Global Teleconference Minutes, 25 March 2020
COVID-19 Response

LOCATION  Teleconference
DATE  25 March 2020
CHAIR  Athalie Mayo & Bruno Vandemeulebroecke


ACTION POINTS  
• The Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell (SCICC) will share the list of critical items for procurement through a globally centralized mechanism.
• Organisations to share their perceived or actual needs to define the joint operation response planned by WFP with the Logistics Cluster (covid-19@logcluster.org).

AGENDA  
1. Health Cluster Update  
2. WHO Interagency Coordination Cell Update on Medical Items Sourcing  
3. WFP Update on Global Humanitarian Response Plan inputs  
4. Logistics Cluster Updates  

1. Health Cluster Update  

• Global Health Cluster Coordinator, Linda Douall, delivered an update on Health Cluster actions including updates on current statistics, expected spread and the response plan. The presentation can be found here attached to these minutes.
• WHO has launched a Strategic Preparedness Response Plan highlighting the importance of community based transmission.
• The response to COVID-19 should be particularly tailored to national and sub-national levels through existing health sectors/clusters if applicable.
• The importance to share coherent public health messages throughout different operations, countries and organisations was reiterated. Guidelines can be found on the WHO Webpage.
• WHO guidelines and risk analysis on the use of military assets and health facilities in humanitarian settings are available on demand.

https://logcluster.org/COVID-19
2. WHO Interagency Coordination Cell Update on Medical Items Sourcing

- A Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell (SCICC) has been set up to ensure a coordinated and system-wide answer to this pandemic. The cell has put in place a Working Group on Procurement to focus on sourcing critical medical items that are becoming difficult to obtain on the public market. The list of items will be shared with the partners.
- The Procurement Working Group gathers procurement specialists from several organisations to work on jointly sourcing items in order to reduce the demand amplification caused by bilateral requests.
- To support this joint effort, organisations are invited to share their sourcing needs at national level. The consolidation of needs will be made at national and regional levels and not per organisation to ensure data consistency and prioritization.
- Humanitarian Coordinators/Resident Coordinators have been requested to appoint lead agencies to collate and coordinate demand at national level. The SCICC encourages working through the Health and Logistics Cluster / Sectors in countries where these mechanisms exist.
- For sourcing of non-critical items, procurement should take place as per the usual procedures of each organisation.
- All questions related to the joint sourcing of critical items should be addressed to covid19supplychain@who.int.
- The SCISS is also looking at upstream sourcing in the broader logistics response. Interested organisations are invited to join the weekly conference calls for more information.

3. WFP Update on the Global Humanitarian Response Plan

- WFP reiterated its commitment to supporting the humanitarian community.
- WFP Supply Chain is working to adapt and build on existing structures like clusters to continue to support the humanitarian community in the most efficient way.
- WFP submitted its inputs to the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19, which is due to be launched today, 25 March. The plan includes a number of measures designed to support the humanitarian response to COVID-19 including coordination, clusters and a significant up-stream air operation component.
- Details of the air operation are being refined and organisations are encouraged to communicate their perceived or actual gaps and needs to help shape the response plan. For now, the plan includes:
  - The creation of international consolidation hubs in Shanghai, Liege, and Dubai
  - The creation of regional staging areas in Bangkok, Nairobi, Dakar and Johannesburg
  - The facilitation of the movement of personnel and cargo through the international and regional hubs
  - It is expected that these services will be offered at no-cost-to-user
- Clear communication on services offered, resources available and potential prioritization will be shared as soon as possible. In the meantime, organisations are encouraged to share their needs through the Logistics Cluster.

https://logcluster.org/COVID-19
4. Logistics Cluster Updates

- The Logistics Cluster analysed the survey results of the COVID-19 impact on partner operations with the support of Kuehne Logistics University. The analysis of the data provided by 76 respondents shows the perceived negative impact of the pandemic on service availability, the increasing delays in lead time, along with the unpredictable impact on operations in the short, mid and long term.

- Another further survey will be circulated shortly to identify more specific constraints for each organisation’s logistics planning phases and responses.

- The Logistics Cluster is compiling all information related to Cargo Entry Points into a daily update. Organisations are strongly encouraged to share verified information they have to ensure a common mapping of cargo movement restrictions.

- All logistics-related COVID-19 documents and links are shared through the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 page. Organisations are encouraged to regularly check the page to access the latest updates.

- Key information will be circulated through the Global Logistics Cluster mailing list. Organisations wishing to be added to the mailing list should contact covid-19@logcluster.org.

The date and details of the next Logistics Cluster Meeting will be shared on Monday 30 March.

Contacts

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