Sudan Operation
Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes
5 September 2023

LOCATION
Khartoum (online)

DATE
5 September 2023

CHAIR
Regional Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
American Red Cross (ARC), Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), African Union (AU), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern World Wide (CWW) Danish Refugee Council (DRC), European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mercy Corps (MC), Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières Barcelona (MSF-B), Medical Teams International (MTI), Norwegian Red Cross, Relief International (RI), RRSINT, Save the Children International (SCI), Solidarity International (SI), United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision International (WVI).

AGENDA
1. Revision of previous action points
2. Entry Points status
3. Chad-Sudan- X-border Logistic Coordination Group updates
4. General updates: Sudan Logistics Cluster (Convoy updates)
5. AoB

ACTION POINTS
• All partner organisations to share information on the number of truck movements (Origin – destination) in eastern Sudan on a weekly basis during the coordination meetings so this can be shared with CMCoord.
• The IMPACCT technical working group to convene a meeting to harmonise and share result of data collected from partners on challenges they face at the customs clearance as well as other bureaucratic impediments with the AWG and CMCoord.
• The next Chad-Sudan X-border Logistics Coordination team to approach ECHO for further extension of the consultation deadline.

1. Revision of previous action points

• The Logistics Cluster is following up with WFP Egypt office on the customs clearance agents list and also requests partners to share any agents list (through sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org) to consolidate and share among the group.

https://logcluster.org/ops/sdn20a
CMCoord is working on establishing a cross-border mechanism from Chad to Darfur. Recognizing that this may take some time, the Logistics Cluster will continue to liaise with the CMCoord team to determine what routes are available.

2. Entry Points Status

- Regarding the Ethiopian border (Metema-Galabat), a partner reported that their two trucks have been stuck at the Ethiopian border in the customs clearance for about a week. They have been advised that the delay was due to a network problem.
- Egypt – Sudan Border. The movements for commercial commodities are ongoing at the borders with no reports of any halt from either government. However, a long queue of trucks waiting to pass from the Egyptian side to Sudan (22 km long queue in Argeen and 8 km in Qustol) was reported. Most of these trucks are loaded with food commodities and are mainly moving towards Wadi Halfa, Dongola and Port Sudan.
- Due to this congestion, the clearance takes longer time at both sides (estimated 30 to 40 days). While humanitarian cargo is given higher priority (so far done by WFP, UNICEF and IOM), partners are advised to have the approvals from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs from both sides before the commencement of movements which takes a considerable amount of time. Any partner with further information is encouraged to share the details with the Logistics Cluster team via sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org.
- A partner asked if there are commercial flights for shipment from Egypt to Sudan as they explore options for shipping IT equipment from Cairo to Port Sudan. The Logistics Cluster will find more information from the ETC Cluster via omar.namaoui@wfp.org given that shipment of IT equipments are challenging.
- Regarding the Chad - Sudan border (Adre - Geneina), there are three additional new entry and exit points (Kulbuza, Tina and Um Dukhun) identified for the cross-border operation. A partner inquired about the possibility of using the South Sudan - Sudan border crossing. Several partners have faced challenges and could not cross despite using the WFP MoU between Sudan and South Sudan country office.

3. Chad-Sudan X-border Logistics Coordination Group updates

- The Chad - Sudan X-border Logistics coordination group is working to harmonize practices, identify common constraints and best practices and have a common advocacy strategy to facilitate cross-border operations.
- The Chad-Sudan X-border Logistics coordination group is working together with OCHA and IMPACCT working group to develop cross-border SOPs with common logistics methodologies and custom procedures as there have been several requests from partners to reinforce coordination and align efforts.
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- Farchana still remains a bottleneck as there is not enough storage capacity to cover the demand for the cross-border operation. In the meantime, the group is streamlining efforts to reinforce the storage capacity in Abeche.
- ECHO has opened up a consultation (closed on 6 September) to explore needs to for a potential flight from Europe to N’djamena. Based on the need expressed by the partner community, ECHO will confirm the feasibility of the cargo flight.
- A partner reported that commodities crossing from Chad trucks can not enter Sudan while others are doing cross-border operation with only chadian trucks.
- A partner confirmed that any movement in transfer mode is not allowed in Chad; therefore for all cargo transported from Chad another clearance is required from Chad dedicated authorities to move supplies to Sudan.
- The next Chad-Sudan X-border Logistics Coordination meetings shall be held on 6 September at 1530 hours Chad time. The working group meetings are held in English, and meeting minutes are shared and published in both English on the Sudan Logistics Cluster Page.
- Partners interested to know more information on the status of these potential entry/exit points can reach out to the Chad-Sudan- X-border Logistic Coordination Group via christophe.vial@wfp.org.

4. General updates: Sudan Logistics Cluster

- Regarding the humanitarian convoy coordinated by both Logistics Cluster and CMCoord, all the trucks from four partners that departed Kosti on the 3 August have arrived final destinations of Ed Daien, Al Fula, Nayala, Al Fasher and Abu Jubiyah. The second convoy made of 63 trucks is still ongoing and only 23 trucks have arrived at the final destination. Regarding the third convoy, 3 out of the 6 trucks have reached the final destination. More updates on the convoy status will be shared with partners in the coming days.
- All humanitarian convoys, at the moment, are organised and depart from Kosti to western Sudan. Partners organise the movement of their cargo from Port Sudan to join the convoys in Kosti and then continue to other hard-to-reach locations.
- The Logistics Cluster will continue to liaise with OCHA Access Working Group to advocate for these access constraints and bureaucratic impediments. Partners are also encouraged to report these issues directly through the OCHA incident forms.
- A partner inquired about the delay in the approval of visas for staff and seeking clarity on visa requirements. Organisations are encouraged to get in touch with OCHA to have additional information and support advocacy with relevant authorities, as this is not under the Logistics Cluster.
- The Logistics Cluster is finalizing updates on the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) and will share the document with partners and post in on the dedicated Sudan Logistics Cluster website.
- A partner trying to move their medical supply truck from Port Sudan to Kosti is facing a challenge of being stopped by the military intelligence (MI) in Port Sudan. This has further delayed the partner from

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meeting the humanitarian convoy schedule and being faced with possible storage problem for the medical supplies.

5. AOB

- UNHAS has shared the flight schedule for September which can be accessed via the Sudan Logistics Cluster website.
- The Logistics Cluster partners have discussed and agreed to have the coordination meetings twice a month. Therefore the next coordination will be on 19 September 2023.
- The Logistics Cluster encourages partners to share topics they would like to discuss to be included in the next agenda meeting (sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org).

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