
Sudan Operation

Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes

27 February 2024



LOCATION	Khartoum (online)
DATE	27 February 2024
CHAIR	Logistics Cluster Coordinator, Ali Awan
PARTICIPANTS	ACAPS, Action Against Hunger Spain (AAH), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), ALIGHT, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), EMERGENCY, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office - British Office Sudan (FCDO), GOAL, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Logistics Cluster South Sudan, Medair Sudan, Mercy Corps, Médecins Sans Frontières - Holland (MSF-H), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Première Urgence International (PUI), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP), World Relief International (WRI), World Vision International (WVI)
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brief introduction of new LC staff2. LC Port Sudan Update3. Cross-border Chad Update4. Update on Alternative Corridors5. Partners to share any other logistics gaps/bottlenecks
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners interested in joining the crossline OCHA-CMCoord convoy from Port Sudan to El Fasher should submit their request through the HISM portal; for further information or clarification, contact: Dagim Tibebe Tadesse dagim.tadesse@un.org• Partners operating in Darfur regions are reminded to send their storage capacities to manadi.bondok@wfp.org and christophe.vial@wfp.org.• The Logistics Cluster will share updated information on alternative transport corridors with partners as it is received.• Partners are invited to sign up for the upcoming emergency logistics management training in Port Sudan by 4 March.• The Logistics Cluster will reach out to health partners for more information on the importation of health supplies from South Sudan into Sudan.

1. Brief Introduction of New Logistics Cluster Staff

- The Nairobi Coordination Cell is now comprised of Gilles Cimetiere (Regional Logistics Coordination) and Kendall Naylor (Regional Information Management): gilles.cimetiere@wfp.org; kendall.naylor@wfp.org
- The Nairobi cell joins the existing coordination cells in:
 - Port Sudan, Sudan:
 - Ali Awan, Logistics Cluster Coordinator: ali.awan@wfp.org
 - Arig Alzubeir, Logistics Officer/warehouse management: arig.alzubeir@wfp.org
 - N'Djamena, Chad:
 - Christophe Vial, Chad X-Border Logistics Cluster Coordination: christophe.vial@wfp.org
 - Manadi Bondok, Chad X-Border Information Management Officer: manadi.bondok@wfp.org

2. Logistics Cluster Port Sudan Update

Common Storage Facilities

- The Logistics Cluster continues to facilitate storage services in Port Sudan, Kassala, and Gadaref, including temperature-controlled storage in Port Sudan. Over 23,000 m³ of storage space has been used by Logistics Cluster partners since the onset of the operation.
- To access storage services, please fill out the [Storage Request Form](#) on the [Logistics Cluster Sudan Operation webpage](#).

Status of Inter-Agency Convoy Facilitation

- OCHA-CMCoord and other partners are exploring alternative access crossline routes to Darfur and Kordofan regions. The date of the first convoy has not yet been set. The goal of the convoy is to test a crossline transport route.
- OCHA-CMCoord is leading the coordination of humanitarian convoys to test transport routes. OCHA is facilitating deconfliction for the humanitarian community to access hard-to-reach areas. The Logistics Cluster will support OCHA-CMCoord, as and when requested, to share logistics-related information such as road conditions to partners.
- To join the test convoy route, submit your request through the [HISM portal](#). For further information of clarifications, contact: Dagim Tibebu Tadesse dagim.tadesse@un.org. There may be a new system/link in the coming weeks, which will be communicated to partners when accessible. Partners must have transporter contracts in place and the required government clearances from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), General Intelligence Services (GIS), and Military Intelligence (MI) to join the convoy.
 - If any partners do not have adequate transporter contracts in place or are planning to transport a small amount, please relay the information to the Logistics Cluster (ali.awan@wfp.org). With this information, the Logistics Cluster will explore potential support.

- **Test Route #1: Port Sudan to El Fasher via Al Dabbah**
 - Several potential routes were discussed during last week's CMCoord meeting, however the first test route is planned for Port Sudan to El Fasher, with transit through Atbara, Marawi, and Al Dhabba.
 - This route has not yet been used to transport humanitarian cargo, however a commercial transporter who has used the route recently reported satisfactory conditions for truck movement. There are substantial desert portions, particularly before and after Al Dabbah. This route takes an estimated 8 - 10 days; the maximum permitted load is 50MT.
 - Some partners have reported that they may be able to test the route in advance of the OCHA-CMCoord convoy, pending clearances. If so, they will share logistics information regarding the route with the Logistics Cluster.
- Partners expressed support for the OCHA-CMCoord convoy initiative to El Fasher, but noted there are other destinations they need to reach. The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that to support their logistics needs, it is vital that they share this type of information (i.e. final destinations) with the cluster for the team to be able to strategize the most relevant type of logistics support for the humanitarian community.

Assessment of Storage Facilities in El Fasher / Inter-Agency Scoping Mission

- Pending clearances, a joint scoping mission will be undertaken by UNDSS, the Logistics Cluster, and OCHA. The purpose of the mission is to assess access to North Darfur. The Logistics Cluster will support the mission with logistics assessments.
- The scoping mission is planned for 5 – 20 March, pending approvals.

Training: Emergency Humanitarian Logistics and Basic Commodities Management

- The training is scheduled for 6 - 7 March in Port Sudan; 14 participants have confirmed their attendance.
- The training will include sessions on emergency logistics and warehousing practices. Details on the agenda and location will be shared with the participants by the end of this week.
- Partners are invited to sign up for the training until 4 March.

3. Chad Cross-Border Update

- The Government of Sudan (GoS) has officially communicated a ban on cross-border operations from Chad to Sudan.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) is in negotiations with the GoS to allow a window for cargo currently positioned in Chad to be transported across the border.
- UN agencies have paused Chad-Sudan cross-border movements.

- Partners requested the Logistics Cluster to reach out to WFP to learn about how they are adapting their logistics planning, given recent developments. WFP shared that they are currently assessing all border crossing points.
- Partners are encouraged to notify the Logistics Cluster Chad cross-border team of their storage needs in Chad, as ATLAS Logistique is currently offering partners free-to-user storage services in Adre, and WFP offers cost-recovery On Demand Services (ODS) to partners in several locations across Chad.
- The Chad cross-border coordination cell reminded partners to reply to their request for information on partners' storage capacity in the Darfur region. This information will provide the Logistics Cluster with a better understanding of the context and assist in future planning. The data will not be shared with other partners.

4. Alternative Corridors Update

EGYPT & ETHIOPIA CORRIDORS

- WFP explained that they are assessing all possible border crossings given the current context.
- The Egypt and Ethiopian border crossings are currently open; however, it was stressed that they can be closed at any time. Many partners who have used the Ethiopia crossing in the past have experienced considerable delays for clearances.

SOUTH SUDAN CORRIDOR

Border Crossing Points

- Partners have increasingly been seeking to identify access points from South Sudan into the Kordofan and Darfur regions. A Technical Working Group (TWG) has been formed in South Sudan to address the issue. Fiona Lithgow (fiona.lithgow@wfp.org), South Sudan Logistics Cluster Coordinator is WFP's representative in the TWG. One meeting has been held thus far, which mainly served to bring all partners up to date. One topic being discussed is how to ensure and communicate that supplies are not being diverted from the ongoing emergency in South Sudan. It is expected that there will be more information in 1 – 2 weeks.
- The TWG stressed the need for a coordinated approach amongst all organizations to ensure the appropriate authorizations are secured.
- There are several South Sudan-Sudan border crossings that could potentially be used. It was stressed that routes from South Sudan into Northern regions in Sudan are both very long and time-bound due to road access constraints caused by the rainy season in both South Sudan and Sudan.
 - The Renk-Kosti crossing may not address the transportation constraints currently being faced from Kosti to western regions in Sudan.
 - Panakuach (towards Kordofan regions) and Gok Machar/Aweil (towards southern Darfur regions) crossings are currently being discussed in the South Sudan TWG as potential crossing points.
- To note, there is an existing convoy coordination system in South Sudan, enabling transport within South Sudan by road and river that could be leveraged. If operationalized, the overall system for cross-border

transport and/or storage facilitation would be defined by the Sudan Logistics Cluster team and coordinated with the South Sudan Logistics Cluster team.

Storage

- At present, there is a focus on assessing Panukuach, Aweil, and/or other locations as potential temporary storage hubs to support cross-border transport from South Sudan. The South Sudan Logistics Cluster is collecting relevant information on Panukuach.
- WFP has storage facilities near Aweil; the potential for common or cost-recovery storage facilitation in Aweil or around other key hubs for cross-border movements will be coordinated and discussed with the Sudan Logistics Cluster. The Logistics Cluster South Sudan is gathering more information on potential storage hubs.
- Partners requested more information on importing medical supplies into Sudan from South Sudan. The Logistics Cluster will reach out to health partners for more information and encouraged partners in Sudan to reach out to their counterparts within their organizations in South Sudan.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR) CORRIDOR

- CAR is not currently being considered as a potential border crossing point given existing logistics and security assessments of the supply route.

5. Other Logistics Gaps/Bottlenecks

- No other logistics gaps/bottlenecks were reported, though partners stressed that both OCHA-CMCoord crossline convoys and alternative cross-border strategies are unlikely to adequately address needs in Sudan and underlined the need for advocacy to maintain access through the Chad-Sudan border crossings. The Logistics Cluster ensured partners that this topic is under discussion and that the cluster is regularly providing input from a logistics perspective.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held on 12 March 2024.

Contacts

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