Global Teleconference Minutes, 31 March 2020

COVID-19 Response

LOCATION
Teleconference

DATE
31 March 2020

CHAIR
Athalie Mayo & Bruno Vandemeulebroecke

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS

• Organisations to share their operations constraints and/or impediments to covid-19@logcluster.org.
• Humanitarian Organisations interested in forming part of the Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group are invited to contact covid-19@logcluster.org.
• 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. Update on the perceived impact of COVID-19 on Humanitarian Supply Chain
2. Logistics Cluster role in the COVID-19 response architecture
3. Update on cluster/sector/working group activations
4. Update on Medevac plans (cancelled)
5. WFP Operational Response Plan

1. Update on the perceived impact of COVID-19 on Humanitarian Supply Chain

• As COVID-19 pandemic is increasingly impacting humanitarian operations globally, the Logistics Cluster encourages organisation to share any access constraints or impediments to covid-19@logcluster.org. Joint advocacy efforts will help mitigate the most critical challenges.
• A reduction of 31% of flight was reported worldwide while more than 55 airlines have temporarily stopped their commercial passenger services severely impacting belly loads movements.
• A shortage of containers has also been reported in certain supply routes.
• The Logistics Cluster is updating on a regular basis the Cargo Entry Point Updates (CEPU) to give the latest overview of cargo movement possibilities and/or limitations. Organisations are invited to share updates to ensure the reliability of the information.

https://logcluster.org/COVID-19
• All efforts related to joint sourcing of critical medical items are led by WHO through the Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell (covid19supplychain@who.int).
• Up-to-date information is shared daily on the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 webpage, including links to other organisation involved in the response.

2. Logistics Cluster role in the COVID-19 response architecture

• The Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell (SCICC) has been established to support strategic guidance, operational decision-making, and overall monitoring of the global humanitarian response to the outbreak of COVID-19. Two working-groups have been established to support the work of the SCICC:
  - The Supply and Markets Working Group: chaired by WHO to foster a global and coordinated approach on sourcing, share insights on the markets of the critical health items and coordinate procurement when possible.
  - The Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group: chaired by the Logistics Cluster to share updates on logistics constraints, raise logistics related issues and/or gaps affecting programmes and suggest solutions. Organisations interested in forming part of this group are invited to contact covid-19@logcluster.org.
• The Logistics Emergency Team activation has been requested and the LET is already sharing critical information on pipeline and logistics constraints.
• The Logistics Cluster is working jointly with IFRC and WFP on International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) guidance on administrative constraints in COVID-19 context.
• The Logistics Cluster is working with other organisations on putting together logistics related COVID-19 training content to be accessible to the wider humanitarian community to strengthen capacities of responders. Documentation on the rational use of PPE is already accessible online.

3. Update on cluster/sector/working group activations

• Over the last days, the Global Logistics Cluster has been supporting countries with potential activation of coordination mechanisms in several countries where COVID-19 exacerbates the need to strengthen logistics coordination among actors. Partners are reminded to use the existing in country coordination structures to raise the need for an in-country Logistics Cluster activation or support if required,
• To make sure that potential activations answer the needs of the humanitarian community in-country, it is key to have an accurate picture of the constraints faced by the partners through a Gaps and Needs Analysis/Exercise (GNA/E). To that extend the Global Logistics Cluster strongly encourages partners to provide their inputs to the surveys shared with them locally.
• For any guidance regarding potential need for activation, the Global Logistics Cluster is available to provide support and advice on the most adequate mechanisms.

https://logcluster.org/COVID-19
4. WFP Operational Plan

- Following the launch of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 by IASC Principals last week, WFP is defining the details and modalities of the WFP input to the response plan. The plan has no food component and focuses only on service provision to the humanitarian community.
- Medevac: WFP will set-up field hospitals in strategic locations around the world together with two air ambulance relocation services. Discussions are ongoing with potential host governments on modalities of implementation. More detailed information in the Medevac plans will be presented by WFP during the next Logistics Cluster global call.
- The draft set-up of the operational plan is attached to these minutes.
- Upstream Service Provision: WFP will be implementing an air and sea operation to support the effective and efficient delivery of the health and humanitarian response items from point of supply to points of entry in country. The service will be provided at no-cost-to-user:
  - Staging areas will serve to consolidate and manage user’s cargo and ensure coordinated, prioritized and tracked movements (subject to changes and adjustments based on operational requirements).
  - Aircraft and vessels will be chartered to manage cargo delivery between international staging areas and regional hubs.
  - International passenger air services will be operated out of major hubs to ensure international movement of humanitarian and medical staff into area of operation.
  - To access these services an online WFP platform is being finalized and will be shared with the community as soon as possible. Users can already start expressing ad-hoc requests for movements out of China to WFP.
  - The prioritization will be aligned with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan and agreed upon by the Emergency Directors Group.
- Downstream Service Provision: WFP provision of logistics in country will be context-specific and provided on cost recovery to users.

The next Global Logistics Cluster Teleconference on COVID-19 Response will take place Tuesday 7 April at 15:00 CET.

Contacts

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