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# South Sudan Logistics Cluster

In person & Online - Meeting Minutes

22 January 2026

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<b>LOCATION</b>	OCHA Conference Room, Juba
<b>DATE</b>	22 January 2026
<b>CHAIR</b>	Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator
<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	Medair, South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), Solidarités International, Malteser International, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Mobile Humanitarian Agency (MHA), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), CUAMM (Doctors with Africa), Mercy Corps, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Concern Worldwide, Carter Center, GOAL – South Sudan (GOAL-SSD), TOCH – South Sudan (TOCH-SSD), Women Agency for Resilience and Transformation (WART), Cordaid, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), Healthcare Foundation Organization (HFO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), VSF-Suisse, Medecins Sans Frontieres – Holland (MSF-Holland), The Mawoudit Foundation (MF), ForAfrica, Medecins Sans Frontieres – France (MSF-France), Rescue, Aid Link Organization (ALO), Resilience Community Development (RCD)
<b>AGENDA</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. River &amp; Air</li><li>2. Dry Season Pre-Positioning</li><li>3. Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM)</li><li>4. Training</li><li>5. Any Other Business (AOB)</li></ol>
<b>ACTION POINTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All partners submit SRFs for ongoing river movement plans.</li><li>• LC to consult the global team on adding an alternate consignee field to the SRF (in progress).</li><li>• All partners to consolidate cargo and submit SRFs for Pibor movement (immediately).</li><li>• All partners to complete CCPM by 26 Jan 2026.</li><li>• All partners join WhatsApp groups and use LogIE and the Access Map (ongoing).</li><li>• All partners to report access incidents (checkpoints, fees, suspensions) via LC/Access channels (ongoing).</li></ul>

<https://loqcluster.org/ops/ssd11a>

## 1. River and Air

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### River Operations & Taxation

- **Reason for December pause:** Demands for illegal fees at river ports (incl. VAT, which should not apply to humanitarian cargo).
- **Advocacy:** Ongoing engagements by WFP management with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, RRC, Governors, and other authorities. Some operators paid to move already-loaded vessels; advocacy continues to prevent precedent and protect donor compliance.
- **Cost coverage during delays:** For cluster/WFP-contracted vessels, LC/WFP cover operational waiting costs. Contracted operators have been instructed not to pay unlawful taxes for humanitarian cargo (foods and NFIs).
- **Visibility: “LogIE – River Transit Locations”** shows current start points, routes, and transit locations of boats/barges; updated daily (manual GPS entries while automation is tested).
- **Tracking:** Use **LogIE – River Transit Locations** on the LC South Sudan website (updated daily; automation in testing).

### Air Operations

- **Fixed-wing (AN-26 type)** based in Juba for time-critical inter-agency cargo (e.g., health emergencies).
- **Mi-8 helicopter:** Based in Bor now; planned redeployment to Malakal for ~two weeks to support Upper Nile distributions following barge arrivals.
- **Vehicles by air:** Not feasible (no aircraft presently contracted that can carry heavy vehicles like Land Cruisers).
- **Jonglei: No flight safety assurance**—no flights.

### SRF / Consignee Contacts

- **Interim practice:** Partners should CC multiple receiving contacts in SRF-related emails for continuity and easy reach.
- **Next steps:** LC consulting with the global team to consider adding an alternate consignee field to the SRF template.

### Tools & Information Channels

- **Website:** Logistics Cluster South Sudan, access River Transit Locations (LogIE), Weekly Physical Access Map, schedules, SOPs, convoy guidelines, and documentation checklists.
- **WhatsApp groups:** National group, and specific groups for Bor, Malakal, and Bor–Malakal River Transport—partners encouraged to join for faster updates.
- **Incident reporting:** Partners should report **access impediments** (bureaucratic, security, checkpoint taxation, etc.) through the **Access Working Group** and LC and OCHA [osinsky@un.org](mailto:osinsky@un.org).

## 2. Dry Season Pre-Positioning

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### Road Access & Security

- **Dry season:** Physical access is generally good; security remains the primary constraint.
- **Eastern Equatoria:** Most routes (incl. Juba–Torit) require force protection due to security uncertainties.
- **Pibor:** Tentative movement next week under force protection. Partners to consolidate cargo and submit their interest in joining the convoy (WFP and LC coordinating).
- **Unity/Upper Nile:** LC exploring **LC-funded trucks** (via WFP) to hard-to-reach locations during dry season (semi-LTS model). Partners should **flag volumes/routes** early.
- **Schedules: River schedule** to be published **this afternoon** and circulated **tomorrow** via mailing list; ongoing updates on the website.
- **Road Convoy:** Check weekly Physical Access Map + security advisories; ensure **RRC/JBVMM/Presidential decree** and transporter/driver paperwork are valid.
- **Bor–Malakal:** more than eighty checkpoints recorded (June last year); expected similar currently. It is important to note that the Cluster does not make any payments at these checkpoints. However, the large number of checkpoints significantly delays movement as WFP access and convoy leader have to negotiate their way out without payments, but this also increases risks to both personnel and humanitarian supplies. Looking at the most recent river convoy that departed Bor on 16 January 2026 and arrived in Malakal on 23 January 2026, taking eight (8) days to complete the journey whereby they were not stopped for any fees, as opposed to 14-18 days.

## 3. Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring

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- **Open until: 26 January 2026.**
- **Responses** Feeds into **global donor reporting**; partners encouraged to complete.

## 4. Training & Capacity Building

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- **Training Working Group:** To identify national/field training needs (fleet, procurement, warehousing, inventory, weights/volumes, etc.).
- **Training:** Nominate focal points/trainers to join the Training Working Group.
- **Call for facilitators:** Partners with internal trainers to volunteer.
- **Field “micro-trainings”:** 1–2 hour essential refreshers (e.g., inventory management) via LC field focal points.

### Decisions & Agreed Approaches

- **Continue advocacy/pushback** on illegal river taxation (including VAT) to protect humanitarian principles and donor compliance.



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- **Maintain force protection** requirements on high-risk corridors (e.g., Eastern Equatoria).
  - **Interim SRF workaround:** CC multiple receiving contacts in email; LC to explore SRF alternate consignee field with global team.
  - **Use new visibility tools** (LogIE; weekly access maps) before contacting LC for “Where is my barge?” queries.

**The next Logistics Cluster Coordination meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 26 February 2026.**

## Contacts

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