Global Teleconference Minutes, 13 May 2020

COVID-19 Response

**LOCATION**
Teleconference

**DATE**
13 May 2020

**CHAIR**
Athalie Mayo & Bruno Vandemeulebroecke

**PARTICIPANTS**

**ACTION POINTS**
- Organisations to share Cargo Entry Point Updates to covid-19@logcluster.org.
- Organisations to share their needs request through the Cluster Humanitarian Operational Coordination of Logistics and Air Transport (CHOCOLAT) Platform.

**AGENDA**
1. Logistics Cluster Updates on COVID-19 activities
2. Mapping of transport requirements
3. ECHO Update on Humanitarian Air Bridge
4. Logistics Cluster Remote Capacity Building
5. AOB

https://logcluster.org/COVID-19
1. Logistics Cluster Updates on COVID-19 activities

- The Logistics Cluster provided guidance on COVID-19 related information access:
  - On logistics challenges and information, partners can contact the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 Response Team at covid-19@logcluster.org and visit the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 webpage.
  - On medical sourcing challenges, partners can contact the Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell (SCICC) at covid19supplychain@who.int and refer to WHO COVID-19 Supply Chain webpage which provides guidance and access to the WHO Partner Demand Platform.
  - On WFP common service on cargo, partners can contact WFP Service Provision Unit at global.serviceprovision@wfp.org and upload their consolidated cargo requests on to the Emergency Service Marketplace Platform (ESM).
  - On WFP aviation support for passengers, partners can contact WFP Aviation Unit at covid19@aviationglobal@wfp.org and book flights on WFP Aviation Platform.

- The Logistics Cluster provided an overview of the information available on the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 webpage:
  - Red alerts on potential flights. Partners are invited to regularly check the “Latest updates” section of the COVID-19 webpage to find these alerts which are usually of very short notice (4 to 5 days).
  - Cargo Entry Point Updates (CEPU) available on a daily basis with the CEPU interactive map.
  - COVID-19 Situation Updates shared on a weekly basis.
  - Global COVID-19 call meeting minutes.
  - Several links to interagency and private sector websites and to key documents such as the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, WFP travel restrictions and IMPACCT updates on customs and procedures.
  - Latest COVID-19 Updates from all Cluster/Sector Operations.
2. Mapping of transport requirements

- The Logistics Cluster is mapping and consolidating the needs from humanitarian actors inserted in the CHOCOLAT Platform. When filling the form, partners are requested to share high-level information on their pipeline (point of location, point of destination, approximate volume and weight of shipment) from any location to any location in the world.
- The CHOCOLAT platform is an ongoing survey from which the Logistics Cluster will analyse requirements, merge requests having the same region of origin, the same point of destination/timeframe and collaborate with several entities on optimising the usage of available assets (CSR donations, WFP common services, ECHO flights, military assets and on a last resort commercial options).
- Where alignment between CHOCOLAT and ESM is in progress, partners are reminded that the ESM inputs are requests leading to transport actions, and CHOCOLAT inputs are needs identification leading planning and advocacy. Partners are therefore invited to input their cargo requests to WFP Emergency Service Marketplace Platform and their transport needs identification to the CHOCOLAT Platform as there is currently no direct link between these two platforms.
- Concerns were raised regarding duplication of efforts between the CHOCOLAT Platform and the WFP ESM. CHOCOLAT platform focuses on ensuring an efficient planning of cargo transport by leading to joint pooling of requirements and joint advocacy, while ESM Platform is leading to a request for concrete action.
- The flowchart on the transport requirements mapping will be available in the PowerPoint which will be shared with these meeting minutes.
- The Logistics Cluster will share CHOCOLAT inputs with concerned partners who have cargo going in the same direction and on the same timeframe.
- Airlink updated on their activities. So far Airlink moved about 50 tons of supplies around the world. Partners are invited to reach out to them directly at info@airlinkflight.org

3. ECHO Update on Humanitarian Air Bridge

ECHO Focal Point provided updates on the ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge:

- The Humanitarian Air Bridge initiative was put in place last April after being requested from Member States. Its purpose is to address in a temporarily manner humanitarian cargo and humanitarian staff transport requests originating from Europe to any location in the world.
- The initiative follows four phases:
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- **Assessment phase**: collection of data from global partners (WFP aviation, Global Logistics Cluster, Member States) and the field which is consolidating needs from all humanitarian actors for passenger and cargo transport in coordination with HCT and the Logistics Cluster (when relevant)

- **Preparation phase**: this phase starts once an operation is estimated as feasible i.e. substantial needs are identified and the operation is supported by Members States. When entering this phase, a team is dedicated to coordinate a specific operation in close collaboration with Members States (from departure and arrival States) and with EU delegation. A “users” needs coordinator is nominated to precisely define all the needs at field level.

- **Implementation phase**: a logistical solution is identified and contracted by ECHO; planes are fully funded by ECHO. Free service for users.

- **Operation Completion phase**
  - An operation only becomes concrete and firm for implementation once ECHO has approved the contract for transport services, which is the trigger to move from “preparation phase” to “implementation phase”.
  - It is to be noted that this initiative is available to the whole humanitarian community at large and that this is not only for COVID-19 inputs but also for inputs required to sustain humanitarian aid. Organisations do not need to be endorsed by their originated governments to request this service.
  - So far, operations were activated in Central African Republic and Sao Tome. Authorisations were received to move from Assessment phase to the Preparedness phase for the following six countries: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan.
  - Partners enquired to receive schedules of ECHO flights. ECHO will be providing information on operations currently active. For those countries indicated as “Preparation”, more information can be requested from ECHO field offices.
  - Partners asked if these flights were only departing from Europe. This initiative is meant to be a flexible one-off service which should not replicate WFP common services plan. The focus will be primarily put on flights departing from Europe but the initiative could adapt to needs coming from the field in complementarity with stakeholders.
  - Regarding the process for the submission of needs, partners were invited to share their needs with both ECHO field offices and Logistics Cluster to inform the Assessment phase and to help reinforce strategic planning. Once a country is approved for “Preparation”, the ECHO will contact those agencies having expressed needs for that context.

### 4. Logistics Cluster Remote Capacity Building

GLC Training Officer provided updates on Capacity Development opportunities and online trainings offered by the Global Logistics Cluster:

- The Logistics Cluster has a free to use learning channel available online and accessible by all partners. It is not necessary to have a WFP email account, partners are able to create a guest account with their own email. To access the full learning platform partners can register [re].
- The channel offers a variety of trainings:

[https://logcluster.org/COVID-19](https://logcluster.org/COVID-19)
Four core trainings:
  - The e-LCI/the Logistics Cluster Induction Training is a condensed 2-hour training and familiarises participants with the Logistics Cluster by providing an initial experience of the cluster approach in an emergency setting through interactive online modules. Learners are introduced to the cluster approach and mandate as well as the reoccurring bottlenecks and strategies to avoid and overcome constraints.
  - The Service Provision Training
  - The Basic Humanitarian Logistics Course
  - The Service Mindset Training (SMT)

Additional trainings:
  - Information Management Training, Port Operations, Fleet Management and Road Safety

On Thursday 21 May from 11:00 -12:00 CEST a live virtual event will take place to supplement the learning of the e-LCI with a facilitated Q&A session and discussions opportunities. Interested parties can register through this link.

All enquiries on trainings can be sent to hq.glc.training@wfp.org; partners organising related trainings are encouraged to share them on this email address as the GLC can host partner trainings on its platform.

5. AOB

The Logistics Cluster is receiving several requests for cluster/sector/logistics group activation. The Logistics Cluster was recently activated in Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan. Gaps and Needs Analysis Exercises (GNE) are currently ongoing in Afghanistan, Libya and Burundi. Concerned partners are invited to provide their inputs. Information on GNE can be found through this video.

The Logistics Cluster has put in place a radar list to analyse countries that might potentially need Logistics Cluster set up. Partners are encouraged to share their inputs and in-country constraints to covid-19@logcluster.org.

Partners indicated the requirement for regular COVID 19 GLC calls with preferred 1.5 hour duration.

Partners are invited to indicate topics or inputs they wish to include in the agenda of the next global COVID-19 call.

The date of the next Global Logistics Cluster Teleconference on COVID-19 Response will be communicated in due time.

Contacts

Logistics Cluster COVID-19 Cell

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