Meeting Minutes, 22 November 2022
Malakal, South Sudan

LOCATION: Malakal
DATE: 22 November 2022
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS: Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Healthlink, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), RuCAPD, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), War Child Canada, War Child Holland, World Vision

ACTION POINTS:
- Organisations to make use of upcoming river movements from Malakal by sending their Service Request Form (SRF) to southsudan.rivertransport@wfp.org.
- Partners requiring training on the Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) can request this from the Malakal team.
- Partners interested in taking over an MSU in Malakal logistics base to email southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

AGENDA:
1. River Transport Update and Challenges
2. Road Transport Update
3. Common Storage Update
4. How to Access Common Services

1. River Transport Update and Challenges

- The Logistics Cluster shared the latest updates on river movements. River transport between Bor and Malakal has been resumed, though with challenges. The next scheduled movements from Malakal will serve Bor and locations in between, and locations along the Sobat river with final destination Akobo. Tentative departure dates are shared in the Weekly Transport Plan, published on the webpage every Monday.
- All river routes and docking sites can be found in the river transportation network diagram. All routes are served from Malakal, except for Ganyiel and Nyal.
- Partners are advised to send their Service Request Form for river movements to southsudan.rivertransport@wfp.org, even if no river movements have been scheduled. Once enough cargo is collated, ad hoc movements can be arranged.
- It was reiterated that the Logistics Cluster facilitates access to WFP’s Bilateral Service Provision (BSP) for river transport. This is on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis for INGOs and UN agencies. For NNGOs, all costs are covered by the cluster on a case-by-case basis. NNGOs wanting to avail of this opportunity are encouraged to send an email to southsudan.rivertransport@wfp.org and explain their status.
- To initiate the river transport process, organisations need to sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with WFP.

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- Organisations can also choose to engage commercial transporters directly, in which case, partners will take necessary arrangements to secure services as per their requirements.
- Partners queried the 50/50 cost-sharing and asked for INGOs to be charged less than UN agencies. The Logistics Cluster does not have the budget available to change the percentage of costs covered by the cluster.
- The cluster discussed challenges related to river transport, which include insecurity and reliability (influenced by boat and convoy leader availability, delays in offloading at docking sites along the route, etc). River transport in general takes a long time from planning to delivery, and partners are urged to plan ahead.
- Partners raised the issue of porter rates, particularly at locations outside of Malakal. It was recommended by a partner to only use porters that are under the boat union, as they have fixed rates, and otherwise consult the authorities when issues occur. Another recommendation is, when making use of commercial transporters, to include the rate for offloading in the terms and move the liability to the transporter.
- A partner requested support for a humanitarian corridor to transport fuel. Other partners suggested to engage the existing oil company in Malakal.

2. Road Transport Update

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to 3 trucks through IOM’s Common Transport Service (CTS) project, to be used for short distances within Malakal or destinations accessible by road (the so-called Beyond Malakal Response). No locations outside of Malakal are reachable at the moment.
- Organisations were reminded to submit their Service Request Form (SRF) at least two working days before the truck is required. The self-loader is managed by IOM directly and partners were advised to contact IOM if they require a crane.
- Partners are requested to share a waybill with the driver for every movement.
- The CTS trucks should not be used to collect goods purchased on the local market, as this can create issues with authorities.
- It was reiterated that trucks are assigned for a specific movement and not the whole day. The trucks should also not be used as a distribution point and organisations are to make alternative arrangements for mobile distribution sites.
- Challenges occur with deliveries for further away locations served through BBR, as the truck often cannot return the same day. It was agreed that more time should be allocated to these movements and calculate in sufficient time to load the truck in the morning before departure. It was also noted that trucks should be back to the logistics base at 4 pm the latest.

3. Common Storage Update

- There are nine mobile storage units (MSUs) available for common storage in Malakal.

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The cargo tracking has been moved online to the Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA), with almost all stock shifted to the system now. Partners who need training on RITA can reach out to the Logistics Cluster team in Malakal or email southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org.

- Partners were reminded that common storage should be used on a temporary basis only, and to remove cargo that has been stored for a long time. Organisations can consult RITA to track the duration of storage of their items.
- The Logistics Cluster will start handing over MSUs in the hub in Malakal to partners with large quantities of stored goods. This includes the responsibility for the management of the warehouse, such as storekeeper, security arrangements, etc.
- The Logistics Cluster also loans large MSUs (10x24m) and smaller sized MSUs (6x8m) to organisations for locations in Upper Nile without adequate storage capacity. An MSU can be requested by sending an email to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org explaining the need. Priority will be given to organisations willing to manage the MSU as common storage. The cluster can support with transportation of the MSU to the location, if required.

4. How to Access Common Services

- For both storage and transport requests, organisations should submit their SRF to southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org or to southsudan.rivertransport@wfp.org (for river movements only). The timelines to request services are as follows:
  - CTS: two days before the truck is required.
  - River: consult the Weekly Transport Plan and adhere to the indicated deadlines. Alternatively, the Logistics Cluster can arrange ad hoc river transport when sufficient cargo is collated.
  - Storage: the request needs to be submitted before sending your cargo to the stores. Wait for confirmation of space before proceeding with the delivery.

- User instructions on how to fill the SRF can be found here.

The next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting date is to be confirmed.

Contacts

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