Sudan Operation
Sudan – Coordination Meeting Minutes
19 September 2023

LOCATION
Khartoum (online)

DATE
19 September 2023

CHAIR
Regional Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger (ACF), Africa Global Logistics (AGL), Airlink, ALIGHT, American Red Cross (ARC), Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Cevallogistics (CL), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern World Wide (CWVW) Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), GOAL, 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), Mercy Corps (MC), Médecins Sans Frontières Spain (MSF-S), Norwegian Red Cross, 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), World Food Programme (WFP).

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
5. AoB

ACTION POINTS
- Partner organisations to provide information on the number of truck movements (origin – destination) in eastern Sudan on a weekly basis during the coordination meetings to be consolidated and shared with CMCoord.
- Partners to share information with the Logistics Cluster team on shipping companies operating in Port Sudan to consolidate a supplier list available to interested organisations.

1. Revision of previous action points

- OCHA CMCoord, in collaboration with the Logistics Cluster team and key partners, is working to establish a solid structure for the cross-border mechanism from Chad to Darfur. Standard Operating Procedures have been drafted and are pending the Chad DHC approval. This document will be shared with all partners once endorsed.
- ECHO field visit between 19-21 September in Adre and Farchana, Chad, will focus on the cross-border operation and challenges partners are faced with. The Logistics Cluster will share the outcomes of the meeting scheduled on 20 September between ECHO and humanitarian actors in Farchana.
- The IMPACCT working group coordinator is conducting bilateral discussions with organisations to collect details of import and customs clearance procedures for advocacy and follow-up. More

https://logcluster.org/ops/sdn20a
2. Entry Points Status

- The Ethiopian - Sudan border (Metema-Galabat) continues to be open and operational with no challenges reported in the past few weeks.
- On the Egypt – Sudan Argeen border, heavy congestion is reported, with lengthy clearance processes at both sides (estimated 30 to 40 days). However, humanitarian cargo is given higher priority, provided partners have MoFA approvals from both sides before the commencement of movements.
- Regarding the status of border crossings from Chad into Sudan, three potential new entry and exit points (Kulbuz, Tina and Um Dukhn) are identified for the cross-border operations, in addition to Adre. Some partners have already reportedly used Kulbuz and Um Dukhn border crossings with no challenges faced.
- The Logistics Cluster confirmed that there are no official agreements on custom fee exemption from local authorities for INGOs for supplies entering Port Sudan. Partners are encouraged to report should they have more information regarding import procedures, customs regulations and exemptions, to the Logistics Cluster team or using the IMPACCT working group. For humanitarian access incidents, humanitarian actors are also encouraged to input the OCHA Access Incident Report Tool here, which allows high-level advocacy.
- ETC Cluster confirms that the Sudanese authorities do not allow the importation of satellite telecom equipment (e.g. Thuraya, Starlink) and there are limitations on radio equipment, for which authorizations will need to be granted by the national telecommunication authority. The Logistics Cluster will follow up with the ETC Cluster on the importation of vehicle tracking equipment and share feedback.
- Any partner with further information on the status of border crossings into Sudan is encouraged to share the details with the Logistics Cluster team via sdn.response.logcoordination@wfp.org. Regular updates are shared among the group and posted on the LogIE platform: LogIE in Sudan (logcluster.org).

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

- A time travel and distance map for Chad - Sudan border area showing road distances, wadis and travel times is available on the Logistics Cluster website.
- There are persistent logistical challenges to reach Chad from the West Africa corridor due to poor road conditions, combined with heavy traffic on the Maroua-Kousseri section, which brings the lead time up to two months for trucks coming from Accra (including 3 weeks only for the Maroua-Kousseri leg).
- Humanitarian partners, through the Logistics Cluster X-border coordination group are exploring possibilities for airlifting of cargo into Chad.
Another bottleneck identified by partners is the lack of storage capacity, including temperature-controlled facilities, to support the scaling up of the operation. The Logistics Cluster is looking at options to mutualize available assets and expand the existing capacities in the area. Common storage is made available in Adre through Atlas Logistics for transit cargo.

There are procedures for UN organizations to request authorization to MOFA Chad ahead of the cargo movement (notification system) and be granted tax exemption for cross-border operations.

Under Chad export regulations, a 2% export tax is applied to commodities; however, this has not been applied to humanitarian supplies for cross-border operations.

The Logistics Cluster team, together with the OCHA CMCoord cell, is advocating with local authorities to have a systematic cross-border mechanism from Chad to Darfur which would be valid across different areas/border crossings, and approved by the central level. All relevant updates will be shared during the coordination meetings.

Partners interested in knowing more information on the status of entry/exit points, export regulation and the notification system can reach out to the Chad-Sudan X-border logistics coordination group via christophe.vial@wfp.org.

4. General updates: Sudan Logistics Cluster

The Logistics Cluster is facilitating humanitarian convoys movements across Sudan, in close coordination with CMCoord cell. A total of 116 trucks have been mobilized so far with the convoy modality with six partners’ participation between August and September. The convoy for 12 September did not take place as the road from Kosti to El Obeid was closed. The convoy for 19 September was put on hold due to security concerns.

The Logistics Cluster is providing common storage at 4 locations including Port Sudan, Wad Madani, Kosti and Gedaref with a total capacity of 12,600 m2. So far, a total of 4,530.97 m3 equivalent to 1,625.41 mt of relief cargo were stored on behalf of 9 partners.

Regarding temperature-controlled storage, a facility in Port Sudan is being set up and is expected to become operational to accommodate partners’ requests in the next few days/week.

For sea transport companies operating in Port Sudan, interested partners are requested to share with the Logistics Cluster team the list of companies used to consolidate and make a comprehensive list available to the group.

The LogIE is available on the Sudan Logistics Cluster webpage. A short tutorial has also been developed to explain the navigation through the tool and how to download the information in pdf.

To enhance the mapping of storage capacity, partners are encouraged to submit the data on their warehouses in Sudan (they can also fill and share this excel file) to help understand the gaps and resources available. Warehouse information is not shared on the online tool, but is reported as total capacity at the state level.
• On the Logistics Cluster Sudan page all the latest documents are posted, including the revised Concept of Operations (ConOps) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to access common logistics services.

5. AOB

• Following recent decisions by the Government of Sudan, UNHAS advises that all passengers’ travel documents (Passport / UNLP), must be valid for at least six months to enter Sudan.
• A Regional Logistics Cluster Induction (LCI) Training will be facilitated in Nairobi in November. Partners are encouraged to apply through the link provided below. The training team will review all applications and provide a confirmation directly to the participants, ensuring equal representations of roles and organisations attending the training. Each organization will need to cover the travel costs for its participant/s.
  o Location: Nairobi (Lake Naivasha TBC), Kenya,
  o Date: 13-17 November
  o Application: Information and application here (Deadline for applications: 22 September 2023)
  o Language of training delivery: English
  o Costs: travel to and from Nairobi + incidentals
• The next Sudan Logistics Cluster coordination meeting will be on 3 October 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). The date of the next Chad-Sudan X-border coordination meeting will be also shared and posted online.

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