Location: WFP Conference Room, El Obeid
Date: 21 January 2019
Chair: WFP Sudan Supply Chain/Logistics
Participants: WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, ISLAMIC RELIEF ORGANIZATION, UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY AND SAFETY, HUMANITARIAN AID COMMISSION, UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, PLAN INTERNATIONAL, SUDAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, ISLAMIC RELIEF WORLDWIDE, DIRECT AID

Action Points:
- Regularly coordination meetings to be conducted every 2 months.
- WFP to invite all Logistics focal points for UN/INGO operating in El Obeid for the next meeting.

Agenda:
1. Introduction - Logistics Sector
2. Open discussion/contribution from agencies
3. WFP fuel access
4. Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) LET sector
5. AOB

1. Introduction - Logistics Sector
- Since this was the first meeting to establish regular Logistics Sector coordination meetings, participants were taken through the sector coordination concept which aims to strengthen inter-agency coordination to enhance the timeliness and efficiency of the logistics response.
- Efficient and timely logistics and telecommunications are key to enabling humanitarian assistance programmes.
- The humanitarian community often requires the support of coordinated logistics solutions when responding to emergencies and protracted crises. These areas include the facilitation of common logistics services, logistics-related information management and mapping.
- The sector approach is designed to identify and address logistics gaps and bottlenecks, and to seek to avoid the duplication of humanitarian efforts.
- The Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), which has the lead role in coordinating humanitarian assistance, makes a huge contribution to logistics capacity by providing land transport and warehouses.
- These meetings will feed into the bigger coordination meeting in Khartoum, and recurring issues without locally-available solutions will be escalated to the Khartoum meeting. If need be El Obeid and Khartoum could conduct a joint meeting via webcam.
- Within the scope of the sector, UNHAS provides air services to the humanitarian community and security/medical evacuations.
2. **Open discussion/contribution from agencies**

- Participants expressed their gratitude for this initiative and fully supported the creation of a Logistics Sector coordination meeting.
- WFP informed the meeting that there was a new UNHAS officer for El Obeid.
- The WFP Chief of Aviation (WFP) will visit El Obeid in February to meet with the user group.
- In terms of common service support, participants were informed of the following available services which are provided on a full cost-recovery basis:
  - Vehicle maintenance
  - Transportation
  - Storage (warehouse space)
- With the experience gained on goods clearance at the port, WFP can also share a short list of customs clearance companies with agencies whenever they need.
- WFP further added that in terms of capacity strengthening, technical support has been offered to the HAC to develop systems. Warehouse training has also been conducted to HAC staff.
- Participants noted that one of the challenges currently experienced is cash liquidity which is affecting operations, due to the ceiling on withdrawals. A suggestion to the agencies operating in El Obeid was to work together and negotiate this with the bank.

3. **WFP Fuel access**

- Participants were briefed on the process to access WFP fuel, including that the process is done at Khartoum level.
- Some agencies represented in the meeting have already completed Service Level Agreements with WFP.

4. **Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) LET sector**

- Participants were briefed on the Logistics Sector Humanitarian Response Plan for 2019.
- For 2019 the sector will continue facilitation of common logistics services including storage, transport, common radio rooms, air transport, and capacity strengthening for the HAC.

5. 

- After discussions, it was agreed that meetings will be conducted bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month.
- The need for regular member attendance was stressed.

**The next meeting will be held on 5 March 2019 in the WFP conference room at 14:00.**
## CONTACT

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jose Ferrao</td>
<td>Head of Supply Chain</td>
<td>Khartoum</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jose.ferrao@wfp.org">jose.ferrao@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris Oduor</td>
<td>Head of Office</td>
<td>El Obeid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:morris.oduor@wfp.org">morris.oduor@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamela Onyango</td>
<td>Logistics Sector Coordinator</td>
<td>Khartoum</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pamela.onyango@wfp.org">pamela.onyango@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khalid Abuelgasim</td>
<td>Logistics Officer</td>
<td>El Obeid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:khalid.abuelgasim@wfp.org">khalid.abuelgasim@wfp.org</a></td>
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