Global Teleconference Minutes, 9 April 2020

COVID-19 Response

LOCATION: Teleconference

DATE: 9 April 2020

CHAIR: Athalie Mayo & Bruno Vandemeulebroecke

PARTICIPANTS:


ACTION POINTS:

• Organisations are invited to share Cargo Entry Point Updates to covid-19@logcluster.org.
• Organisation are invited to fill in the second COVID-19 impact survey (https://ww2.unipark.de/uc/CoronavirusSurvey/ to be copy-paste in browser).
• Organisation to fill in the passenger service needs assessment survey.
• WFP Aviation to share procedures to request MEDEVAC as soon as available.
• Organisations interested in the WFP service provision to start sharing their transport requests to global.serviceprovision@wfp.org.
• WFP to share access to the Service Provision Platform as soon as available.

AGENDA:

1. Logistics Cluster Updates
2. WFP Aviation Updates
3. WFP Operational Plan Updates
4. SCICC Updates
5. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Updates

• As per the latest information received from ICAO, international air cargo capacities have reduced by 19% overall while belly load capacities have reduced by 31% in comparison with normal activity at the same period last year.
• The Logistics Cluster is regularly sharing the Cargo Entry Points Update consolidating information received from humanitarian and private actors.
• The Logistics Cluster is compiling cargo opportunities for repartition flights travelling empty from Europe to West Africa. Opportunities received are shared instantly on the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 page and contact can be facilitated through covid-19@logcluster.org. The Logistics Cluster urges partners to regularly check the website.
• The Logistics Cluster is regularly sharing information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on custom procedures produced by OCHA through the IMPACCT initiative.

https://logcluster.org/COVID-19
The Logistics Cluster has just launched a second survey to improve the understanding of the pandemic on humanitarian supply chain operations. The final optional part of the survey is not anonymous to allow accurate mapping of needs for transportation from points of origin to points of delivery. The survey will be closed on 19 April. The survey can be accessed copy-pasting the following link to a browser: https://ww2.unipark.de/uc/CoronavirusSurvey/

The survey results will contribute to joint and overarching advocacy purposes and the Logistics Cluster invites partners to share information on challenges and bottlenecks to strengthen the advocacy efforts.

As numerous initiatives are currently taking shape, the Logistics Cluster is encouraging organisations to share the information they have access to in order to avoid duplication and ensure improved or optimal impact of information or opportunities.

2. WFP Aviation Updates

The Aviation aspect of the WFP Operational Plan is made of three components: (i) air cargo transport, (ii) passenger transport and (iii) MEDEVAC.

The passenger transport service will be implemented as a response to the reduction of commercial air transport services around the world. It will be provided based on funds availability and subject to States flights authorization.

To ensure adequate mapping of needs, WFP Aviation has launched a passenger service needs assessment survey to be filled in by Friday 10 April.

The MEDEVAC service will be facilitated through the provision of air ambulances to carry humanitarian workers in need for care (not limited to COVID-19) out of locations deprived of medical facilities to field hospitals set-up in identified hubs (Kuala Lumpur, Panama, Addis Ababa, Accra, Johannesburg and Cairo).

The field hospitals will be built by WFP and managed by partner organisations. The first field hospitals should be ready in one to two weeks.

Discussions are ongoing with host governments to establish the field hospitals and obtain flight authorizations.

The final procedures for requesting MEDEVAC and eligibility criteria are being discussed at the UN Secretariat.

Questions related to air access for countries with limited access such as Somalia and Yemen were raised and should be addressed on a case by case basis.
Global Teleconference Minutes, 9 April 2020
COVID-19 Response

3. WFP Operational Plan Updates

- The modalities for the implementation of the WFP Operational Plan are being finalized through contracting of providers for the hubs and final agreements with host governments, however funding constraints are currently the main issue.
- The online WFP platform to request services along with the Standard Operating Procedures are being finalized and should be shared early next week.
- Users can already start expressing preliminary transport requests to global.serviceprovision@wfp.org. Organisations are encouraged to share their needs as soon as possible to allow charter flights planification.
- The prioritization of request will be aligned with the Global Humanitarian Response Plan and agreed upon by the Emergency Directors Group.
- For now, the geographical coverage of the services is limited to the countries included in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan. However, there might be opportunities to consider other countries if the needs are justified and enough funding is secured.

4. SCICC Updates

- The Supply Chain Interagency Coordination Cell through the Supply and Markets Working Group is conducting efforts to streamline the demands for critical medical items sourcing.
- Organisations were reminded to streamline their sourcing needs at country-level. Compiled needs should be channelled to the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator through the health cluster/structure in place.
- Questions were raised regarding the lack of inclusion of NGOs within the cell currently composed of UN Agencies, IFRC and MSF. (IFRC clarified it is not in a position to represent the NGO community in the SCICC)
- Concerns were raised regarding the responsiveness of the cell.
- A dedicated Q&A will be scheduled between the SCICC and organisations to ensure all concerns and questions are addressed.
- The SCICC Supply Chain and Markets Working Group requested post meeting to share these points as clarification:
  - The Supply and Markets Working Group is a voluntary, inter-agency coordination mechanism, led by WHO and open to procurement practitioners of agencies involved in the health sector response.
  - The WG is there to tackle the severe market constraints facing the procurement of items essential to the COVID-19 response; personal protective equipment (PPE), lab diagnostics and clinical care equipment.
  - The WG aims at pooling collective buying power to mitigate the duplication of efforts and competition with suppliers to enable demand-based country allocations of critical COVID-19 items.
  - Procurement practitioners of agencies involved in the health-sector response are invited to participate.

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Global Teleconference Minutes, 9 April 2020
COVID-19 Response

- Through the WG buyers consortia on personal protective equipment (PPE), lab diagnostics and clinical care equipment are being established.
- Organisations interested in joining any of the consortium agree to:
  - Transparency: provide the necessary information on suppliers, pricing and demand when needed;
  - Confidentiality: non-disclosure of pricing and other tender specific information;
  - Evidence-based allocation of supplies prioritized to the countries that are in most need.
- In addition, organisations part of the consortium will need to contribute the following:
  - In-house technical capacity to review item specifications;
  - Previous consolidated experience in these markets;
  - Financial capability to honor the commitments of joint tenders.
- Participation to the WG and/or the consortia is NOT conditio sine qua non for procuring critical items. Organisations can follow their regular procurement process. The WG and the consortia are only there to support common procurement when and if organisations find it beneficial.

The next Global Logistics Cluster Teleconference on COVID-19 Response will take place
Thursday 16 April at 14:30 CEST.

Contacts

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