
LOCATION	Teleconference
DATE	26 August 2020
CHAIR	Athalie Mayo & Bruno Vandemeulebroecke
PARTICIPANTS	Achieving Health Nigeria Initiative (AHNi), Action contre la Faim (ACF), Airlink, Alight, British Red Cross, CARE, ChildFund International, Deutsche Post DHL, DG ECHO, Fleet Forum, Flexport, F&L, Global Health Cluster, GOAL, GS1, HIAS, Humanity & Inclusion, IATA, ICRC, International Rescue Committee, International Medical Corps, INTERSOS, IOM, Kuehne Logistics University, Lynden, Maersk, Medair, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), OCHA, Oxfam, Partners in Health, Plan International, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH), Relief International, Save the Children, ShelterBox, Tearfund, The UPS Foundation, UK Department for International Development (DFID), UNFPA, UNHCR, USAID, Welthungerhilfe, WFP, World Economic Forum
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OCHA to post an updated INGO communique on https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/covid-19-coordinators to reflect the eligibility to MEDEVAC of the broader INGO population as approved by the Secretary-General.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Global Health Cluster update on COVID-192. Update on MEDEVAC3. Update on WFP Common Services - Cargo4. Update on WFP Common Services - Passenger5. Update on ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge6. IATA update on Air Transport Sector7. COVID-19 Survey Results8. AOB

1. Global Health Cluster update on COVID-19

- Global Health Cluster Coordinator, Linda Douall, delivered an update on Health Cluster actions including updates on current statistics, expected spread, the work of the [Task Team](#) as well as the results of two Epidemiological Deep-Dives (i.e. country specific research) on North East Nigeria and Iraq. The presentation can be found attached to these minutes.
- The conclusions of the fourth meeting of IHR Emergency Committee, held on 31 July were presented:
 - The Public Health Emergency of International Concern retained an “anticipated lengthy duration of the COVID-19 pandemic”.

- The response to COVID-19 should particularly strengthen public health surveillance, testing and tracking capacities and provide a nuanced, pragmatic guidance to reduce the risk of “response fatigue” and counter misinformation.
- The importance of strengthening essential services and supply chains to prepare for the concurrent seasonal influenza was reiterated.
- A [dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#) is accessible on the WHO website.
- [Guidelines](#) can be found on the WHO Website as well as a [COVID-19 Situation dashboard](#).

2. Update on MEDEVAC

Eligibility criteria for MEDEVAC

- The INGO eligibility criteria for requesting MEDEVAC has recently been updated and broadened: in the past, any INGO mentioned in a country Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) was included in the mechanism. Now, any INGO actively performing UN mandates on behalf of a participating UN entity is also included in the mechanism. This includes: all personnel of INGOs that are engaged by UN system organizations in the implementation of their respective mandates and all dependents of international personnel of INGOs that are engaged by UN system organizations in the implementation of their respective mandates.
- MEDEVAC Task Force communication materials are currently being updated to reflect the eligibility of the broader INGO population as approved by the Secretary-General and an updated INGO Communique will be posted on <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/covid-19-coordinators>

Update on the Hubs for MEDEVAC

- Africa: In Kenya, Nairobi is accepting patients on an ad-hoc basis while a hospital facility is being expanded. In Ghana, Accra, the field hospital has been handed over to WHO, and the signing of the host government agreement is pending prior to opening of the facility. In Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, the Adis Field Hospital facility was erected by WFP in May/June; WHO and the Ministry of Health (MoH) are continuing to discuss its future use, including as a regional EMT COVID-19 training centre, rather than as a MEDEVAC location.
- Asia: The Republic of Singapore can be used as an ad-hoc receiving treatment centre while discussions with the Government and hospital are in process.
- Latin America: two hospitals are receiving patients in the Republic of Costa Rica, while the agreement with the government is being finalised.
- Middle East: The Regional Coordinator and the WFP Representative in the United Arab Emirates are following up with Government Officials so that the certification/acceptance of the medical facilities in Abu Dhabi can take place. In parallel, medical facilities in the field hospital in the State of Kuwait have been certified by the Division of Healthcare Management and Occupational Safety and Health (DHMOSH) and a draft Note Verbale is being issued by the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support (USG/DOS) for the exchange of letters with the Government of the State of Kuwait.

MEDEVAC Air Ambulances

- The MEDEVAC service is facilitated through a network of air ambulances to carry humanitarian workers in need for care. 58 MEDEVACs have been completed to date, of which 40 by WFP and 18 by the Department of Operational Support.

3. Update on WFP Common Services - Cargo

- WFP Common Services in the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) requires a funding of US\$965 million. The current funding is US\$250 million. 30% of these funds is allocated to cargo.
- 190 staff members were deployed worldwide, 55,000 m³ of cargo was transported on behalf of 51 organizations.
- Considering the stabilization of the market as well as the rates coming down considerably, WFP is looking for the moment to conclude the GHRP cargo service provision in a structured manner. The estimated date of conclusion is in twelve weeks from today 26 August.
- WFP is however committed to transport the cargo that is already firmly booked or in the pipeline.
- This project to conclude the provision of GHRP cargo service does not impact the provision of GHRP passenger service nor of MEDEVAC.
- Solutions will be explored to support partners to transport cargo to hard-to-reach places where there is no alternate transport solution.

4. Update on WFP Common Services - Passenger

- Since the service launched on 1 May, 1,134 flights have been operated transporting a total of 20,341 passengers and 3.8 mt of cargo to 60 destinations on behalf of 332 organisations.
- 97.7% of requests for passenger movement have been fulfilled since the beginning of the operation.
- Since the beginning of August, commercial flights have gradually been resuming. Once safe and reliable commercial options resume to a country, WFP stands down its passenger services to that destination.
- Consequently, in accordance with the Donor approved exit Strategy, the GHRP passenger service have been suspended on the routes with reopened commercial flights..
- However, the service is being expanded in the Southern Africa and Asia region where new destinations have been added to the WFP network, e.g. Luanda, Windhoek, Papua New Guinea.
- The service will be extended in the regions that are still on lockdown, such as Asia, subject to funding availability.
- Several flights are still operating in Central America and the Caribbean; however, the demand is very low in this region.

5. Update on ECHO Humanitarian Air Bridge

- The ECHO HAB flights operation is coming to an end with a flight to Beirut this weekend and a request for a flight for the Republic of Mali under review.
- Partners can contact eu-humanitarian-airbridge@ec.europa.eu with any needs for Mali and find information on <https://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/the-eu-humanitarian-air-bridge>.

6. IATA update on Air Transport Sector

- IATA Global Head of Cargo, Glyn Hughes, delivered an update on the state of the air transport sector. The presentation can be found attached to these minutes.
- Some key points from the presentation included:
 - The impact of COVID-19 on the air transport sector was catastrophic with a total revenue loss of US\$ 419 billion, a decrease in demand of 54 percent and 7.5 million flights cancelled.
 - Two thirds of the commercial aircrafts are grounded.
 - Available cargo available has been reduced by 40 percent despite the utilization of freighters.
 - Global connectivity is severely restricted.
 - Supply chains have shut down.
- Air Cargo Actions
 - Airlines mobilized some of their grounded commercial aircraft to transport cargo (e.g. personal protective equipment, pharmaceutical goods, perishables).
- Air Cargo Challenges
 - A return to 2019 passenger levels is not anticipated to happen before 2024.
 - Operational staff shortages are noted as well as congestion at borders.
- Lessons learned: the COVID-19 crisis enhanced the need for closer collaboration between shippers, the supply chain and the regulators. Increased information-sharing and transparency as well as the development of specialized supply chains are also critical.
- Partners are invited to visit iata.org/cargo for all COVID-19 resources and contact cargo@iata.org for any questions related to the air transport sector.

7. COVID-19 Survey Results

- Research was conducted by the Global Logistics Cluster, HELP Logistics, and Kühne Logistics University on the responses to the recently-conducted COVID-19 surveys. The analysis of the data showed that the main negative impacts of the pandemic were increases in prices, an increasing rate of delivery delays of commodities and a strong disruption of service availability and order prioritization for upstream transport (e.g., chartered flights, belly loads, bulk transfer, containerized transport).

- In order to define the best strategy to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19, the surveys asked participants for some feedback on the measures that had been put in place: pre-positioning, program slowdown and the identification of alternative sources with a broadened supplier base were identified as the main mitigation strategies.
- The [first](#) and [second](#) reports on the surveys are accessible on the Logistics Cluster's website.

8. AOB

Useful Links

- 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](#).
- For queries related to WFP's free-to-user cargo services, 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).
- For support with WFP's passenger services, partners can contact WFP Aviation Unit at covid19@aviationglobal@wfp.org and book flights on [WFP Aviation Platform](#).
- For queries related to the 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>

The next Global Logistics Cluster meeting is scheduled on Wednesday 23 September 14:30 CEST

Contacts

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