
Global Teleconference Minutes, 4 June 2020

COVID-19 Response



LOCATION	Teleconference
DATE	4 June 2020
CHAIR	Athalie Mayo & Bruno Vandemeulebroecke
PARTICIPANTS	Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Airlink, American Refugee Committee/Alight, CARE, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Concern Worldwide, CORUS, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), DFID, DG ECHO, DHL, EMERGENCY NGO, GOAL, HIAS, Humanitarian Logistics Association (HLA), ICRC, IFRC, International Medical Corps (IMC), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS, IOM, Johanniter International Assistance, Last Mile Health, Logistics Cluster, Lynden International, Medair, Mercy Corps, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Norwegian Church Aid, OCHA, Oxfam, Partners In Health, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Relief International, Save the Children, ShelterBox, Solidarités International, Tearfund, The UPS Foundation, UNHCR, UNHRD, UNICEF, USAID/OFDA, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), WFP, World Vision.
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Updates2. Partner Updates3. Logistics Cluster Remote Capacity Building4. AOB

1. Logistics Cluster Updates

COVID-19 related information access pathways:

- 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 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.seviceprovision@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](#).
- On ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge, partners can contact eu-humanitarian-airbridge@ec.europa.eu and find information on <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/the-eu-humanitarian-air-bridge>.
- On MEDEVAC, partners can find resources on <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/covid-19-coordinators>.

Resources available on the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 dedicated webpage:

- The [CHOCOLAT platform](#) which is mapping all the needs for international transport of humanitarian cargo (COVID-19 related or not) from any point of origin to any point of destination.
- The interagency links to several Platforms and crucial information of different humanitarian actors (WHO Supply Chain, OCHA IMPACCT on Customs).
- Key documents on logistics aspects in pandemics, on COVID 19 supply chain, meeting minutes...).
- The “Latest Updates” section where the Logistics Cluster is posting red alerts i.e. last-minute information such as cargo flight opportunities.
- Upcoming events i.e. the schedule of Global Logistics Cluster COVID-19 calls.
- WFP Free-to-Users Services links to [FAQs](#), guidance material and [flights schedules](#).
- The [Cargo Entry Points Updates resource \(CEPU\)](#) which is still updated on a regular basis. Partners can also access the [CEPU interactive map](#).
- Links to the [WFP Aviation Passenger Service Booking Platform](#) covering 24 destinations at the moment.
- COVID-19 Updates from Cluster/Sector operations (at the bottom of the webpage) also combined in the [weekly Situation Update](#).

CHOCOLAT Platform:

- The Logistics Cluster is mapping all the humanitarian needs for international transport of humanitarian cargo, as well as free for user offers to the humanitarian community through [the Cluster Humanitarian Operational Coordination of Logistics and Air Transport \(CHOCOLAT\)](#) Platform.

- Partners are invited to insert their high-level needs on the Platform as early as possible (e.g. at the time of procurement).
- Partners willing to combine transport needs or optimising transport offers are invited to indicate it on to the Platform.
- The Logistics Cluster will merge requirements and match the demand with existed initiatives (i.e. ECHO flights or non-commercial cargo flights options or indicate partners where they have similar needs).
- Partners were reminded that the CHOCOLAT Platform does not take requests but is rather a joint advocacy tool creating visibility of the needs and connecting demand to offers in order to ensure an efficient planning of humanitarian cargo transport.
- The main objectives of this Platform are:
 - **Advocate** for, and highlight the material requirements and cargo movement need to support the humanitarian programmes worldwide.
 - Create **visibility** on, and raise awareness of any opportunity to consolidate humanitarian cargo and coordinate the shipment of humanitarian goods.
 - **Connect** offers of in-kind logistics support from governments, Foundations and the private sector to the needs of humanitarian agencies and organisations.

2. Partner Updates

ECHO Update

ECHO Focal Point updated partners on the three different services currently available:

- **ECHO Flights (local flights in a selected number of African countries)**
 - Stable service (running since 20 years)
 - Service managed by DG ECHO in partnership with UNHAS.
 - Booking for these ECHO Flights is managed by UNHAS contact points in-country.
- **Repatriation Flights**
 - Service managed by the European Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) for repatriation of EU citizens from developing countries. Users contribute a fee.
 - These flights are operated directly by Member States to repatriate citizens. There could possibly be humanitarian cargo and passengers on these flights but these are exceptions and at the discretion of the Member State
- **EU Humanitarian Air Bridge (EU HAB)**
 - Service running since mid-April and managed directly by the DG ECHO in collaboration with one Member State.

- 100% funded by DG ECHO (free for users)
- The EU Humanitarian Air Bridge is following several phases to operate flights in countries:
 1. **Assessment phase:** Humanitarians invited to share information on PAX and cargo main needs/ difficulties with ECHO field offices in respective countries in parallel to WFP/ Logistics Cluster tools. This phase can take ten days to two weeks.
 2. **Preparation phase:** i) Internal approval to start an operation in a given country based on needs; ii) Identification of needs and logistics solutions in detail; iii) Establishment of a coordination team composed by Members from ECHO Headquarters, concerned Member States, and members from NGO partners.
 3. **Implementation phase:** Transport services contracted (i.e. confirmation of the operation)
 4. **Completed**
- EU HAB can also assist WFP Air Operations with airplanes in support of UN Common Services operations. In that case WFP is managing the cargo consolidation.
- Further information can be found [here](#) and questions can be addressed to: eu-humanitarian-airbridge@ec.europa.eu

WHO Update

WHO Focal Point updated partners on the state of the COVID-19 items market and the status of the Supply Portal:

- The whole point of the COVID-19 Supply Chain System was to secure or have access to the market at a greater buying power to secure necessary supplies.
- The market across diagnostic, PPE and biomedical equipment is now opening up compared to January-April, even though there is still some pressure resulting in higher prices due scarce resources.
- **Biomedical equipment:** three to six months backlogs for key products like concentrated oxygen production. Ventilators are now available as there is a lot of overbuying in North America and Europe.
- The COVID-19 Supply Chain System purchased 10 000 concentrators last week. UNICEF purchased 6 000 additional on top of their original 10 000. Work is ongoing with UNOPS, UNDP and UNHCR to aggregate those requests through the Portal as part of the allocation model.
- **Diagnostics:** tremendous gap in terms of supply versus needs (i.e. huge demand for manual and automate testing for COVID-19).
- **PPE:** Pipeline is opening up while quality assurance requires ongoing attention.
- **Supply Portal:** Supply Coordinators were designated by governments in 80 countries to validate and aggregate all the supplies' requests.

Questions and answers raised on:

- **Given that many of us support government health systems is there any indication in the coordination here that lets us see what WHO/UNICEF etc are supplying to governments and therefore what we don't need to buy? If your agency is part of a government-approved requester base, you will be able to see this information.**

- **Is there a place we can see who is the supply coordinator in those countries to be able to advise our country colleagues?** Not at this point in time, this will be shared at a later stage in country.
- **Is there a pipeline overview which products and quantities will be shipped to which country in the next couple of weeks?** There is to a certain degree, the COVID-19 Supply Chain System is working on increasing transparency.
- **Is there a way to get access to the platform as “viewer” with ability to see what orders are in the pipeline from the relevant country?** You do have to be an approved-requester for this.
- **How do the WHO regional offices fit in the whole structure in terms of the consolidation demand from country offices which is pushed up to Geneva?** Regional offices are acting as coordinators of their Member States. They are providing guidance on supplies’ requests, technical support and leadership. In certain cases depending on the region they are also involved in the allocation of items.
- **Can you please review one more time how requests can be submitted? There is just one group per country or other groups can get approved to submit requests for supplies?** The Supply Coordinators, designated by the governments, have the ability with the governments to approve a requester. The number of requesters is at the country’s discretion. Further information is available [here](#).

Airlink Update

- Airlink keeps on providing support to Nonprofit organisations and moved 100 tons of supplies across 10 agencies so far.
- Airlink is now shifting focus from USA to Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Caribbean destinations.
- Airlink service will be running until the end of this year (six-month program).
- Partners are invited to escalate their needs in CHOCOLAT

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Update

- ICAO released guidelines this week regarding airports, airlines transporting passengers and cargo.
- All guidance materials are available [here](#).

USAID Update

- USAID is in the process of initiating purchase orders for COVID-19 supplies and related commodities. Related details will be shared as soon as available.

3. Logistics Cluster Remote Capacity Building

- On 21 May the Logistics Cluster offered the first live online training event “The Live Virtual e-LCI Q&A + Discussion.”
- [The e-LCI](#) is the cornerstone of the Logistics Cluster Training Programme and presents a full picture of the Logistics Cluster approach, highlighting its importance in an emergency setting, and providing the first steppingstone to some of the cluster’s more advanced capacity strengthening initiatives.

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- Four new e-LCA Q&A/ Discussions sessions will be organised on 11 June, 30 June (these sessions are already full), 2 July and 7 July. Partners can register to the July sessions [here](#).
 - Any questions related to trainings can be addressed to: hq.glc.training@wfp.org.
 - Free to use trainings are available on the [GLC learning channels](#).

4. AOB

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

The next Global Logistics Cluster Teleconference on COVID-19 Response will be on 17 June 2020, 14:30 CEST.

Contacts

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