LOCATION
Khartoum (online)

DATE
15 August 2023

CHAIR
Regional Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
ALIGHT, African Union (AU), Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide (CWW), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Logistics Working Group Chad (LWG-C), Medair, Medical Teams International (MTI), Médecins Sans Frontières Barcelona (MSF-B), Médecins Sans Frontières CH (MSF-CH), Norwegian Red Cross, Plan International (PI), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Relief International (RI), Save the Children International (SCI), United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Relief (WR), World Vision International (WVI).

AGENDA
1. Revision of previous action points
2. Entry Points status
3. Chad Logistics Working group updates
4. Humanitarian Convoy updates
5. General updates: Sudan Logistics Cluster
6. AoB

ACTION POINTS
• The Logistics Cluster will share WFP Egypt custom clearance agent list with partners.
• The Logistics Cluster to follow up with the CMCoord to share the route mapping.

1. Revision of previous action points

• IMPACCT technical working group confirmed that there is no challenge or issues faced to importing medical supplies through the (Metema) Ethiopian border. However, any partner facing issues should contact the IMPACCT working group coordinator impact.2021@gmail.com or drop a message through the IMPACCT WhatsApp group.
• CMCoord is working on establishing cross border mechanism from Chad to Darfur. Facilitation for this movement will be available using the same platform used for convoys from Kosti. For other locations,
including Khartoum, convoys would be arranged on a need basis. Two days advance notice would be required of partners.

- A partner successfully crossed through the Egypt border and shared from their experience that original documents are required; officials on the Egyptian side were not aware of the customs exemption processes. The partner also had challenges with the clearing agent they hired, so they recommend partners to carefully select the clearing agent in order to avoid unnecessary delays at the border.

2. Entry points Status

- Regarding the Ethiopian border (Metema-Galabat), 50 trucks from WFP are still on hold, awaiting Military Intelligence (MI) clearance from the Sudan side. However, the declaration of a state of emergency in the Amhara region on 6 August has caused additional delays due to the restrictions of movement within the region, including the border crossing. It was clarified by the IMPACCT working group that there are no issues with importing medical supplies through this border crossing, but they will crosscheck with the authorities. Partners facing challenges should contact the IMPACCT working group coordinator via impacct.2021@gmail.com.

- Cross-border from South Sudan to Sudan, partners are still facing challenges getting cargo moved using the WFP Sudan and South Sudan Memorandum of Understanding to use the cross-border point by river through Renk. The reason is suggested that it is not clear what parties of the conflict are in control in this corridor as this route also includes the Blue Nile region. The Logistics Cluster will follow up and let partners know of any updates.

- On the Chad - Adre border, WFP successfully crossed through the Chad-Adre/El-Geneina border on 3 August with 125mt of supplies distributed in Adikong, Jarabi and Shukria located between the border and El Geneina.

- Egypt – Sudan Border. A partner successfully crossed through the Egypt border crossing.

3. Chad Logistics Working group updates

- The Chad-Sudan- X-border Logistic Coordination Group coordinator said that the group will be working closely with the Sudan Logistics Cluster on the cross-border operations and encourage partners to support the collection of data most important for the working group activities.

- The working group has started to collect partners’ pipeline to understand what and where the resources are to be prepositioned into Sudan, and potential gaps, given the goal of supporting the Sudan Crisis. The team will update partners on this in the next meeting and share a data reporting template.

- The team is trying to compile additional information on the entry points via Chad that will be shared on the Sudan Logistics Cluster webpage. Previous documents are uploaded here.

- Regarding other export routes, the Chad-Sudan- X-border Logistic Coordination Group agreed with OCHA to contact the customs offices to have a better understanding of the existing routes. The Chad-Sudan- X-border Logistic Coordination Group is trying to compile all the processes followed by the WFP.

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trucks that crossed the Adre-El Geneina border point on 4 August with the goal of developing an SOP in the next few weeks.

- The working group will work and conduct GIS activities intending to develop and share physical constraint maps with all partners. Partners are encouraged to liaise with the working group and contact christophe.vial@wfp.org and seraphin.mbusa@wfp.org.

- The Chad-Sudan X-border Logistic Coordination Group have already loaned to partners 11 MSUs for the purpose of cross-border activities. There are no MSUs currently available, but partners who have already placed requests for MSUs should wait for a few weeks.

- The main routes used to deliver goods to the border are through N'djamena, Farchana and Abeche to reach the border through Adre. The Chad-Sudan- X-border Logistic Coordination Group will consider Abeche for some partners’ Storage. However, there are no handling facilities, but WFP can support them through On Demand Services (cost-recovery). Partners who would like to use these services can contact Christophe christophe.vial@wfp.org.

- Coordination meetings will be conducted in Farchana. The meetings will be face-to-face, with the possibility of virtual links. The working group will discuss and agree on what language to use for the meeting, possibly in both French and English, as this is a cross-border response. Meeting minutes shall be shared and published in both English and French.

- A partner asked if this working group will cover both cross-border operations and Chad response. The Chad cross-border logistics working group will be responsible for all cross-border activities. There is a separate working group that focuses on refugee response led by UNHCR in Chad and another group on nationwide Logistics working group led by WFP Chad.

- The team does not have a pre-qualified list of transporters. However, the Chad Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) conducted in July has already been shared on the website. Partners can find a list of suppliers for transport, warehouse and other supplies. For more clarifications and information, partners can contact the coordinator via christophe.vial@wfp.org.

4. Humanitarian convoy updates

- Partners should submit their requests to join the convoy using the standard CMCoord link every Saturday since the convoys take place on Tuesdays.

- CMCoord is working on establishing a cross-border mechanism from Chad to Darfur. CMCoord facilitation for this movement will be available using the same platform used for convoys from Kosti.

- For other locations, including Khartoum, discussions are ongoing. If this moves forward, the convoys will be arranged on a need basis, and two days’ advance notice would be required from partners.

- Another convoy with 50 trucks carrying relief cargo on behalf of three partners left Kosti on 9 August. The 12 trucks for Jabel Awlia arrived on 11 August, while the remaining 38 are still in Kosti and are expected to depart on 14 August. The trucks destined for Al Fasher and Nayala have only reached Al Obeid. 4 trucks for Alobeid, Alfula, and Abu Jubiayah have reached their final destinations.

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• The Chad-Sudan X-border Logistic Coordination Group is exploring the possibility of convoy using the same approach, process and procedures for future cargo movement from Chad across the border to Sudan. The Coordinator and IMO based in Chad will facilitate the coordination with CMCoord as discussions are still in the early stages for a possible convoy movement from Chad.

• This week’s inter-agency convoy, planned to leave Kosti on 16 August, may experience some delays as CMCoord Cell is trying to solve some of the challenges faced by the ongoing convoy.

• Partners facing difficulties securing trucks to join the convoy can reach out to WFP to request transport services under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for a bilateral service provision arrangement. These services are provided on a cost-recovery basis, meaning partners have to pay WFP for the service. In order to access these services, partners can send an email to Ali, ali.awan@wfp.org and copying Fiona, fiona.lithgow@wfp.org and Denis, denis.iga@wfp.org. Partners are advised to submit the request one week in advance of the convoy’s departure so that partner can receive clearance from HAC, GIS and/or MI on time.

5. General updates: Sudan Logistics Cluster

• Despite the initial agreement to establish a sea bridge between Jeddah and Port Sudan, there have been recurrent delays in the conversation with the authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The expected meeting has now been postponed to mid-September. This will cause subsequent delays in the official establishment of the sea bridge. As a result, the Logistics Cluster is advising partners to reach out to the team before dispatching any cargo to Jeddah.

• For cargo already in Jeddah, the Logistics Cluster, through WFP shipping, is facilitating the transport by sea to Port Sudan.

• The Logistics Cluster has received several complaints from partners about these delays hampering the delivery of humanitarian supplies in a timely manner to serve the affected population in need in Sudan.

• Regarding cold chain, the commercial provider that was supposed to provide the gensets for the reefers has been unable to deliver the service. In order to enable the reefers, the only option at the moment is to continue with the purchase abroad. The Logistics Cluster is trying to secure temperature-controlled storage capacity with another vendor to ensure the service in Port Sudan as soon as possible. To overcome the current constraint on temperature-controlled Storage in Port Sudan, the Logistics Cluster is trying to put in touch partners with spare capacity with partners in need. In order to enable the link:
  o Partners with additional temperature-controlled storage capacity are encouraged to share it via logIE warehouse survey mapping.
  o Partners in need of temperature-controlled capacity in port sudan to send a message to sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org.

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6. AOB

- The Logistics Cluster encourages partners to share items they would like to discuss so they are included in the next agenda meeting (sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org). The Logistics Cluster is open to providing organisation slots during the coordination meetings to share their experience, success stories, and challenges in delivering humanitarian assistance.

- Partners to contact the Logistics Cluster focal point in Port Sudan (ali.awan@wfp.org) and sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org regarding queries or requests on temperature-controlled services.

- The Logistics Cluster made suggestions to partners to provide the cluster with logistical information while the CMCoord is working on negotiations and identification of routes to use for the convoys. The HCT would like to understand how much cargo is delivered through the convoy movement. The Next Coordination meeting will be on 29 August.

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