Meeting Minutes, 24 March 2022
Khartoum, Sudan

LOCATION
Khartoum, Sudan - online

DATE
24 March 2022

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Goal, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), Médécins Sans Frontières OCA (MSF-Holland), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Première Urgence Internationale PUI, Save the Children, Secours Islamique France (SIF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, UNHAS, UNHCR, UNICEF, USAID/BHA, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO)

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

- The flight ban centred on Gedaref State has been extended to 7 June 2022. This ban prevents partner organisations from flying together or flying to the camps near the border. UNHAS does not anticipate the ban being lifted at the current extension date without significant changes to the situation in the Tigray or border area.
- The UNHAS fixed-wing, 18-seater aircraft has been grounded for almost a month following legislative requirements regarding aircraft age. They followed up with the authorities, but it will not be possible

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to utilize the aircraft. The aircraft is departing Sudan on 24 March to return to the base station. UNHAS has identified a younger aircraft that falls within the 20-year age limit that is currently flying for UNHAS in Tunis and have started the process of bringing the aircraft into the country. The aircraft is expected in Sudan the first week of April. UNHAS appreciates the patience from partners as they have worked to resolve this issue.

2. Operational Updates

- Logistics Cluster:
  - The Logistics Cluster coordinator will begin reaching out to partners next week regarding the Cluster operation in Khartoum to discuss partner expectation for the Logistics Cluster.

- Partners:
  - Partners requested a meeting be set up to specifically discuss issues faced during importation as some cargo has waited over 200 days to enter the country and the delays risk some goods expiring. It was proposed that the meeting be co-chaired by OCHA and Cluster and be scheduled for after Yasir (OCHA) returns in early April to ensure he can support us with his knowledge of the subject. An initial meeting will discuss importation issues for UN Agencies in order to gather information to help establish an effective advocacy strategy. A follow up meeting will discuss importation issues for NGOs as the processes differ.
  - Partners were interested in information on the status of the Egypt corridor and the impact of the devaluation of the currency. Updated information on these topics was not immediately available. For the time being the main channel for importation remains the maritime way through Port Sudan. The partners were encouraged to share their strategies on how to cope with rising inflation and currency devaluation.

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

- Requests for fuel, 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.

- From January to present, WFP has transported 1,000 metric tons of food and non-food items of behalf of partners to 11 states in Sudan.

- Sohail Asif (sohail.asif@wfp.org) and Almogira Abdulmoneem (almogira.abdulmoneem@wfp.org) are currently serving as the fuel strategic team as part of WFP Fleet. In the first quarter of 2022, WFP has provided 1.03 million litres of fuel to 38 partners in 17 locations in Sudan.

- A partner asked about the process for requesting fuel when there is low supply and whether fuel should generally be requested on a weekly or monthly basis. Sohail clarified that the purpose of WFP’s fuel service is to stock fuel for partners so that they do not need to store fuel themselves. When a partner requests 1,000 litres of fuel and the fuel has been allocated to them, it is then up to

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the partner whether they would like to collect it all at once or collect the fuel in portions as needed for the projected period.

- A partner proposed the setting-up of an online database for all service users to do reconciliation online rather than relying on manual reports. A shared system could help avoid scenarios in which the quantities delivered differ from those recorded in invoices. Sohail introduced a conversation held with IT-WFP regarding digitization. The system they discussed would be equipped with a dashboard and could be set up to allow partner access. He also said that, though there were some issues with reconciliation in 2021, there is a good system in place for record keeping for 2022. Eyad added that there is currently a method for partners to extract the information relevant to their requests in a report from the SMP system.

- Partners that need more information about the requirements and processes for the SMP system should reach out to Eyad Hassan at eyad.hassan@wfp.org with Sohail Asif (sohail.asif@wfp.org) and Almogira Abdulmoneem (almogira.abdulmoneem@wfp.org) in copy.

4. AOB

- Any partners interested in contributing to a shared supplier database should reach out to Gerard Genevois at gerard.genevois@wfp.org for more information.

- Partners discussed their concern over the inflation taking place in the market and an interest in seeing the impact of inflation on operations and mapping to see the movement of supplies as prices increase. Some partners have experienced issues with contracts falling through before signing because the validity of the prices was of concern. In response, some partners have set contracts in USD to allow them to move forward with less concern over changing prices. Some suppliers may be unable to accept USD so this solution cannot be applied to all suppliers.

- 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

The next coordination meeting is planned on 21 April 2022.

Contacts

Gerard Genevois  Logistics Cluster Coordinator  gerard.genevois@wfp.org
Gillian Doby  Information Management Officer  gillian.doby@wfp.org

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