
Global Teleconference Minutes, 17 June 2020

COVID-19 Response



LOCATION	Teleconference
DATE	17 June 2020
CHAIR	Athalie Mayo & Bruno Vandemeulebroecke
PARTICIPANTS	Achieving Health Nigeria Initiative, Airlink, Alight, Americares, Avenir, Bioport, British Refugee Council, ChildFund, Concern Worldwide, Corus, Catholic Relief Services, Danish Refugee Council, DG ECHO, Deutsche Post DHL, Emergency ngo, Fuel Relief Fund, Global Logistics Cluster, GOAL global, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Humanitarian Logistics Association, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Medical Corps, International Organization for Migration, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS, Johanniter International Assistance, Last Mile Health, Lynden International, Medair, MSF Belgium, OCHA, Oxfam, Polish Humanitarian Action, Relief International, Robert Koch-Institut, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, Scottish Human Rights, Solidarités International, The UPS Foundation, UNFPA, UNHRD, UNICEF, USAID, Village Health Works, Welt Hunger Hilfe, 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.• Organisations to fill in the third Survey about COVID-19 Impact on the Humanitarian Supply Chain circulated by email from the Global Logistics Cluster by Wednesday 1 July 2020.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Logistics Cluster Update on COVID-19 Activities2. Update from OCHA on the COVID-19 GHRP3. WFP GHRP Pax Services Update4. EU Humanitarian Air Bridge Update5. WFP GHRP Cargo Services Update6. Airlink Update7. MEDEVAC Update

1. Logistics Cluster Update on COVID-19 Activities

Reminder 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 webpage](#) which provides guidance and access to the [WHO Partner Demand Platform](#).

- On WFP common services for cargo, partners can contact WFP Service Provision Unit at global.seviceprovision@wfp.org and upload their consolidated cargo requests to the [Emergency Service Marketplace Platform](#) (ESM).
- On WFP aviation support for passengers, partners can contact the WFP Aviation Unit at covid19@aviationglobal@wfp.org and book flights on [WFP Aviation Platform](#).
- On the EU 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>.

Logistics Cluster Gaps and Needs Analysis Exercises (GNA):

- The Global Logistics Cluster team is providing support to the below Country Offices to identify existing and potential logistics gaps and bottlenecks in order to make recommendations on appropriate humanitarian coordination structures:
 - **Sudan and Libya:** GNAs are in final stage of completion. GNA reports will be shared with partners by the end of next week.
 - **Ecuador:** GNA interviews were completed. The first draft of the GNA report will be finalised this week.
 - **Honduras:** GNA interviews are ongoing 15-19 June 2020.
 - **Burundi:** GNA report will be drafted in the next ten days.
- Information on the GNA process can be found through this [video](#).

Logistics Cluster Survey and CHOCOLAT Platform:

- Partners are invited to fill in [the third survey](#) about COVID-19 impact on the Humanitarian Supply Chain which will be circulated by email by Monday 6 June 2020.
- Partners are invited to insert all their cargo transport needs (from any location to any destination) on [the Cluster Humanitarian Operational Coordination of Logistics and Air Transport \(CHOCOLAT\) Platform](#). Any question regarding this platform can be addressed to covid-19@logcluster.org.

Logistics Cluster Vacancy Announcements:

- [Logistics Cluster Field Preparedness Expert](#) – deadline to apply: 23 June 2020.
- [Logistics Capacity Assessment \(LCA\) and data analysis Officer](#) – deadline to apply: 7 July 2020.

2. Update from OCHA on the COVID-19 GHRP

Scope and objectives:

- The [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (GHRP) is an inter-agency appeal incorporating ten UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agencies, NGOs and other partners through country-level plans.
- The GHRP was launched in March 2020 and was originally developed as an agency-led plan. After the Update of 7 May 2020, it shifted to a country-driven plan.
- The May update of the GHRP reflects the Country Plans of 63 participating countries, some of which are included under Regional Response Plans (either Migrant Regional Response Plans or Refugee Regional Response Plans).
- The GHRP has three strategic objectives:
 - Contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and decrease the morbidity/mortality.
 - Decrease the deterioration of human assets and rights, social cohesion, food security and livelihoods.
 - Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, IDPs, migrants and host communities particularly vulnerable to the pandemic.
- The GHRP was framed in line with WHO's eight pillars from its [Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan](#).
- One challenge looking forward will be to align the GHRP with the emergent socio-economic response plans coming up in countries.

Financial requirements:

- The latest GHRP update as of 7 May 2020 is requesting US\$7.27 billion (up from US\$2 billion in March 2020) to support the COVID-19 response in 63 countries. This amount comprises:
 - US\$1 billion to support global common services (e.g. logistics, humanitarian air services, MEDEVACs and field hospitals).
 - US\$6.2 billion to support countries with Humanitarian Response Plans and inter-agency plans (e.g. RRP, JRP, RMRP) and select other countries with new plans.
- US\$1.3 billion have been contributed so far out of which US\$200 million have been allocated to the global common services.
- The GHRP and the required US\$7.27 billion cover the time period until the end of December 2020. The 2021 planning process for regular Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) will start shortly. The expectation is that there will no longer be a difference between the COVID-19 response and non COVID-19 response in 2021; for countries with an HRP, COVID-19 will be treated as another risk or driver of needs while countries that do not have a formal HRP will have to meet certain parameters to be part of that planning process.

July Update:

- The third update of the GHRP will be launched on 16 July 2020. According to the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, this might be the last revision unless there is a drastic contextual change.

- This update will focus on contextual updates based on collective results and ongoing operational challenges.
- The inputs for this update are coordinated at two different levels:
 - At **field level**, inputs are coordinated by Resident Coordinators/ Humanitarian Coordinators with the support of OCHA Country Offices where these exist. In case there is no OCHA Country Office or no existing Humanitarian Response Plan in-country, inputs are coordinated through the Resident Coordinator's Office with the support of the OCHA Regional Office. Inputs are submitted by OCHA Offices directly to Desk Officers in New York who will summarise these country inputs into the one-pagers which are featured in the GHRP document. The country inputs will also be analysed by OCHA's coordination division to identify any cross-cutting issues.
 - In parallel to this field-driven process, work is ongoing with **agencies' headquarters** for them to provide inputs. Agencies inputs are coordinated through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Directors Group (EDG). Agencies are expected to work together with clusters to integrate their inputs into the Monitoring Framework.
- Inputs for this third revision are due by 29 June 2020. The first draft of the update will be provided to IASC EDG by 6 July 2020. Agencies as well as IASC comments are expected by 9 July 2020.

Monitoring Framework:

- The July Update of the GHRP is integrating the Monitoring Framework.
- The Monitoring Framework was developed with agency partners. Agencies were requested to nominate relevant indicators to show collective progress.
- Data collection process: UN agencies will be responsible for collecting data on the ground and submitting them through their headquarters. The agencies' headquarters are then expected to aggregate the data and share it with OCHA as part of their input submission.
- The Monitoring Framework has two sections:
 - **Needs Section** comprising the number of priority countries with international travel restrictions in place and the number of priority countries with partial or full border closures in place.
 - **Response Section** comprising the number of passenger movement requests fulfilled, the number of cargo movement requests fulfilled, the number of hubs established for consolidation and onward dispatch of essential health and humanitarian supplies, the number of supplies/medical masks distributed against needs or request.

3. WFP GHRP Pax Services Update

- 41 countries are currently linked with WFP GHRP Passenger services. 213 flights were operated so far, transporting 2,460 passengers on behalf of 102 organisations.
- The networks in West Africa and East Africa are almost fully developed.
- The networks in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia are being developed.

- Work is currently ongoing to link Johannesburg and Addis Ababa.
- Partners were reminded that WFP Passenger services are implemented only where there are no commercial flight options available.
- The network in Central America and Latin America is not implemented yet as clearances are pending.
- On practical aspects:
 - Partners were reminded that passengers and crews which are confirmed positive for COVID-19 are not authorised to take flights. In such cases, their booking will be cancelled and the agency that booked the flight will be fully reimbursed.
 - Partners were advised to plan six to eight hours transit time for connecting flights. Partners can also plan a longer transit time and stay in government-appointed hotels in Addis Ababa and Sharjah.

4. EU Humanitarian Air Bridge Update

- Deliveries of cargo to Sudan and Afghanistan through the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge were completed.
- Four flights were operated in Chad and Nigeria in cooperation with WFP Aviation.
- On 19 June 2020, the third flight (cargo) to DRC will be operated. This will complete the operation in DRC which started with one flight to Goma and one to Kinshasa (passengers + cargo).
- Five flights are currently under preparation:
 - One flight to Haiti (passengers + cargo). ETD to be confirmed.
 - One flight to Burkina Faso (passengers + cargo). ETD 21 June 2020.
 - One flight to Sudan (passengers + cargo) which will complete the Sudan operation. ETD 24 June 2020.
 - One flight to Somalia (cargo). ETD to be confirmed.
 - One flight for South Sudan (cargo). ETD to be confirmed.
- Possibilities of operating flights to Bangladesh, Venezuela and Yemen are being explored.

5. WFP GHRP Cargo Services Update

Resourcing update and shortfalls:

- WFP Common Services in the GHRP require a funding of US\$965 million based on the projection of 700,000 m³ of cargo to be moved across the world by the end of this year.
- Of this, over 78,000 m³ for over 30 organisations need to be transported over the next six weeks.
- Confirmed funding stands at US\$178.4 million with an additional forecast of US\$57 million.
- Available funds will allow for the delivery of 56,000 m³ of cargo which is about 8% of the total estimated pipeline.
- Donors were approached as current funding might be spent by the third week of July 2020.

Achievements to date (comprising UNHRD, BSP and Common Services):

- 129 destinations have been reached so far and a total of 14,500 m³ of critical cargo was transported on behalf of 45 users.
- Regarding Free-To-User dispatches, 63 destinations were served and 4,825 m³ of cargo were delivered on behalf of 20 organisations.

Supply Chain Task Force (SCTF)

- The SCTF is finalising a guidance document on Common Services governance and prioritisation which will be shared with IASC EDG, and once approved shared. Stakeholders can provide inputs to the document through the IASC EDG representatives.
- Three working groups have been set up within the SCTF: one on the prioritisation, one on the Consortias and the third one on the SCICC itself.

6. Airlink Update

- Support was provided to partners to move supplies around the world through the use of existing commercial airlift channels. 30 partners are currently supported within Aviation C.A.R.E.S (i.e. commercial aviation resources and private sector funding for COVID-19 humanitarian response).
- 130 tons of medical and critical supplies were moved to date with 80 tons in the pipeline.
- Airlink is currently refocusing regional priorities moving from largely US focus to developing needs in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America/Caribbean.
- Coordination and planning of shipments is ongoing for the following destinations: Bangladesh, Burundi, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Mexico, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe.
- Request for cargo airlift can be submitted to: ops@airlinkflight.org.
- Partners are invited to submit their current and upcoming needs comprising forecast for the upcoming season of natural disasters.

7. MEDEVAC Update

- **Financing:** the UN Secretary General took the decision last May to share costs between 14 UN agencies with the portion for INGOs to be covered out of the GHRP.
- **Eligibility:** notes clarifying the eligibility of UN-system personnel and INGO personnel have been issued.
- **Strategic regional locations** were identified:
 - Africa: the Nairobi hospital has been identified and is pending signature. The Accra field hospital has been erected and is in the process of transition to WHO and contracted parties.
 - Asia: Singapore has indicated they have available hospital facilities; discussions are in process.
 - Latin America: Costa Rica is the designated place.
 - Middle-East: work is still in progress.

- In the meantime, the MEDEVACs that are taking place are going to hospitals in Europe.
- **Coordination:** the coordination happens on the ground through the COVID-19 Coordinators designated by the Resident Coordinators. COVID-19 coordinators trigger the request to the cell in Geneva, based on the medical advice available locally. The medical staff in Geneva will then, based on the case, refer for the appropriate air-asset to be used for the evacuation. 14 MEDEVAC have occurred so far.
- MEDEVACs started in South Sudan and Sao Tome, and they are shifting to Central Asia.
- For now, the destinations will remain Europe until the final agreements have been signed with the location hospitals and governments.
- Frequently asked questions have been gathered, and the feedback coming through COVID-19 coordinators will serve to build a live document that will be disseminated down to the country level.

Information on COVID-19 MEDEVAC process:

- [COVID-19 Coordinator's terms of reference in the COVID-19 medical evacuation process](#)
- [Current list of COVID-19 Coordinators](#) (28 May 2020)
- Note to United Nations System Personnel from the UN System-Wide Task Force on COVID-19 Medical Evacuations ([English](#) | [French](#))
- [Note to INGO Personnel from the UN System-Wide Task Force on COVID-19 Medical Evacuations](#) (1 June 2020)
- [UN Model of Care \(MOC\) Checklist for UN Duty Station in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (10 April 2020)
- [Preserving the privacy and confidentiality of COVID-19 infected UN personnel and dependents](#)
- [MEDEVAC request form for COVID-19 Coordinator](#) (MS Word document)
- [COVID-19 MEDEVAC: Framework for an SOP at the country level](#)
- [COVID-19 SOP Template](#)
- [Guidance: Entity Focal Point Terms of Reference in the COVID-19 Medical Evacuation Process at Country Level](#)
- [MEDEVAC Process Flowchart](#)
- [Combined Information Disclosure Consent and General Release Form - COVID-19 MEDEVAC \(June 2020\)](#)
- [Guidance on UN MEDEVAC protocol for COVID-19 infected personnel and dependents](#)
- [COVID-19 MEDEVAC Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The next Global Logistics Cluster Teleconference on COVID-19 Response will be on 1 July, 14:30 CEST.

Contacts

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