avoid congestion in Port Sudan (at the moment main entry point into Sudan), Jeddah will be used as the staging post, and the Logistics Cluster is available to support with the reception and storage of cargo and onward movement by sea to Port Sudan on a free to user basis.
- In Port Sudan, the Logistics Cluster can facilitate the reception and transit storage of critical and ready-to-move items:
    - Partners should only move to Port Sudan cargo that is ready to move outwards.
    - The Logistics Cluster will bring the sectoral prioritisation to the Sudan Inter-Cluster Coordination Group for the identification of critical cargo/sectors, noting that Port Sudan storage capacity may be a constraint.– The Logistics Cluster does not prioritise cargo. Presently the cargo arriving at Port Sudan is moving, but there is a need to be prepared in case prioritisation is needed.
    - The storage services in Port Sudan are not for long-term storage or cargo prepositioning.
    - Partners can also request support in transporting cargo from Port Sudan to accessible locations in the East. This support will always depend on commercial availability and security conditions. A map with these locations will also be developed for awareness. Very close coordination with the OCHA Access Working Group is ongoing to provide the routes open for in-country movement and the process focusing first on the eastern areas of the country.
    - The Logistics Cluster is also looking at the coordination mechanisms and procedures needed for possible humanitarian convoys as the operation moves forward. The aim is to have clear procedures trying to anticipate the next stages of the operation.
- Partners were reminded that they are responsible for the clearance of their own cargo and the airstrip. The Logistics Cluster can only provide guidelines for the process and will not be available to clear cargo on behalf of organisations.
- Should organisations be interested in flying in cargo to Port Sudan, WFP HQ aviation is offering Bilateral Service Provision (at the organisations' cost), where possible. Contact the Logistics Cluster Sudan for details.
- Standard Operations procedures for the temporary Storage and Transport Services can be accessed here.

4. Logistics Cluster: General updates

- Chad: There is also a logistics focal point in Chad that is identifying the gaps and needs in the eastern region of the country, engaging with the different working groups in the country.
- Port Sudan movement to East-Southern regions: looking at the current operations from partners in those regions to understand where the reachable areas are.
- Customs process: Logistics Cluster is working on clarifying the customs procedures currently in place, working very closely with OCHA Access Working Group in this area

- Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC): it has not been officially activated yet, but some staff has been deployed and is supporting with sorting out the process to import satellite phones.
- Fuel: this has been identified as one of the major constraints. Ongoing discussions on how WFP can support the community on this issue (if fuel is provided this would be on a bilateral basis through WFP On-demand Services).

5. Logistics Cluster: What is needed from partners

- To be able to fulfil the organisations' requests, partners are requested to share their plans in advance (even if they are tentative or rough estimates) as soon as they are starting to plan their dispatches into Port Sudan – if they require Logistics Cluster support.
- It is essential to keep the information flowing in both directions to anticipate, better respond to the needs, avoid bottlenecks and improve coordination.
- Partners are reminded that they are responsible for the clearance of their cargo.
- For partners requesting access to Logistics Cluster common services, they are requested to provide:
  - Weight, volume and sector of cargo planned to be moved to Jeddah.
  - Transport modality you will use to move the cargo into Jeddah.
  - Timeframe expected for organisations' scale-up (noting that a lot of planning is occurring now).
  - In-country focal points (organisations are expected to brief their focal points).
  - Final destination-if known (security dependent) and if Logistics Cluster is expected to facilitate.
- So far six partners have shared their pipeline through the survey that is already in place; partners are encouraged to keep providing this information.
- On the customs procedures, the Logistics Cluster is compiling all the information available, and partners are also encouraged to provide additional information and to provide updates on changing procedures, as part of a collective effort.
- The Logistics Cluster response that was initially supported by the Global Logistics Cluster team it is now led at the regional and national level, where also the staff needs are being scaled up to support the humanitarian response.

6. Questions and updates from partners

- A partners asked about the cold chain storage in Port Sudan. There are ongoing conversations with the some of the health agencies (WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF) to see what is required and how to provide support.
- A partners asked about the possibility of establishing a one-stop-shop for customs clearance. At the moment the Logistics Cluster is focusing on getting clarity on the current customs procedures that, due to the current circumstances, may change in the coming weeks/days. To ensure the guidelines are updated with the latest procedures, getting feedback from partners will be essential.

- A partner shared their experience with their current storage capacity in Port Sudan that they are mainly using for transit storage as they are trying to move the cargo as fast as possible. They also shared the challenges they are facing with the various inspection processes in place for the cargo movement.
- ECHO is working together with UNHRD from Dubai to PSU. 2 flights so far, a third one being organised. The coordination is being done from UNHRD Dubai. Partners are enc
- With regards to Chad, there is a plan for a flight on the 24 from Europe to N'Djamena. There is still some space available, so partners can express their interest. So far there are no plans for other locations, but they still encourage partners to share their needs to identify the demand of services. When asked about flights to Abeche (Chad), ECHO shared that Abeche is not being considered as a destination due limited handling capacity of the airport.
- Partners are encouraged to reach out to the Logistics Cluster and shared their plans so the cluster can support with coordination and liaison between the different actors.
- To ensure alignment and coordination, it was agreed among the participants to move to one unique coordination instance, the field Sudan Logistics Cluster coordination meetings.

The next Sudan Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will take place on 23 May, 1:00 PM Khartoum time.

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