

Background

The WFP Logistics Coordination Unit (WFP-LCU) formerly operating as UNJLC, is an inter-agency common service designed to facilitate logistics coordination for complex and large-scale emergencies. It has been active in Sudan since 2004, where it facilitates cost-effective and efficient humanitarian operations through the provision of relevant and timely logistics services including: logistics common services coordination; logistics assessments; and, logistics information services. Through close coordination with and among humanitarian agencies, WFP-LCU promotes strengthened partnerships in logistics enhancing the humanitarian community's ability to respond rapidly to emergencies.

Objective

To facilitate logistics coordination, knowledge sharing of humanitarian logistics information and GIS & Mapping in support of the humanitarian community in North Sudan as a coordination mechanisms to make informed decision, that allow efficient and cost effective management of humanitarian operations. The processes involve strong collaboration with the partners, government and, private companies, with the aim of gathering & sharing information, and providing capacity building.

WFP-LCU's Beneficiaries

WFP-LCU's logistics activities benefit all humanitarian organizations operating in Sudan and, therefore, indirectly all populations receiving support from the humanitarian community. All logistics activities are demand-driven, based on the expressed requirements of the humanitarian community and are all provided free-of-charge. Comprehensive annual surveys of the humanitarian community are used to define WFP-LCU's strategy and direction of activities and confirm the humanitarian community's continued need for WFP-LCU services. Localized surveys on specific topics assess demand for individual tasks. In 2011, 72 organizations received WFP-LCU services

including UN agencies, national and international NGOs, international organizations, Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, government ministries, civil societies, and community-based organizations.

WFP-LCU's Logistics Activities

Logistics Common Services Coordination

WFP-LCU's logistics common services are designed to promote cost efficiency by maximizing on economies of scale with the humanitarian community acting as one unit. In 2011, 72 organizations took advantage of WFP-LCU's logistics common services, which included:

Logistics Coordination: i) Monthly Coordination meetings in Khartoum and Darfur and follow-up on action points, ii) UNHAS User group meetings at field level - Darfur, iii) Logistics Trainings. iv) Facilitation of cargo movement for partners

GIS & Mapping: i) Regular Information Management Working Group (IMWG) meetings both at Khartoum and Darfur level – IMWG is spatial data and other information sharing coordinating body between partners chaired by UNDP. Spatial data is being shared ii) GPS training for partners, iii) Link with VAM and Program units within WFP for information synchronization

Logistics Assessments

WFP-LCU's logisticians travel regularly throughout Sudan to gain a practical understanding of operations and logistical constraints on the ground. WFP-LCU's Sudan-wide assessments research existing infrastructure and logistical procedures and consolidate relevant information. Localized surveys of roads, bridges and infrastructure identify logistical constraints impeding the delivery of humanitarian goods and services. Results are disseminated to the humanitarian community for further action. 2011 achievements include:

Logistics Information: i) Post-secession logistics operations assessment ii) Research & Analysis on Cross border policy issues – customs information, ii) Waterways supply corridors iv) Suppliers Project database, iii) Fuel Prices, iv) Logistics Capacity

Assessment, v) Logistics Common Services Needs Assessment,

GIS & Mapping: i) Assessment on key logistical spatial datasets of Roads, bridges, airstrips, warehouse and Ports, ii, Disaster preparedness such as flooding.

Logistics Information Services

WFP-LCU compiles and disseminates relevant and timely logistics-related information, which humanitarian organizations can use to optimize their operations and logistics activities. Information is shared through regular topical reports, WFP-LCU's website, specifically-designed email lists, helpdesk services, and personal interfacing. In 2011, WFP-LCU supported 72 humanitarian agencies with:

Logistics Information: i) Sudan Logistics Monthly Bulletin, ii) Weekly Darfur Fuel Updates, iii) Weekly Global Logistics Updates, iv) Research Papers – Customs procedures, v) Concept Notes, vi) Meeting Minutes, vii) Needs Analysis reports. viii) Assessments Reports

GIS & Mapping: i) Logistics Planning maps, ii) Transport Overview Map, iii) Supply Corridors, iv) Maps on Humanitarian Response v) Distance matrices vi) Special and ad hoc maps vi) Summary extracts from spatial geo-database.

operations, GIS & mapping, convoy plans, capacity building, and information sharing. The concept of logistics common services & coordination should be maintained as an ongoing function to maximize the human and capital resources in emergencies and livelihood initiatives.

The possible disbanding of NFI-ES sector of WFP-LCU and the transition process to UNHCR exclude, the Logistics Common Services, due to changes in strategies. Under the leadership of WFP Logistics, Logistics Common Services can be revamped, to include more initiatives in support of the humanitarian community based on the needs and availability of funds to support implementation strategies plus add value to internal logistics strategies. The following areas can be considered under Logistics Common Services:

- i) Needs Assessment on common transport and warehousing and identify implementing strategies
- ii) Research collaboration on policy issues impacting on humanitarian logistics
- iii) North Sudan –Logistics Capacity Assessment
- iv) Capacity Building on Supply/Logistics Management & GPS technology
- v) Multimodal Transport and Warehousing Optimization Models
- vi) Logistics Strategic Distribution hubs for Darfur, Blue Nile, South Kordofan
- vii) North Sudan- humanitarian fuel contingency measures,
- viii) Implementation of Geo-portal Database (Web-based information management tool)
- ix) Implementation of UN Spatial Data Infrastructure for Transport (UNSDI-T) for which WFP is a global custodian.
- x) Logistics Coordination Forums

Recommendations, Future Outlook and Strategy

WFP is the global logistics lead and is responsible for ensuring a well coordinated, efficient and effective logistics response takes place for relief/emergency operations, not only in terms of WFP food aid, but for all humanitarian actors participating in the response. WFP needs to ensure predictable leadership, partnership with other humanitarian actors and, where necessary, become the 'provider of last resort'

WFP Logistics capabilities will strengthen humanitarian response by coordinating common services such as transport, warehouse, air