Meeting Minutes, 10 May 2022
Juba, South Sudan

LOCATION
Juba, UNHCR Conference Room

DATE
10 May 2022

CHAIR
Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
ALIGHT, Care International, Community Aid for Fisheries and Agriculture Development (CAFAD), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Humane Aid for Community Organization (HACO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Health Organization (WHO).

ACTION POINTS
• Organisations to move cargo by road to Bentiu while the road is passable.
• The Logistics Cluster to share Bilateral Service Provision (BSP) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) through the mailing list once available.

AGENDA
1. Road Convoys & Beyond Response Updates
2. Air Operations Updates
3. River Transport – Bilateral Service Provision reminder
4. Any Other Business (AOB)/Discussion

1. Road Convoys & Beyond Response Updates

Access Constraints
• The latest physical access constraints, as displayed on the Physical Access Constraints Map, were shared with partners.
• The road from Juba through Eastern Equatoria to Jonglei is accessible up to Boma only, with access challenges from Kapoeta to Boma.
• The Western Corridor Convoy is currently accessible all the way up to Bentiu, as the road from Mayom to Bentiu has recently become passable.
• Organisations are requested to share any physical access constraint updates with the Logistics Cluster via southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

Road Convoys
• Organisations are highly encouraged to make use of the short dry season to preposition cargo by road through the Logistics Cluster facilitated road convoys, the Beyond Response Road transport services from Wau, Bentiu and Malakal, or through commercial transport or the organisation’s own means.
• The Logistics Cluster will not move large volumes of cargo by air during the rainy season for organisations who failed to preposition in a timely manner.

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a
The Logistics Cluster is facilitating weekly Western Corridor Convoys while the road to Bentiu is open. Organisations are invited to submit their Convoy Request Form to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

Common storage space can be provided by the Logistics Cluster if there is insufficient storage capacity in prepositioning locations.

Organisations participating in road convoys were reminded that they are responsible for hiring the trucks and drivers, loading of the trucks, informing the drivers of all guidelines, ensuring adherence to these guidelines, and displaying clear visibility items on the vehicles. Organisational logos on trucks should be visible from a distance and should be weather resistant.

Resources to support operational planning, such as the Weekly Transport Schedule with the latest convoy departure dates, can be found on the webpage.

Ad hoc road convoys can be organised for six trucks or more.

**Beyond Responses**

- Organisations were reminded that the Logistics Cluster offers free road transport services in Wau, Bentiu and Malakal to deep field locations, using IOM’s Common Transport Services (CTS) trucks, as part of the Beyond Response operations.
- All locations have 3 CTS trucks and one crane available. From Wau, all locations as displayed on the Beyond Wau Response Destinations Map are accessible. From Bentiu, only Roriah, Bieh and Thoan can be reached by road at the moment. From Malakal, Dholiep, Khor Fulus, Najdiar, Riangnom, Baliet, Gel Achel, Adong, and Abwong are currently accessible.
- To access these services, a Service Request Form (SRF) needs to be submitted to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.
- Organisations were reminded to always provide a copy of the waybill to the driver.

**2. Air Operations Updates**

- The list of Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) prioritised locations is as follows:
  - **By air:**
    - Unity – Leer
    - Unity – Mayendit
    - Jonglei – Greater Pibor Administrative Area
    - Jonglei – Ayod (depending on location)
  - **By road:**
    - Unity – Rubkona
    - Lakes – Cueibet
    - Lakes – Rumbek North
    - Warrap – Tonj East & Tonj North
    - Western Equatoria – Ezo, Tambura, Nagero
  - **By river:**
    - Jonglei – Fangak
    - Jonglei – Canal/Pigi

https://logcluster.org/ops/ssp11a
• Jonglei – Ayod (depending on location)

- Transport modalities for the locations may change depending on the latest assessments and weather conditions.

- Participants were reminded that the Logistics Cluster follows ICCG prioritisation procedures and does not determine priorities when planning the flights. Furthermore, air operations are reserved for locations not reachable by road or river, rapid response missions, and extreme life-saving priorities such as disease outbreaks.

- The current Logistics Cluster fleet consists of one fixed wing aircraft serving destinations from Juba, one helicopter positioned in Bor to reach destinations not accessible otherwise, and ad hoc support from Rumbek using the Bor-based helicopter. The Logistics Cluster will advise where the cargo should be prepositioned upon submission of an SRF.

- During the rainy season, fewer locations will be accessible by fixed wing and the reliance on costly helicopter transport will likely become a bottleneck for humanitarian operations. Organisations are requested to support the effective use of limited resources by submitting requests for air transport for only the most essential and immediately required cargo.

### 3. River Transport – Bilateral Service Provision Reminder

- The Logistics Cluster provided a reminder on the way forward with river transport. Due to funding cuts, the Logistics Cluster is no longer able to facilitate free-to-user river transport services. The cluster will however continue to offer the same coordination of river transportation on a full cost recovery basis through WFP’s Bilateral Service Provision (BSP). Alternatively, organisations can choose to contract commercial river transporter services directly, for which contact details will be made available on the Logistics Cluster website.

- BSP is a service provided by WFP, where the Logistics Cluster acts as a coordination body and focal point between the organisations (“service users”) and WFP.

- Organisations can request BSP by submitting an SRF to southsudan.rivertransport@wfp.org. Quotation will be based on the volumes indicated in the SRF, so it is advised to submit an accurate SRF to avoid over- or underestimation of costs. The final pro forma invoice (PFI) will be provided once cargo has been received at the Logistics Cluster hub and reconciled with the details provided on the SRF.

- Bor and Malakal will remain the river transport hubs for the time being.

- The Logistics Cluster further elaborated on the steps to access BSP in the meeting, which will be published on the website in the form of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). A link to the document will be shared through the mailing list once available.
4. Any Other Business (AOB)/Discussion

- The Logistics Cluster reiterated that it remains the organisation’s responsibility to offload their cargo at the final river transport destination. The cluster only supports loading and offloading in Bor and Malakal.
- It was queried how long the road to Bentiu remains accessible. The Logistics Cluster advises to move cargo by road as quickly as possible, as road conditions may soon deteriorate.
- All women working in logistics were reminded of the invitation to join the Women in Logistics Network (WiLN), a platform established by female logisticians from various organisations to empower women working in logistics in South Sudan. The network organises bi-monthly meetings, structured mentorship opportunities, and opportunities to connect and network. Interested women can contact womeninlogsssd@gmail.com for more details.

The next coordination meeting will take place online on Tuesday 7 June 2022 at 14:00.

Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiona Lithgow</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fiona.lithgow@wfp.org">fiona.lithgow@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blessing Dzambo</td>
<td>Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator - Operations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blessing.dzambo@wfp.org">blessing.dzambo@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Emery</td>
<td>Logistics Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:natalie.emery@wfp.org">natalie.emery@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issam Abdo</td>
<td>Logistics Officer – Bor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Issam.abdo@wfp.org">Issam.abdo@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemi Angelo John</td>
<td>Logistics Associate – Juba Hub</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lemi.john@wfp.org">lemi.john@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jolien Dekker</td>
<td>Information Management Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jolien.dekker@wfp.org">jolien.dekker@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Izakare</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:richard.izakare@wfp.org">richard.izakare@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
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