Sudan Operation

Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes

30 May 2023

LOCATION	Khartoum (online)
DATE	30 May 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	ACTED, Action Against Hunger (AAH), Alight, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide (CWW), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), Emergency NGO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), GOAL Sudan, 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 Belgium (MSF-B), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), REACH Initiative, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children International (SCI), ShelterBox, Solidarités International, The Global Fund, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission Sudan (UNITAMS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Relief International, World Vision International (WVI)
AGENDA	1. Revision of previous action points 2. Entry Points Status 3. Logistics Cluster: General updates 4. Focus group session: Jeddah – Port Sudan sea bridge 5. Partners updates
ACTION POINTS	• 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). • The Logistics Cluster and its partners to inform on the outcome of the Chad-Sudan and Egypt-Sudan border missions. • Partners to reach out to the Logistics Cluster (sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org to share their transport and storage needs in eastern areas of Sudan.) • The Logistics Cluster to clarify the bonded storage and transport options for the Jeddah-Port Sudan airbridge.

1. Revision of previous action points

- The Logistics Cluster to provide information on entry points and customs. Ongoing as the Logistics Cluster is regularly producing snapshots and IMPACCT Working Group is developing customs guidelines. The latest Snapshot can be accessed here.
- Partners to provide information on their storage capacity in Port Sudan. The request was sent through the mailing list, and 10 partners provided this information.
- The Logistics Cluster to provide information on landing permits for Port Sudan. For UN-chartered aircraft the process goes via the RC/SRSG office to the authorities in Khartoum. Because of the liabilities involved (scrutinised pax and cargo arrival control), UNHAS cannot support with landing permits for non-UN chartered aircraft. Some commercial companies are operating ex PZU; therefore, partners may contact them to establish regular cargo flights.

2. Entry Points Status

- The Logistics Cluster provided an update on the status of the main entry points that are being monitored.
- A mission will take place on 30 May to the Chad border to assess the feasibility of using this entry point.
- Regarding the Ethiopian border Metema – Galabat, from the Ethiopian side, the procedures are clear, but partners may face difficulties on the Sudan side. OCHA Access WG is following up to identify the process.
- On the border with South Sudan, there are ongoing conversations with the South Sudan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as this point may allow for river movement.
- Regarding the WFP trial mission through the Egyptian border that was planned, it has been postponed.
- Port Sudan remains the main entry point, and partners are encouraged to share new information via sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org

3. Logistics Cluster General updates

- The third customs bulletin will be published this week. Partners are encouraged to keep sharing information in the IMPACCT Working Group WhatsApp group. To join the WhatsApp group, partners should send an email to impacct.2021@gmail.com
- The reefers (2 to 8 °C) are expected to arrive in Port Sudan on 10 June and will be located in the in Maersk hub. The Logistics Cluster will initially support with managing access to them. Once the needs are identified, the process will be defined (e.g partners taking reeferst to their warehouse, etc).

- There are also ongoing conversations on storage and transport capacity for temperature-controlled items (15 to 25 °C) to see what is the availability in Port Sudan and how to support partners.
- The Logistics Cluster has secured warehouse space in Port Sudan and Wad Madani. Partners are encouraged to share additional storage needs in different eastern locations with the Logistics Cluster (sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org).
- Convoy system. There will be a meeting on Thursday with CMCoord to simplify the process for cargo movement and see if a convoy movement process could replace the initial transport request system.

4. Logistics Cluster: Sea bridge Jeddah-Port Sudan

- The Logistics Cluster provided an overview of the Jeddah – Port Sudan sea bridge. The Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) are also online, and all the details shared during the presentation can be found there.
- The Logistics Cluster shared the planned activities in order to provide free-to-user services in Jeddah:
    - Set up of bonded storage – still to be determined if this will be in a free zone or in a self-contained bonded warehouse. The storage capacity will include temperature-controlled storage (2 to 8 °C, and 15 to 25 °C). It was flagged that this would be in compliance with the national standard for pharmaceutical products of Saudi Arabia.
    - Cargo consolidation, including handling (e.g. repalletisation, breaking down pallets…)
    - Sea transport from Jeddah to Port Sudan (including loading and offloading)
- The warehouse is not fully contracted yet as the final clearance from the Saudi Arabia Government was given on 29 May. It is expected to be available shortly.
- In the coming days, the Logistics Cluster will try to get more clarity on:
    - Banned items/cargo
    - Incoterms for the transhipping process.
    - Clarification on any item that could be excluded from bonded storage.
- Regarding the request process:
    - Partners should **NOT** arrange for delivery of cargo to Jeddah unless:
        - The partner submits a formal request.
        - The request has been accepted by the Logistics Cluster.
        - The Logistics Cluster has coordinated arrival details for the cargo arriving to Jeddah.
    - The physical warehouse address and notify party details will be arranged after acceptance of the request.
    - Cargo requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis:
        - Specific emphasis on health, dangerous goods and dual-use items.
    - The request will be screened against warehouse capacities and national regulations. Regarding the conditions of bonded storage and transport options, as these are still unclear, some kind of documentation might be expected.

- For any service requests, partners need to fill out the Service Request Form (SRF) (both for transport and storage). All the documents can be found on the Sudan webpage: the SRF can be filled online (instructions) or offline (instructions)
- General requirements for storage in Jeddah:
    - Cargo stored in Jeddah should only be intended for transport to Sudan.
    - Cargo should be delivered directly to the warehouse location in Jeddah – the Logistics Cluster will not facilitate the transport from the airport and port to the Logistics Cluster warehouse.
    - WFP cannot act as a consignee for any cargo items. All cargo must be consigned to the owner. WFP can only act as the notifying party.
    - Customs/shipping documents should contain "in transit to Sudan" somewhere. As the indication is not clear, partners are encouraged to include it in more than one place (e.g in the container details, physically on the cargo, etc.)
    - Available storage space is administered through commercial providers. The storage space is scalable, and additional space/needs can be accommodated on request.
    - Partners should ensure the palletisation of delivered cargo. Palletisation will greatly speed up the loading/offloading/shipping process.
    - Arriving cargo must be clearly marked: Dangerous goods, temperature-controlled range, consignment number, and partner name.
    - Cargo with special handling needs should not be intermixed with general cargo – example: all items of a specific temperature range should be on self-contained pallets and clearly marked as such.
- General requirements for transport for items from Jeddah to Sudan:
    - Shipping documentation should be crafted with customs clearance in Sudan in mind.
        - Documentation should conform to importation standards for Sudan.
        - Documentation must come from the original shipper/supplier.
        - If cargo movement is split between multiple rotations, accurate supporting documentation will need to be shared per transport.
    - Cargo movement will be made using regular commercial carriers.
    - Cargo will be containerised for movement – special or oversized cargo will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and may not move in the time frame requestors want.
    - Unless delivered to the Logistics Cluster-facilitated Port Sudan warehouses, partners must pick cargo up from the port.
    - Customs formalities, duties and fees at Port of Sudan are the responsibility of the partner. The Logistics Cluster does not clear cargo on behalf of partners.
- If the cargo is already being handled by the Logistics Cluster and the partner wants to request an additional service, there is no need to submit an additional SRF. An email can be sent to the Logistics Cluster team (sudan.clustercargo@wfp.org) to update the initial request.

5. Partners updates

- A partner shared their plan to use the Egypt – Sudan border in the coming days. They will inform the Logistics Cluster of the results of the mission.
- Another partner shared they will also try to move cargo through the Ethiopia (Metema) – Sudan border, and, likewise, the results will be shared with the Logistics Cluster.
- When asked if vehicles can be transported in the Jeddah – Port Sudan, the Logistics Cluster requested the details of the vehicles to cross-check the information with the commercial transported.
- For organisations that do not see the name of their organisations in the organisations list of the SRF, they can send an email to sudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- A partner inquired about IMPACCT WG guidelines to know if they include duty exemptions in Sudan. The partner was encouraged to reach out to IMPACCT WG and join the WhatsApp group (impacct.2021@wfp.org).
- Some partners expressed their need for storage in Madani.
- One partner inquired about the Abeche hub, if the transit of goods is possible and if warehouse capacity is available. An analysis was conducted in the last few weeks, and a mission is planned tomorrow to move across the border through Abeche. There are ongoing conversations to put in place a coordination mechanism in Chad to support the logistics partners. ECHO also shared that they will share with the Logistics Cluster the information on the Atlas Logistique assessment mission to Abeche that took place in the last weeks.
- One partner asked about the UNHAS flights. Today's flight has been cancelled due to challenges with the flight permissions. UNHAS is continuously assessing the different options to minimise cancellations or delays. The Logistics Cluster is meeting UNHAS tomorrow to discuss the best way to also disseminate UNHAS updates with the Logistics Cluster partners.
- Partners were reminded to always reach out to the team to request support or to suggest topics to be included in the coordination meeting agenda.

Contacts

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