
Sudan Operation

Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes

23 May 2023



LOCATION	Khartoum (online)
DATE	23 May 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	ACTED, Africa CDC, Alight, Concern Worldwide (CWW), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), GOAL Sudan, HULO Coop., Humedica e. V, Impact Initiatives, Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Medair, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Plan International, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Save the Children International (SCI), Solidarités, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), UN Women, World Health Organisation (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Relief International.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Revision of previous action points2. Entry Points Status3. OCHA Access WG updates4. Logistics Cluster: Key information needed from partners5. Logistics Cluster: Sea bridge Jeddah – Port Sudan6. Logistics Cluster: General updates7. Logistics Cluster: What is needed from partners8. Partners updated
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners to reach out to IMPACCT WG if they encounter different customs processes or if they require additional information not included so far in the customs bulletins (impacct.2021@gmail.com).• Partners to report through OCHA Access constraint tool all the challenges they face on their humanitarian operations here• The Logistics Cluster to provide additional information on the assessments and WFP exploratory missions through Metema and Argeen• The Logistics Cluster to liaise partners with UNHAS to get clarification on landing permits and bilateral arrangements for cargo flights.

1. Revision of previous action points

- Information on entry points and customs procedures – Regular snapshots are being produced and posted online. The IMPACCT Working Group has also released the second bulletin on Importation and Customs Processes, available [here](#).
- Partners are encouraged to keep sharing their transport and storage needs - Ongoing
- Jeddah – Port Sudan bridge – The Seabridge is operational and more information will be provided with the operational details of this specific service. General SOPs for Logistics Cluster-facilitated services are already [online](#)

2. Entry Points Status

- The border with Chad remains closed. A joint assessment is planned for next week with WFP, OCHA and UNHCR.
- Regarding the border crossing between Ethiopia and Sudan, information on how to move cargo from Ethiopia to Sudan is available on the IMPACCT Working Group [bulletin](#) and regarding the Sudan side, WFP is collecting information to shared with partners.
- On the Argeen border crossing point between Egypt and Sudan, WFP is planning a trial this week and the results of this exercise will be shared with partners.
- On the CAR corridor in Birao and Am Dafok it is practically impossible to import and export.

3. OCHA Access WG Update

- OCHA Access WG provided an overview of the activities of the Access WG and the CMCoord and the activities in the last few days, particularly regarding the ceasefire.
- The Government of Sudan approved a temporary extension for the registered NGOs whose license was about to or expired when the conflict started.
- There have already been multiple reports of challenges in getting visas, travel permits or lack of clearance on the procedures for cargo movement and the notification system to HAC.
- Regarding visas, different organisations have faced different challenges when applying for new visas or getting extensions. Some partners have also put the requests on hold until there is more clarity on the procedures.
- In order to capture these challenges, OCHA Access WG has put in place the access survey. All partners are encouraged to report all access issues (including staff, facilities, etc) they face through [the form](#) to collect evidence for advocacy efforts and for better planning. All the reports will be confidential, and the identification details requested will allow for bilateral follow-up on the issues reported.
- Partners can reach out to the OCHA Access WG team via casafont@un.org and mariette.hagglund@un.org

- OCHA Access WG also shared an overview of the incidents reported so far, a more in-depth report will be shared as more data become available.
- A partner asked about the issue of staff that could not get into the UNHAS flight from Nairobi to Port Sudan. The incident is still being investigated to clarify what happened. A partner shared their experience and that the visa does not grant access as a final decision has to be made by the immigration authorities. There is work ongoing by WFP aviation with the country office and the authorities to clarify the current processes, and the information will be made available to partners as soon as there is more clarity.

4. Logistics Cluster: Key information needed from partners

- WFP has been collecting information on the storage available in the eastern areas of the country and southern areas below Khartoum.
- Logistics Cluster partners are strongly encouraged to provide information on three main issues: transport, storage and cold chain needs. This is key to ensure the capacity to support humanitarian operations as required with storage and transport services or to set up future convoy coordination activities. An email will be sent out through the mailing list with basic tables that can be easily responded by the focal point of the organisations requesting just basic information on:
 - The transport needs to accessible areas in the eastern area of the country that are now accessible. CMCoord will take the lead on the transport plans.
 - The storage needs and capacity, including the cold chain needs. There are reefers available, and there is a need to know the partners who need them and who can manage them.
- The information needs to be very basic, and as the operation evolves, the information requirements will be more extensive.
- It is essential that partners provide this information, and it will not take more than a few minutes to populate the tables with the basic information required and reply to Fiona.lithgow@wfp.org cc'ing sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org
- As the requests are being formalised, the Service Request Form will be requested in a second stage to provide detailed information on the cargo to be stored/transported.

5. Logistics Cluster: Sea bridge Jeddah-Port Sudan

- The service is active now. In order to facilitate access to partners and to provide all the details on the service, the Logistics Cluster suggested having a dedicated section at the next coordination meeting. The participants agreed on this point.
- A section on the website will also be dedicated to providing the documents and guidance needed for this service

6. Logistics Cluster: General updates

- Chad: Upcoming assessment mission on the road from Abeche to Sudan. There is currently a logistics working group which is under discussion and review on how to move forward.
- Customs:
- Fuel: WFP is providing fuel through On Demand Services on a cost recovery basis. The current stock is limited so it is only being provided for immediate use or for critical needs.
- Airports: Partners were reminded that only cargo photographs are allowed in the airport facilities.

7. Questions from partners

- A partner asked for an update on UNHAS flights from Nairobi to Port Sudan. There have already been successful flights, although UNHAS is working on some issues and clarifying some elements to ensure a smooth process. UNHAS is planning for additional passengers flights on Thursday and Sunday this week as per the initial schedule
- A partner asked if railway options were being considered. The Logistics Cluster is exploring that option too from Port Sudan to Khartoum and will provide more details as more information is available.
- A partner asked about the possibility of UNHAS flights to Kadugli. The Logistics Cluster will liaise the partner with UNHAS to clarify that information.
- A partner shared that they are planning to send an assessment mission to Jeddah. They will liaise with the Logistics Cluster staff that is being deployed there to share information and findings.
- A partner asked about the processes for getting landing permits for airlifts carrying cargo. The Logistics Cluster
- When asked about UNHAS flights for cargo, the Logistics Cluster shared that currently, the focus of UNHAS flights is passengers, but the partner will be connected with WFP Aviation to explore bilateral options that might be available at the organisation's expenses from Nairobi.
- A partner shared for the communities' consideration that the Hajj Pilgrimage will start very soon, and this will have an effect on all entry points and ports in Jeddah and probably all of Saudi Arabia.
- A partner requested information on the procedures to purchase commodities in Ethiopia and ship them to Sudan. The partner was asked to reach out bilaterally so the Logistics Cluster could forward the specific request to the IMPACCT Working Group. The documents being produced are continuously updated based on the specific needs and requests from partners.
- A partner asked if any partner had successfully crossed from Ethiopia to Sudan as they have heard that one particular organisation had. The organisation, present at the meeting, shared that they are still looking for options and clarifying some of the elements together with the Logistics Cluster and IMPACCT Working Group as Ethiopia is their main option to enter Sudan. Still, they have not moved any cargo yet.
- ECHO shared that there is a fourth humanitarian cargo flight from Port Sudan to Dubai taking place today (organised together with UNHRD) and that there is a fourth cargo planned – still to be

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confirmed the dates; partners are encouraged to reach out to place their requests. Additionally, on 31 May, the first cargo flight from Munich to N'Djamena will be carried out (fully managed by ECHO), with a second one in the pipeline if partners express their interest. Partners are encouraged to share their distribution plans upon arrival of the cargo as they were reminded that they are responsible for their cargo once the cargo has arrived in N'Djamena.

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