

Sudan Operation

Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes

09 July 2024



LOCATION	Online
DATE	09 July 2024
CHAIR	Regional Logistics Cluster Coordinator, Gilles Cimetiere
PARTICIPANTS	Action against Hunger, Alima, Cesvi, Concern, Credence Management Solutions-LLC, Emergency, GOAL, HDPO, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Medical Teams, MSF, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Premiere Urgence, Relief International, Save the Children, Solidarite International, UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Relief, World Vision.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Previous action points2. Logistics Cluster: Service availability and status3. OCHA Access Update4. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Update5. Mine Action Advisory Team Update6. Partners Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks7. AOB
ACTION POINTS	<p><u>Common Logistics Services:</u> Partners were reminded to share information on their incoming or planned cargo shipments as it may be possible to reserve space in Logistics Cluster storage facilities. Please contact sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org with your organization's needs.</p> <p>The Logistics Cluster may facilitate cargo road transport from Port Sudan to a select number of locations within Sudan. Before submitting any Service Request Form (SRF) to the Logistics Cluster, partners are advised to contact the Logistics Cluster Coordinator (Email: ali.awan@wfp.org)</p> <p><u>OCHA:</u> SARHO Engagement: Partners to share any humanitarian challenges, movements, and planned activities related to crossline operations or any emerging issues to facilitate these discussions and advocate for necessary support.</p> <p>Monthly Movement Plan: OCHA reminds partners to submit their monthly movement plans into the Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism</p>

	<p>(HISM) for any planned transport into hard-to-reach areas to enable OCHA to notify authorities and advocate for access. Movement plans can be submitted by individual organizations or through cluster focal points.</p>
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1. Previous Action Points

- Custom Factsheet: The Factsheet on customs information has been published and it is now available on the Logistics Cluster webpage: <https://logcluster.org/en/document/importation-and-customs-factsheet-june-2024>. The Factsheet has been compiled thanks to input from the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the World Food Programme (WFP), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), and bulletins published by the IMPACCT working group.
- LogIE Orientation: On Wednesday, 5 June 2024, the Logistics Cluster held a second LogIE orientation for partners who were unable to attend the first orientation. More information on how to use LogIE is available here: <https://logcluster.org/en/document/how-use-logie>. The Sudan Logistics Cluster Team remains available if any questions and additional induction sessions are required by partners.
- The link to LogIE Sudan: <https://logie.logcluster.org/?op=sdn-23-a>
- Increase Capacity in Port Sudan: The Logistics Cluster has followed with International Medical Corps (IMC) and other partners and discussed the requirements for temperature-controlled storage space in Port Sudan, and support coordination efforts as some partners may be planning to increase capacity in Port Sudan. The Logistics Cluster to potentially host an in-person meeting dedicated to the issue in Port Sudan if needed.
- SARHO Engagement Update: OCHA provided an update on SARHO engagement (see more details below under OCHA updates).

2. Logistics Cluster Common Storage Availability and Status

- Partners were reminded that the SOP for storage and road transport services was shared via the mailing list and is available on the Logistics Cluster website, and that the Service Request Form can be submitted online or by email using an excel form. Instructions for completing the excel form can be found here. Instructions for completing the online form can be found here.
- Partners were also reminded that the [NEW! Concept of Operations \(ConOps\)](#) has been published on the Logistics Cluster website. The new ConOps includes the cargo road transport available only from Port Sudan, based on critical road transport gaps.

➤ **Transport:**

- Following the recent identification of critical road transport gaps in Sudan, the Logistics Cluster is prepared to support access to in-country common road transport services for critical locations, conditions permitting.
- Please be advised that the Logistics Cluster does not intend to offer a permanent road transport service or replace existing partner capacities. Instead, as a Provider of Last Resort (PoLR), the Logistics Cluster may facilitate cargo road transport from Port Sudan to a select number of locations within Sudan, subject to security and access constraints.
- Requests from partners will be evaluated and accepted on a case-by-case basis, based on specific criteria such as a demonstrated lack of capacity to organize transport. These criteria were shared during the Logistics Cluster meeting on 09 July 2024.
- Before submitting any Service Request Form (SRF) to the Logistics Cluster, partners are advised to contact the Logistics Cluster Coordinator (Email: ali.awan@wfp.org). It is important to note that any request must be strongly justified and will be considered under the PoLR concept.
- Additionally, please be aware that all cargo and personnel movements within Sudan require specific authorizations from the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Port Sudan. As mandated by the Government of Sudan, each organization is responsible for negotiating its own access and obtaining the necessary permissions from the HAC for any cargo and personnel movements.
- In Chad, there are not identified critical gaps on logistics transport, service level agreement with WFP under cost recovery are available. It is a separate process –on demand service process.

➤ **Storage:**

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide free-to-user storage services to partners in Port Sudan (50% space available) and Gedaref (space available), and Kassala (full, augmenting store capacity), including temperature-controlled storage in Port Sudan (may reach 60% capacity in a few weeks based on current requests). To access these services, please submit a [service request form \(SRF\) online](#).
- Due to the access and security situation, the common storage facility in Kosti has been suspended during the next period. The Logistics Cluster storage services are still suspended in Wad Madani; partners will be informed immediately if services resume at these locations.
- If there is any need in Dongola, the Logistics Cluster can facilitate the cargo storage through WFP office. Partners are kindly requested to provide an estimation of the duration for the requested storage, and cargo weight and volume.
- Partners were also reminded to share information on their incoming or planned cargo shipments as it may be possible to reserve space in Logistics Cluster storage facilities. Please contact sudan.clustercargo@wfp.org or sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org with your organisations' needs.

3. OCHA Access Update

- OCHA's ongoing engagement with the Sudanese Agency for Relief and Humanitarian Operations (SARHO). As previously noted, SARHO has replaced the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in RSF-controlled areas. An agreement has been reached to conduct weekly meetings with SARHO leadership in Nairobi, Darfur, and Kordofan. These meetings aim to structure discussions and consolidate and share humanitarian access challenges in RSF-controlled areas. OCHA requests all partners to share any humanitarian challenges, movements, and planned activities related to crossline operations or any emerging issues to facilitate these discussions and advocate for necessary support.
- Impediments to aid delivery continues: Two cross line routes into Darfur and Kordofan. One is inaccessible due to the active fighting in Sennar. The other one is partially accessible through El Dhaba to North Darfur and Kordofan; however, movement of medical supplies is restricted. Efforts are ongoing to negotiate the release of trucks, but the area remains partially inaccessible.
- Previously used alternative routes to White Nile (once a major route for supplies to Kordofan and Darfur), Blue Nile, and Kordofan are now inaccessible. Both main and alternative routes are affected by insecurity and deteriorating road conditions exacerbated by the rainy season.
- Cross-Line Operations: Discussions are ongoing to facilitate safe passage, but the situation remains volatile, with recent airstrikes impacting identified routes.
- Request for Movement Plans: The deadline for the Operations Coordination Cell for the submission of movement plans for 15 July to 15 August was set for 10 July. A joint movement plan will aid in understanding the delivery capacity and enable proactive advocacy with key stakeholders such as HAC. If you have a movement plan for any planned transport into hard-to-reach areas, please submit it through the [Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism \(HISM\) system](#) by 10 July. OCHA remains available to assist with any technical issues (Contact: Moustafa Boudria - Access / CMCoord for Chad and Sudan XB Operation. Email: boudria@un.org)
- Figures from June Movement Plan: Approximately 647,000 people were reached through planned movements, primarily in Darfur and South Kordofan. Unfortunately, around 1.7 million people were denied access to basic relief items due to active fighting, logistical constraints, and delays in travel permit approvals.
- New bureaucratic impediments have emerged, particularly in Darfur, where Sudan Liberation Army-Abdul Wahid (SLA-AW) is now requiring mandatory registration, annual audit reports, and travel permits for humanitarian organizations. OCHA is addressing these issues and will continue to report access restrictions publicly on the monthly updates. Partners are reminded that they can report a variety of access constraints into the [Access Incident Reporting Tool](#) (including bureaucratic impediments, operational interference, security incidents, and others).
- Geneva Talks: Starting 10 July, humanitarian discussions are taking place in Geneva involving delegates from RSF and the Government of Sudan. The focus will be on facilitating safe passage of relief items and personnel, emphasizing the urgency of the current situation. OCHA will keep partners updated on any developments.

4. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) Update

- Currently, ETC is active in Port Sudan, Kassala, Gedaref, Damazine, and Kosti. In these locations, agencies are using WFP premises where ETC services are available. ETC provides data connectivity for emails, internet access, and secured telecommunications (radios) for UN colleagues. While these services have been unaffected in the ETC operational areas, Darfur and Khartoum have been significantly impacted, resulting in a loss of connectivity.
- ETC is actively conducting assessment missions in Kassala, Kosti, and Kadugli to determine how they can further assist the humanitarian community. ETC is also waiting for permissions to access Darfur, particularly in areas like Tina. For South Kordofan and Darfur, ETC is assessing options and may work through NGOs.
- ETC is aware of connectivity issues in Golo and they are exploring solutions.
- If you have any questions or need ETC services, please contact etc.sudan@wfp.org, share your GPS location and the technical team will schedule an assessment mission.

5. Mine Action Update

- Current Contamination and Conflict Impact: Pre-Conflict previously identified contaminated included Kordofan and Darfur. The ongoing conflict has led to a significant increase in explosive incidents, creating a widespread unexploded ordnance (UXO) problem.
- New contamination is expected to be in urban areas, affecting roads, homes, schools, airstrips, medical facilities, and humanitarian bases. Cities like Khartoum, previously unexposed to such risks, are now at high risk.
- Mine Action Advisory Teams provide technical advice, risk awareness training, direct sessions where accessible and indirect education through various media and aid delivery, and support for humanitarian operations in contaminated areas.
- Mine Action Reporting: Partners are able to report hazards and accidents through the Mine Action Hotline (60666) or through the UNICEF Community Based Feedback Mechanism (6664).
- For advice and support, particularly in the Logistics Cluster, please contact: Cosmin Ciama CosminC@unops.org

6. Partners Logistics Gaps/Bottlenecks

- MSF was interested to know if other partners have already used and/or planning to use the Libya-Kufra District to Darfur. Partners can connect through the Logistics Cluster (sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org) or contact directly Anwar.sadat@amsterdam.msf.org

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- Documentation and Cross-Border Operations: There has been a noted lack of communication between suppliers leading to issues such as trucks arriving at borders without proper documentation. It was suggested that all convoy drivers must possess travel permits verified beforehand to streamline operations and avoid interruptions.
- Particularly considering the highly sensitive nature of ongoing operations, partners were reminded that they are welcome to contact the Logistics Cluster for bilateral consultations or for information sharing purposes, and that the Logistics Cluster will only share specific information if permission is granted by the partner.

The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting will be held on 6 August 2024.

Contacts

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