LOCATION

Online

DATE

19 July 2022

CHAIR

Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Médecins Sans Frontieres Holland (MSF Holland), Médecins Sans Frontières Switzerland (MSFCH), Medical Environmental Development With Air Assistance (MEDAIR), New Life Ministry, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Plan International, OXFAM, Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM), Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDOR), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

ACTION POINTS

• Organisations in Bentiu to inform Logistics Cluster new locations that are accessible.
• Partners can now access river transport service utilising the new cost recovery modality.

AGENDA

1. Logistics updates by partners:
   o MSF Holland in Leer, Unity state.
   o Oxfam International in Pibor, Jonglei state.
   o Concern Worldwide in Bentiu, Unity state.

2. Logistics Cluster River Movement Update.

3. AOB

1. Logistics updates by partners

Leer - MSF Holland in South Sudan

• Médecins Sans Frontieres Holland (MSF) is currently running three projects in South Sudan (i.e., Leer, Bentiu, Lankien).
• MSF has three caravan planes with the capacity of one ton each, which is shared by five sections in the organisation. The planes are widely used for patient referrals and are not sufficient for transporting supplies.
• The Logistics Cluster has supported MSF in transporting a significant amount of construction materials by air from Juba to Leer including the current transportation of two generator sets.
• In the last quarter of 2021, the Logistics Cluster supported most of the operations in Bentiu as the community of Leer had moved to Bentiu due to insecurity over the past years.

• In 2022, the bulk of operations moved back to Leer where most transport is done through river by MSF specifically to support the high volume of construction material cargo being brought to Leer.

Challenges - Road

• Leer town and the bordering county have poor road network and drainage system which hinders road and air movements during the rainy season.

• Flooding and deteriorating roads increase the damage to vehicles leading to an increase in operating costs and further constrains to the operations.

• There is a limited number of trucks for transporting cargo from Adok port to Leer.

Challenges – Air Operation

• As an open stretch of sandy surface, the airstrip is not landable for one to two days after it rains.

• Constantly changing airport fares from local authorities which causes disagreements with the pilots and the crew.

• There is a need for constant monitoring of the north side of the airstrip as it functions as a main passage for people and animals. Maintenance of the airfield from interferences, especially from the bushes on the west end of the strip, is done by volunteers and as such it is not sufficient for the needs of the airstrip.

Gaps

• There is limited equipment available in Leer which adds to the logistics challenges the organisations face.

• In the last two years, a new construction company has opened in Leer providing access to some equipment, but the service is highly solicited, and equipment is often broken.

• Only one transport truck is available in Leer which is a challenge for the transport of large volume cargo.

Opportunities

• There is a growing local market in Leer which is an opportunity to procure goods locally, including construction materials and household items.

Pibor – Oxfam International

Challenges – Air Operation

• The airstrip runway requires an upgrade.

• People continue to cross the airstrip during the landing and take-off of aircrafts while there is no presence of government to control the crowd during these movements.

Gaps

• A lack of a Logistics Cluster focal point hinders communications and collaboration.
- There is a lack of cargo flight by helicopter to locations in Pibor which are not accessible during the rainy season.

**Opportunities**

- There is a large amount of national and international NGOs in Pibor which provides an opportunity for improved collaboration and results.
- The airstrip in Pibor allows for helicopters to land even during the rainy season.
- During the rainy season, the river could be utilised to reach other locations with a speed boat.

**Bentiu – Concern Worldwide**

**Challenges**

- Due to the flooding, sourcing locations from Juba and Sudan are cut off which increased the number of flights and ultimately operation costs.
- There is limited support for last mile delivery as some key Beyond Bentiu Response locations are not served this year.
- Some road convoys were postponed and then faced further impediments, including road closure at peak hours for road works.
- Porter rates for handling of cargo increased and organisations are unable to bring other porters from outside.
- Bentiu has limited equipment e.g., excavator, dump truck, forklift, and crane for handling cargo.
- Storage space is limited, and there is no responsibility for the drainage of roads to and from storage units, for pest control and for fire safety protocols.

**Opportunities**

- The Logistics Cluster provides mapping to show access routes in Unity state and could provide more detailed maps according to the needs of partners.
- Once the dry season comes, prepositioning of cargo to final destinations rather than only Bentiu could be done.
- There is availability of smaller trucks, pickups, sherps, excavator & dump truck in Bentiu should the need arise for such items.
- The Logistics Cluster could increase its involvement in coordination with service providers, UN OCHA & the Government of South Sudan at all levels for improved support to partners.
- There should be timely communication of roadblocks.
- Safeguarding and protection measures are already in place by all agencies which ensures the response is following the right process and procedures.
- Additional capacity building activities could be provided in partnership with the log-base/ hub management at IOM.

[https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a](https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a)
2. Logistics Cluster River Movement Update

- The Logistics Cluster gave an update on the river transport service. At the beginning of the year due to funding cuts, the Logistics Cluster was no longer able to facilitate free-to-user river transport services. The Logistics Cluster however continued to offer the same coordination of river transportation on a full cost recovery basis through WFP’s Bilateral Service Provision (BSP). In July, additional supplementary funding was provided for river transportation, allowing the Logistics Cluster to cover 50 percent of the total cost of river movement for all international NGO’s and UN Agencies and 100 percent associated river transportation costs for national NGO’s, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

- The river transport operation process will remain under BSP. Any delays in response from Logistics Cluster has been due to fine tuning of this process. Any requests for river transport should be directed to southsudan.rivertransport@wfp.org.

- Partners asked if new locations accessible by road would be served by the Logistics Cluster. The Logistics Cluster advised partners to contact the team and, if there is insufficient information on the conditions of the road, an assessment would be done prior to providing this service.

- The weekly transport plan and the river map provide updated information on locations reachable by river transport and planned movement dates.

3. AOB/Discussion

- 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 meetings to connect, network and provide training opportunities. The registration link was shared for the next scheduled meeting on July 21. Interested women can contact womeninlogsssd@gmail.com for more details.

The next coordination meeting will take place online on Tuesday 9 August 2022 at 14:00.

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