Meeting Minutes, 24 February 2022
Sudan, Khartoum

LOCATION
Khartoum, Sudan - online

DATE
24 February 2022

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Alight, CAFOD, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), GOAL, IAS, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Médecins Sans Frontières OCA (MSF-Holland), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Relief International, Save the Children, Triangle Generation Humanitaire Sudan (TGH), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, UNHAS, United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), USAID/BHA, US Embassy, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), World Food Programme (WFP)

ACTION POINTS
- Partners are encouraged to share physical access constraint information with Amna Abdein. (amna.abdein@wfp.org)
- The Logistics Cluster will initiate a Gaps and Needs Analysis exercise comprising interviews with its humanitarian partners.

AGENDA

1. Updates from UNHAS
2. Operational Updates
   - Logistics Cluster
   - Partners
3. Update from WFP service marketplace (fuel, transportation and storage)
4. AOB

1. Updates from UNHAS

- UNHAS Steering Board/Committee chaired by RC/HC will be meeting on 28 February. This is a quarterly meeting, and this will be the first meeting of 2022. The priority agenda item is the funding concerns for UNHAS operations. There is currently an acute funding problem for UNHAS, they are only covered up to the end of March 2022. They are confident that donors will hear their appeal and continue to support the operation.

Challenges that have impacted the operation:
- The Sudan Civil Aviation Authority grounded a UNHAS aircraft. This is related to legislation regarding ageing aircraft that were built more than 20 years ago. UNHAS is currently

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negotiating to get a short-term waiver to ensure they can operate according to national laws. Other possibilities include to ask the foreign air operator to register locally or to purchase a new aircraft, which is very expensive.

- The liaison to Port-Sudan is the worst affected as helicopters are used for Kassala and Damazin.

### 2. Operational Updates

- **Logistics Cluster:**
  - The End-of-Year Satisfaction Survey results were shared. The survey was completed in December 2021 and compiled partner input on cluster activities.
  - Mostly regarding main activity of the cluster, coordination and IM:
    - Coordination: Overall satisfaction (28.6 percent very good, 57.1 percent good) – still room for improvement in terms of regular invites to meetings and discussing the experiences of all organisations with freight forwarding companies in Sudan. List of providers that the cluster could support.
      - **Suggestions for improvement of coordination from responses:**
        - Ensure all interested partners receive invitations to the meetings.
        - Discuss the experiences of all organisations with freight forwarding companies in Sudan.
        - Possibility of providing fuel in the field office.
        - Have a compiled list of service providers/suppliers which all partners of the cluster can use as a reference.
        - Encourage all INGOs to present their mandates, areas of work and where their work is located so that every agency knows the “who, what, and where” of work.
        - Continue the work being provided now.
    - IM: Global satisfaction (satisfaction 28.6 percent very good, 57.1 percent good).
      - **Suggestions for improvement of IM from responses:**
        - Increase visual meeting period from 30 minutes to at least 45 minutes.
        - Send information on available fuel stock and other items in advance rather than apologizing after requests have been received and cannot be met.
        - Try to share the meeting minutes as quickly as possible as possible following the meeting.
        - Continue the work being provided now.
  - **Value of the Logistics Cluster:**
    - Extreme Value – 14.3 percent.
    - Much Value – 57.1 percent.
    - Limited Value – 21.4 percent.
    - Don’t Know – 7.1 percent.

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- Not many responses overall: 14 total respondents. The survey occurs twice per year (August and December), and it is important to receive responses from partners to improve performance.
  - The survey will be shared along with the minutes from this call.

- Partners:
  - NRC is interested in getting information regarding the required documents to process the exemption for the importation of items, such as shelter kits. The partner was encouraged to reach out the cluster Coordination bi-laterally.
    - Two partners had previously had a blanket exemption for medical shipment from the Ministry of Finance. However, they were recently refused the blanket exemption, and therefore now must either obtain an exemption for each individual shipment or pay a one percent service tax on the medical shipments. The process is time and resource-consuming. A third partner said their organisation had received a blanket exemption and was not having issues with medical shipment. Bi-lateral discussions between the partners taking into account the different status of the organisations and their specific qualifications for exemptions are planned in this area.

  - Regarding the security of cargo movements in Darfur, WFP confirmed that they are using military escorts from Al-Fasher to Geneina/Nyala/Zalingei. Vehicles from Nyala to Ed Da’ein have been able to move without escort.

3. Update from WFP Service Marketplace (fuel, transportation and storage)

- Requests for transport and storage are coming in through the Service Marketplace (SMP) with a WFP expert team responding to these requests on time. SMP is a platform where all partners who have a valid SLA with WFP can submit various requests to WFP. If any partners experience technical issues while using the platform, they are encouraged to reach out to the team.

- Partners asked if it would be possible to provide a storage facility in Al-Fasher, Geneina, and Khartoum for example, as they are interested in moving items down to Darfur. Al-Fasher may not be possible at present, but the other locations could be possible depending on the type of cargo and the duration of the storage need. Any partners that are interested in storage should submit a request and the team will respond with information about whether they can accommodate the request.

- Partners asked if any fuel price changes could retroactively impact the amount due on their invoices. The response was the current price rates remain the same for the time being. Once more information on price fluctuations has been received, this will be communicated to partners via the invoice. Prices will not change from the issued and approved proforma invoices. Partners are advised to only have one SMP account referent. The account can be shared between staff within an organisation, but it would be best for all the requests to move through one account for each organisation.

- Partners interested in receiving the internal evaluation for food commodity prices should reach out to Eyad Hassan.

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The SMP only provides fuel, transport and storage. No non-food items (NFIs) are provided through the SMP.

For any question, please contact eyad.hassan@wfp.org.

4. AOB

- Following a question partner, it was indicated that a Cash Based Transfer working group is operational between the organizations present in Sudan. The Cluster Coordination can share the contact bilaterally.

- Partners expressed concern over the devaluation of currency and that most suppliers to prefer to be paid in hard currencies or outside of the country due to issues with inflation. It was reminded the Central Bank of Sudan impose restrictions on how to pay, who to pay, and in what currency, when it comes to payments to or from outside the country. INGO colleagues advise that partners liaise with the regional office of the INGO to manage payments externally to the country. This way, payments can move from one external party to the other external party legally.

- Regarding a previous discussion on sharing and managing a database of suppliers within the country, the Cluster cannot manage and share an official supplier database. However, if partners are interested in sharing their own database, the Cluster Coordination could compile the information and share it on a bilaterally basis with all the members of the Cluster.

  Partners were reminded that the LCA tool (Logistics Capacity Assessment), which can be found on the Logistics Cluster website, has contact information for some providers including transporters. The LCA was last updated in 2019

- Communication and information sharing:
  - Mailing list: sudan-logs@logcluster.org
  - Sudan Operation Page: https://logcluster.org/ops/sdn20a
  - Logistics Capacity Assessment, Sudan: https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Sudan
  - Logistics Cluster WhatsApp group, Sudan: link Sudan Logistics Cluster

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The next coordination meeting is planned on 24 March 2022.

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