
Sudan Operation

Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes

07 January 2025



LOCATION	Port Sudan and Online
DATE	07 January 2025
CHAIR	Sudan Regional Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), Airlink, Alight, CESVI, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, EMERGENCY NGO, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), GOAL, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), INTERSOS, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Belgium), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Holland), Médecins Sans Frontières Operational Centre Amsterdam (MSF OCA), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Spain), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Switzerland), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Relief International (RI), Save the Children International (SCI), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Welthungerhilfe, World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision International (WVI).
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Previous action points2. Logistics Cluster Services & Updates3. Access and Convoys Updates4. Cross-Border Operations5. United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Update6. Temperature-Controlled Update7. Any Other Business
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Movement Plan: Partners to submit their monthly cross-border and crossline movement plans by the 1st of each month in the OCHA Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism (HISM) tool.• Convoy Coordination: Partners to review the Sudan - Humanitarian Road Convoy Guidelines and Flowchart.• Storage: Partners to share their storage needs and gaps with the Logistics Cluster, including for temperature-controlled storage, as well as MSUs in areas where the Logistics Cluster is not present (e.g., Darfur).

1. Previous Action Points

- **Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM):** Partners were requested to complete the CCPM Partner Survey by 31 December 2024.

- **Temperature-Controlled Needs:** Partners were requested to inform the Logistics Cluster of their interest to participate in upcoming discussions on temperature controlled and cold chain assets and needs.
- **Monthly Movement Plan:** Partners were reminded to submit their monthly cross-border and crossline movement plans by the 1st of each month in the Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism (HISM).
- **Convoy Coordination:** The Logistics Cluster was to share opportunities to participate in inter-agency and WFP-led convoys via the mailing list. Partners interested in joining any future movements can contact the Logistics Cluster via sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org.

2. Logistics Cluster Services and Updates

Common Services

- The updated Logistics Cluster [Concept of Operations](#) and [Standard Operating Procedures Temporary Storage and Road Transport](#) as of November 2024 are available on the Sudan Logistics Cluster website.
- All Logistics Cluster common services are provided at **no cost to the user**.

Transport

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide road transportation to partners on a case-by-case basis. Criteria include a demonstrated lack of capacity to organize transport independently. Services are subject to security and access conditions.
- Before submitting a Service Request Form (SRF) for road transport, partners are advised to contact: Sudan Logistics Cluster Coordinator: Ali Awan (ali.awan@wfp.org), copying Gilles Cimetiere (gilles.cimetiere@wfp.org).

Storage

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide temporary storage services at no cost to partners in Kassala, Gedaref, Port Sudan (including 190 m² of temperature-controlled storage), and Kosti (reopened at limited capacity in November 2024).
- To access these services, partners can submit a [service request form \(SRF\) online](#) or [by email using an excel form](#). Instructions for completing the excel form are available [here](#).
- WFP is planning to open a humanitarian hub in Al-Dabbah, Northern State, with capacity to support the humanitarian community. A dedicated discussion is scheduled for the next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting to evaluate partners' interest in utilizing a potential inter-agency hub in Al Dabbah.
- The Logistics Cluster can provide Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), which can be installed in locations where Logistics Cluster storage services are unavailable. Partners should share their needs with the Logistics Cluster.

Movement Plans

Humanitarian Information Sharing Mechanism (HISM)

- Partners are reminded to submit their monthly movement plans, including cross-line and cross-border movements, into the OCHA [HISM](#) platform by the 1st of each month.
- The Logistics Cluster tracks movement plans to optimize transport capacity utilization.
- Submitted movements are shared by OCHA with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) to enhance visibility and advocate for improved access to hard-to-reach locations.
- Partners are responsible for submitting movement plans through HISM and obtaining the necessary travel permits.
- For assistance with movement planning, the HISM platform, or joining coming convoys, partners can contact Abdallah Dirar (abdallah.dirar@wfp.org) and Ali Awan (ali.awan@wfp.org).
- December 2024: 203 trucks (6,115 mt) crossed Adre, and 25 trucks (879 mt) crossed Tine.
- January 2025: 74 trucks (514 mt) to cross Adre and 22 trucks (514 mt) to cross Tine. Figures may change as movements are reconciled.
- Partners have reported successfully reaching Damazine and Omdurman by road.

3. Access and Convoys Update

Access Advocacy

- OCHA and the HC continue to advocate with authorities to improve humanitarian access across the country, including the use of airstrips agreed by the authorities to be used by the humanitarian community. While Damazine has been assessed, and Kadugli is to be reassessed soon, access to El Fasher and El Obeid airstrips were not endorsed by authorities at this time. Further details on airstrip assessments are in the UNHAS section.

Inter-Agency Convoys

- Strategic planning for inter-agency humanitarian convoys - including priority locations and cargo – is led by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), HCT, and OCHA.
- After strategic planning is made, the Logistics Cluster provides operational planning support for OCHA-coordinated convoys.
- Partners are encouraged to review the [Sudan - Humanitarian Road Convoy Guidelines and Flowchart](#) (published on the Sudan Logistics Cluster website in December 2024), which outlines roles and responsibilities.
- A call for interest has been issued for upcoming OCHA-led convoys from Port Sudan to Khartoum and Omdurman.
 - **Khartoum Route:** Port Sudan - Atbara - Shendi - Wad Hassuna – Wad Abu Saleh - Khartoum
 - **Omdurman Route :** Port Sudan - Atbara - Shendi - Matama - Sarurab - Karari – Omdurman

- Both roads above were cleared by authorities on 26 December 2024 and have been tested by some partners already.
- An inter-agency convoy to West Kordofan is in the early planning stages, with a call for interest to follow.
- After the ICCG consolidates prioritized locations and sectors, and planning, partners with questions about cargo inclusion on inter-agency convoys should contact the Logistics Cluster directly.

WFP-Led Movements

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates partner cargo inclusion in WFP-led movements where opportunities arise.
- **Recent Movements:**
 - In December, a WFP-led movement from Port Sudan to Khartoum included cargo for four partners, facilitated by the Logistics Cluster.
 - A WFP-led movement from Chad to Zamzam, North Darfur - including five trucks with cargo supported by the Logistics Cluster for two partners - is enroute to Zamzam.
- **Future Movements:**
 - Upcoming WFP-led convoy opportunities will be shared through the Logistics Cluster mailing list.
 - Then, partners interested in joining future WFP-led convoy movements will contact the Logistics Cluster at sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org.

4. Cross-Border Operations

Chad-Sudan

- Partners have reported difficulties crossing the Adre border entry point for trucks heading to Tawila and Zamzam, as well as significant delays due to inspections in El Geneina since mid-December.
- Advocacy efforts are underway to address these bottlenecks, and partners are encouraged to report challenges to the OCHA CMCoord Cell, via the [Sudan Access Working Group - Access incident reporting form](#), copying the Logistics Cluster.
- Partners have requested additional storage solutions, particularly in Zalingi, El Geneina, and Nyala.
- Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) are available for these locations and can be loaned to partners, upon request, by the Chad-Sudan Cross-Border Logistics Coordination Cell with the support of WFP.
- Partners are asked to provide details on the intended use of the MSUs and ensure they are used to full capacity. The mutualization and inter-sectoral use of MSUs is strongly encouraged. Partners wishing to set up MSUS are invited to reach out to Christophe Vial (christophe.vial@wfp.org) and Ali Awan (ali.awan@wfp.org).
- For any cross-border needs or issues, please also contact Christophe Vial (christophe.vial@wfp.org).

South Sudan – Sudan

- The Joda border entry point in Renk remains the only official approved border crossing point for the movement of humanitarian cargo between the South Sudan and Sudan. However, the entry point is under strain due to the recent escalation in fighting around the border.
- The South Sudan Logistics Cluster are taking a “no regrets” approach by planning the installation of three to four MSUs in Aweil, Northern Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan. The planned site is approximately one hour north of Aweil, along the road leading to the Sudanese border. Platform-raising works are currently underway, with the MSUs expected to be operational by the end of January. WFP South Sudan is also establishing their own storage capacity at the location.
- There have been no recent updates regarding an MoU between Sudan and South Sudan.

5. United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Updates

- International airbridges from Nairobi and Cairo to Port Sudan continue to operate without disruptions.
- As international commercial transport options to Port Sudan increase, UNHAS is focusing more on facilitating internal flights.
- **Extension to Damazine:**
 - UNHAS expects to extend its current operations to Damazine with a stopover in Kassala.
 - An assessment of Damazine was conducted in the end of December 2024, and a final report is pending.
 - A survey on *Passenger Demand and Flight Scheduling for Port Sudan – Damazine 2025* has been shared with the heads of agencies with a submission deadline of **Monday, 13 January 2025**.
 - Flights to Damazine could potentially resume by late January or early February.
- **Kadugli Airstrip**
 - A second assessment of Kadugli airstrip was planned for the end of December but has been rescheduled for late January.
 - This assessment is necessary to enable UNHAS flights from Wau, South Sudan.
 - In the long-term, UNHAS will also explore a route to Kadugli from Port Sudan via Damazine.
 - Partners have expressed interest in cargo transport to Kadugli.
- A Joint assessment of the El Obeid airstrip is also planned in early February 2025.
- Interest in passenger flights to Dongola remains low.
- The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) now requires all manifests to include valid user IDs, which must be submitted during booking and check in processes.
- While UNHAS primarily supports passengers and light cargo, partners with additional cargo requests are encouraged to contact UNHAS directly for further discussion (unhas.sudan@wfp.org).

6. Temperature-Controlled Update

- In December 2024, the Logistics Cluster team held dedicated sessions for partners based in Sudan and Chad to map temperature-controlled assets and needs.
- Partners noted needs, particularly in the Darfur region, and in Chad to support cross-border operations into Sudan
- The Logistics Cluster continues to compile partners' temperature-controlled and cold chain capacities and gaps.
- Partners are encouraged to share any additional information with the Logistics Cluster (sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org).

Presentation from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF Holland)

- MSF Holland provided insight into how they adapted an MSU loaned by the Sudan Logistics Cluster to function as an alternative temperature-controlled room to store pharmaceutical products.
- To manage high external temperatures, they used local materials (plastic sheeting and thermal insulated sheeting) for insulation against external heat. They also installed three British Thermal Unit (BPTU) air conditioning units in the MSU.
- The MSU was installed inside their commercial warehouse to avoid sandstorms, dust infiltration and direct sunlight.
- Options to address limited or no access to electricity include use of diesel generators 24/7 or a solar-powered and energy efficient system.
- To address the lack of air circulation in the warehouse, they plan to install air extractors.
- The pros of using an MSU with an inner liner:
 - Provides effective insulation, thus maintaining stable interior temperature.
 - High-quality materials designed to withstand harsh weather.
 - It comes with floor panel and sheet for additional protection against heat from ground.
 - Ensures a reliable, consistent storage environment.
 - Adjustable to accommodate different space needs.
 - More cost-effective than permanent structures.
- The cons of using an MSU with an inner liner:
 - Increases tent weight and setup complexity.
 - Raises the overall cost of the MSU (16K EUR).
 - May not be compatible with other tent models without modification.
- The pros of using insulated 40 ft. containers:
 - Maintains stable internal temperature for sensitive items like pharmaceuticals.
 - Reduces energy consumption by preventing heat loss or gain.
 - Flexible and easily relocatable for temporary, remote use.
 - Quick and easy setup.
 - Withstands harsh environments, including extreme heat, humidity, and sandstorms.

- Long-lasting material ensures extended lifespan.
- Requires less cooling power.
- The cons of using insulated 40 ft. containers:
 - High upfront investment, especially with custom designs or advanced materials.
 - Insulation reduces internal storage capacity.
 - Requires specialized transport.
 - Regular inspections and maintenance needed for efficiency.
 - May struggle with extreme weather if insulation or cooling systems fail.
- Partners are welcome to get in touch directly with Ojo Surndish, Technical Logistic Coordinator, MSF Holland (sudan-logco-tech@oca.msf.org) with any additional questions, including costs related to MSU adaptations, or to arrange an on-site visit to the facilities.

7. AOB

- Partners were requested to complete the [Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring \(CCPM\) Partner Survey](#) by 7 January 2025 (extended from the original deadline of 31 December 2024).
- The Logistics Cluster has launched an app to support rapid response, robust communication, and effective coordination. Built for Logistics Cluster partners, the app offers essential resources in one intuitive, powerful platform. Partners can access all documentation, maps, Logistics Information Exchange (LogIE), Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA), LOG, and so much more.
- The Logistics Cluster will provide more information related to the app in the coming weeks.
- The app can be downloaded using the below links:
 - **iOS:** <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/logistics-cluster/id6670389140>
 - **android:** <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.logcluster.logclusterApp>
- All recently published documents on the [Sudan Logistics Cluster website](#) are also available on the Logistics Cluster app.
- Partners are encouraged to visit [Log-IE](#) (Logistics Information Exchange), the interactive GIS platform, to consult and share information on physical access constrains.
- Partners are invited to provide short presentations (5-10 min) at the coordination meetings regarding their logistics operations and challenges. To include the presentation in the next coordination meeting, kindly send an email to sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org.

The next Sudan Chad-Sudan Cross-Border Coordination Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 14 January 2025 at 3pm Sudan time / 2pm Chad time online only.

The next Sudan Logistics Cluster Coordination Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 4 February 2025 at 3pm Sudan time / 2pm Chad time at the WFP Port Sudan office.

Partners based in Port Sudan are encouraged to join in person. An invite (including a Teams link for partners based outside of Port Sudan) will be shared shortly.

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Contacts

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