

Section 1: Logistics Cluster Funding Appeal 2022

The logistics response in South Sudan is characterized by limited physical infrastructure, underdevelopment, and a lack of commercial capacity. The WFP-led Logistics Cluster acts as a provider of last resort, facilitating access to common services when critical gaps hinder the humanitarian response. Its core functions are to provide quality information management and coordination, facilitate movement of common relief items, and build the logistics capacity of the humanitarian community in South Sudan. The Logistics Cluster brings global experience in providing common services that enable efficiencies across all modalities. Organizations have relied heavily on the Logistics Cluster for the movement of core pipeline items and other humanitarian cargo across the country.

Section 2: Logistics Cluster Revised 2022 Budget

Due to a recent notification of a projected large-scale reduction in the Logistics Cluster funding for 2022, the Logistics Cluster carried out an internal review on what services it will be able to continue providing on a free-to-user basis commencing 1 April 2022, with some immediate reductions in services.

The budget has been reduced from USD 24 million to USD 17 million with to date a contribution of USD 5 million anticipated only for 2022 leaving a funding gap of USD 12 million.

The revised budget supports the core functions of the Logistics Cluster in providing coordination and information management services while focusing its operational capacity on air support to areas not reachable by road or river which is classified as last resort due to the reliance on specialized air assets.

The river, due to a commercial market being available, will have the costs transferred to the user.

In summary, the revised USD 17 million budget will allow the Logistics Cluster to provide the following services free-to-user:

- Coordination and information management
- Air transport at a level scaled to the availability of funding for locations inaccessible by road or river
- Facilitation of road convoys
- Common storage

Section 3: Revised Service Provision Details

The changes will predominantly affect air and river transportation services:

1. Air transportation

In 2021, the Logistics Cluster supported the delivery of 4100 mt to 96 locations for humanitarian partners across South Sudan. This capacity will reduce to 25%.

To date, there is not a viable commercial air transport service provider in-country. As a provider of last resort, the Logistics Cluster will consolidate and transport essential life-saving cargo in a timely manner to locations not accessible by any other means, i.e., road or river.

As of 1 April 2022, 1 helicopter will remain with a maximum capacity to transport only 1200 mt in 2022, (25% of projected air transport needs) and only available to support ICCG priority locations due to the monthly capacity being approximately 100mt.

- The use of the specialized fixed-wing aircraft, the most cost-efficient air delivery asset, will be discontinued effective 1 April 2022 if no additional funding comes through.

- Priorities for air support will be set by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). With the above changes, a 75% reduction in air support to humanitarian partners is expected. This will also require a reduction in the number of ICCG priority locations, removing any support for static activities, i.e., nutrition, etc.
- Additional funding will enable the Logistics Cluster to widen its support to destinations outside of ICCG priority locations and to more static responses (Nutrition, WASH, health etc programmes).

2. River operations

In 2021, 3300 mt was delivered by river to 46 locations for 60 humanitarian partners.

In the past few years, the number of commercial river transport providers has expanded. In line with the Logistics Cluster mandate, services offered are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of other organizations or compete with the commercial transport market, but to fill identified gaps for a limited period. While river transport is now established as a commercial operation in South Sudan, many organizations lack the funding and resources to engage river transporters individually.

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to offer the same support and coordination for river transportation but on a full cost recovery basis through WFP's Bilateral Service Provision (BSP). The charges will be paid for by the organizations making use of this service.
- Depending on funding availability, the Logistics Cluster may cover river transport costs for national NGOs on a case-by-case basis.
- In February, the Logistics Cluster will prioritize transporting already accepted cargo requests. From March 2022 onwards, requests for river transport services will be directed to BSP.

Section 4: Funding Gap

To maintain effective logistics common services for the humanitarian community in South Sudan, the Logistics Cluster is urgently requesting funding to allow the continuation, even at reduced level, of its air component in hard-to-reach locations inaccessible by air or river. This will ensure the Logistics Cluster will be able to maintain air transport services to support the ongoing flood response and static programmes and continue transporting emergency supplies across the country, enabling humanitarian organizations to respond to the most pressing needs in a timely manner.

Total Requested

USD 12 million

Further information can be requested from the Logistics Cluster via the following contact details:

Fiona Lithgow	<i>Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	fiona.lithgow@wfp.org
Blessing Dzambo	<i>Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator - Operations</i>	blessing.dzambo@wfp.org
Karolina Greda	<i>Deputy Logistics Cluster Coordinator - Preparedness</i>	karolina.greda@wfp.org
Jolien Dekker	<i>Information Management Officer</i>	jolien.dekker@wfp.org
Natalie Emery	<i>Logistics Officer</i>	natalie.emery@wfp.org