Sudan Operation

Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes

13 June 2023

LOCATION	Khartoum (online)
DATE	13 June 2023
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	Africa Global Logistics (AGL), ADRA, Acción Contra el Hambre (ACH), Agencia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS), Alight, COOPI, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide (CWW), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), Emergency NGO, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), GOAL Sudan, Health Cluster, 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), Medical Teams International (MTI), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Plan International, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Save the Children International (SCI), Solidarites, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Department of Operational Support of the United Nations (UN DOS), UK-MED, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), 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: Storage services 4. Logistics Cluster: Convoy coordination 5. Sudan Logistics Information Exchange (LogIE) 6. Partners updates
ACTION POINTS	• The Logistics Cluster to provide advice to the partner who requested guidance on the most suitable location for storage in Chad close to the Sudanese border • The Logistics Cluster to follow up on the role of HAC in regard to customs clearance and invite IMPACCT WG to participate in the next coordination meeting • The Logistics Cluster to invite ETC to provide an overview of their operation at the next coordination meeting

1. Revision of previous action points

- The Logistics Cluster to monitor entry points – ongoing; more information to be provided during the meeting.
- The Logistics Cluster to share additional information on the Chad-Sudan cross-border mission - The final report is being drafted, and the main results will be shared soon.

2. Entry Points Status

- Egypt: WFP trucks with 50 mt of food are on their way to the border with Sudan. As soon as new information on the crossing is available, the Logistics Cluster will share this information.
- Regarding Renk-Kosti/Rabak crossing point with South Sudan, the updated MoU between South Sudan, Sudan, and WFP is being signed. WFP has the mandate for cross-border operations, but partners can reach out to fiona.lithgow@wfp.org if they are interested in shipping NFIs through that entry point to explore the different options available (whether through WFP On-Demand Services or Logistics Cluster services). Both road and river transport is possible through that entry point, but due to recent rains, road access might be challenging or not possible.
- Chad (Adre-Maragibir (SDN)): the inter-agency mission managed to cross, but some issues were faced during the mission, so more sustainable solutions are being explored. This was a UN mission, so it was noted that the challenges might be different for International NGOs. It was suggested to discuss further the entry point only once the mission's final report is shared.
- Ethiopia (Metema-Galabat border): the challenge seems to continue on the Sudanese border. There is still a lack of clarity if the same processes as already shared for Port Sudan apply.
- A partner shared their experience in the Metema-Galabat border, and the communication they have received that importation into Sudan is only possible through Port Sudan. Another partner shared their current status on the importation process through that entry point, and if they manage to cross, they will share all the steps they followed. It was flagged that there might be some differences if the items are transitioning through Ethiopia or if they are purchased in Ethiopia.
- A partner shared that they received some indications on the documentation and steps required to bring items from Kenya to Sudan through the Metema border by road:
    - Road Waybill: The document should clearly mention: “From Nairobi to Kosti, Sudan through Ethiopia”. Ethiopia should be mentioned as the transit location.
    - Packing list
    - Commercial invoice
    - Certificate of origin
    - For Soap, a certificate of analysis is required
    - For Sanitary napkins, health certificate is required

- Partners were also encouraged to join the IMPACCT WG WhatsApp Group as an official of the Ethiopian customs authority has been providing guidance on the Ethiopian requirements. In order to join the WhatsApp group partners can send an email to impacct.2021@gmail.com
- A partner requested advice on the most suitable location to set up a warehouse to access Darfur (Adre or Forchana). The Logistics Cluster will follow up on information gathered by WFP Chad CO in this regard.

3. Logistics Cluster: Jeddah – Port Sudan transport service

- The Logistics Cluster gave a brief overview of how the sea transport services are currently being provided from Jeddah to Port Sudan, as these have already commenced.
- For the time being, services will be managed using regular commercial services. Once the request is received, the Logistics Cluster will search for the best option to move the cargo based on the requirements indicated in the Service Request Form. It emphasized the need to provide accurate information on the initial requests since the services are being contracted ad hoc.
- Once the SRF is submitted, the services will be delivered on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Current transportation is coming directly from the airport/seaport, and transported to Jeddah port on bonded vehicles. No traditional clearance in Jeddah, and at the moment, no permanent storage facility in Jeddah, but it can be worked around if partners request storage there.
- Cargo will be transported in containers – Reefers are also available.
- Requests for the transportation of temperature-controlled cargo from Jeddah to Port Sudan have been successfully accommodated.
- Requests continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis as limitations of regular commercial cargo persist.
- Partners were reminded of the importance of having everything ready in advance to do customs clearance in Sudan.
- The SOPs are being updated.
- A partner queried about temperature-controlled storage in Port Sudan. The Logistics Cluster is following up with Maersk on the arrival of the reefers and more information will be provided soon.
- A partner inquired about the movement of cargo from Port Sudan to other areas. The Logistics Cluster will facilitate communication between the partner and CMCoord to obtain the necessary information.

4. LogIE (Logistics Information Exchange)

- The Logistics Cluster shared the tool that is now available on the Sudan webpage. A short tutorial has also been developed to explain the navigation through the tool and how to download the information in pdf.
- The Logistics Cluster is focusing on gathering information for 2 of the modules available in the tool:

- The Physical Access Constraints layer: this layer will display information on the physical status of the roads and the monitoring of the entry points. Partners are encouraged to share any information in this regard via sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org . In the coming days, reporting those constraints through the tool will be possible.
- The partners' warehouse mapping layer. The Logistics Cluster is trying to map the existing warehouse capacity (including temperature-controlled) in the country to identify possible gaps and bottlenecks and to put in touch partners willing to share their storage capacity with partners in need of storage.

- In order to report warehouse capacity, partners have two options:
  - Reporting their warehouses through the following survey link. A form has to be submitted by each warehouse.
  - Completing this Excel file with information on the warehouses and sending it to sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org. The Logistics Cluster team will reflect this information on the platform.
- The specific locations of the warehouses will not be publicly disclosed, but aggregate information on warehouse capacities by state will be provided (total m2 by region). Additionally, if partners do not want to disclose information on the exact location of the warehouse, they can specify the name of the area without providing further details (e.g Port Sudan, Kosti, etc.)
- The Logistics Cluster will provide weekly updates on the information that is being collected through the platform. This will also be disseminated at the INGO forum and ICCG.
- Partners are also encouraged to share their needs in terms of information that could be displayed or gathered through the platform.

4. AOB

- Partners were reminded that they are always encouraged to request a slot during the meeting to share updates, challenges or any other relevant issues.
- In the same way, partners can always add new items to the agenda.
- Partners were invited to request storage services to the Logistics Cluster in Wad Madani and Port Sudan through the submission of the SRF.
- A partner inquired about UNHAS flights from Amman to Port Sudan. The latest communication and schedule from 18 to 30 June are available online, with flights from Nairobi and Amman to Port Sudan.

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