
Background

South Sudan remains a medium-intensity conflict zone, ranked 156 out of 163 in the 2025 Global Peace Index. Humanitarian needs are critical, with 75% population of 14.2 million people requiring some sort of assistance. The crisis is deepening due to prolonged conflict, poor infrastructure, severe food insecurity, fragile healthcare systems, widespread flooding, economic collapse, political uncertainty ahead of elections, and a spillover from the Sudan conflict, including disrupted oil exports and both returnee and refugee influxes.

A major funding shortfall is further straining humanitarian operations.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

Humanitarian logistics in South Sudan continue to face significant challenges related to road access and the sustainability of access routes. The recent escalation in conflict has made it increasingly difficult to maintain consistent and reliable access to affected populations. These barriers frequently result in delivery delays and increased operational costs

Road Access and Sustainable Access Challenges

Although there have been some improvements brought about by initiatives from the United Nations and the private sector, the country's road network remains underdeveloped. This infrastructure gap is particularly pronounced during the rainy season when many roads become largely impassable. The states of Jonglei, Unity, and Upper Nile are especially affected, with poor road conditions severely limiting the movement of humanitarian assistance and impeding the timely delivery of aid to vulnerable communities.

Objectives

The Logistics Cluster (LC), in line with the 2026 Humanitarian Response Plan, is committed to addressing the identified needs of affected populations by focusing on three key areas: effective information management, coordination, and access to common logistics services. Additionally, the Cluster places particular emphasis on strengthening national capacity to support longer-term sustainability within the logistics sector.

While the regular delivery of commodities is guided by the principle of cost efficiency, the Logistics Cluster recognises that certain emergency responses, such as those addressing Cholera outbreaks, necessitate immediate action. In these critical, life-saving situations, airlifts are frequently utilised to ensure the swift delivery of supplies within the required timeframe.

Where feasible, river and road transport are prioritised over air transport to optimise resource use and enhance cost-effectiveness. The Logistics Cluster collaborates with partner organisations to maximise the utilisation of road networks, particularly during the dry season pre-positioning period. This is achieved through the organisation of regular convoys and by ensuring that sufficient deep-field storage is available to meet operational requirements.

Planned Activities

The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community in 2026 until a major change requires a revision of this document.

1. Coordination

National Level: Maintain representation in key forums such as the Inter Cluster coordination group, Civil Military Coordination group, Access Working group also maintain links to the NGO forum especially for the dissemination of key information at the senior CD level for INGOs and National NGOs. The aim is to ensure all field operations and partners are aligned and to improve the coordination also between field partners and their organizational focal points in Juba.

Coordination meetings are provided from the National level with all hub (Bentiu, Bor, Malakal) partners dialling in to ensure continuity of information and a wider view of the overall response as opposed to a local response. Post the meeting, any specific local discussions are held.

State Level: Participate in state-level ICCG meetings and any ad-hoc meetings required.

Road Convoy coordination

- **Convoy coordination:** The LC will organise regular convoys to all locations when roads are physically passable. A bi-monthly transport schedule is posted on the website. The cost of the transportation is borne by the organisations with details of joining the convoys available on the website. Ad-hoc convoys can be considered upon request.

2. Information Management

To support decision-making and improve logistics efficiency, the Logistics Cluster will collect, analyse, and share key logistics information, including:

Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA): Updated regularly to reflect national and state-level logistics capabilities.

Operational Updates: Shared through situation reports, meeting minutes, snapshots, and briefings.

GIS Mapping: To visualize logistics infrastructure and access constraints.

Service Information: The dissemination of transport plans (air, river, road) through various information products.

All updates are notified via the mailing list and posted on the Logistics Cluster website: <https://logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a>.

3. Common Logistics Services

The following services will be facilitated by the Logistics Cluster.

UNHAS security supports all air movements.

1. Common Warehousing

- **Cluster-managed storage:** The LC manages storage in Bentiu and Malakal for National NGOs. Juba and Bor are transit storage

This Concept of Operations is a live document, and the activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.

only or on special request.

- **Partner-managed MSUs:** MSUs are loaned only for critical needs in remote areas and are aimed at encouraging dry season pre-positioning. The updated CONOPS map shows the current locations and amount of storage available.

[South Sudan - Concept of Operations, November 2025 | Logistics Cluster Website](#)

2. Common Air Transport

- **No cost-to-user air transport:** (for locations not accessible by road or river). As funding allows, air assets will be made available. All locations and responses are supported however the ICCG will prioritise if required. A bi-monthly schedule of air deliveries will be shared to all organisations with pending helicopter airlifts. If demand requires, a plane will be made available however largely limited to critical health deliveries to suitable airstrips.

3. Common River Transport

- **50% cost-sharing:** River transport services will be offered on a partial cost recovery basis. Transport plans are updated on a regular basis.

4. Capacity Building

5. Preparedness

The Logistics Cluster will maintain a dedicated preparedness team and continue co-leading the Operational Support and Logistics Pillar of the Ministry of Health's National Response Plan, particularly for regional health threats like Ebola. Preparedness updates will be shared via the Logistics Cluster website. The LC is also a member of the National Flood Working group.

To strengthen readiness, the Cluster will offer targeted training such as Pharma and Health Supply Chain Management (PSM) and leverage partnerships to enhance response capacity for emerging humanitarian supply chain challenges.

Contacts and Resources

To access Standard Operating Procedures, please visit: <https://www.logcluster.org/ops/ssd11a>

For service requests and general enquiries, please contact: southsudan.clustercargo@wfp.org

For river transport requests, please contact southsudan.rivertransport@wfp.org