
LOCATION	Teleconference
DATE	30 March 2020
CHAIR	Athalie Mayo
PARTICIPANTS	Didier Merckx, Mary Jelliti, Susan Hodgson, Theo Lingens, Bruno Vandemeulebroecke (observer)
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster will use existing cluster mechanisms such as the GSAG in an expanded form and the global COVID-19 calls to consult on operational matters for the global COVID-19 response in line with the mandate of the new SCICC working group on logistics.• The Logistics Cluster will ask partners to volunteer as representatives for an expanded GSAG.• The GSAG will consider the candidates for an expanded GSAG and select a representative mix of the partner community.• The Logistics Cluster will recommend that the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) sets the principles for the prioritisation of global humanitarian cargo other than what is already established by the COVID-19 appeal.• The Logistics Cluster will ask partners for their pipelines and upstream transportation demands in the call on 31 March.• The Logistics Cluster will continue to build on the COVID-19 webpage to improve its utility to users.• The Logistics Cluster will advocate for broad access to consultations in SCICC fora.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update on COVID-19 response, the SCICC working groups and consultation mechanisms

1. Update on the COVID-19 response, the SCICC working groups and consultation mechanisms

New SCICC working group chaired by the Logistics Cluster

- Athalie briefed the GSAG on the global COVID-19 response appeal and the Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell (SCICC), the new coordination mechanism established by the United Nations Crisis Management Team (UNCMT) to support strategic guidance, operational decision-making, and overall monitoring of the global humanitarian response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

- The second working group of the SCICC is the Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group, chaired by the Logistics Cluster. It is established to share updates on the logistics markets, access constraints, raise any logistics related issues and gaps affecting programmes and to suggest appropriate solutions by exploring inter-agency collaboration opportunities.
- These functions are in line with standard Logistics Cluster activities including information management and common logistics services.

Consultation fora for the new SCICC logistics working group

- Athalie asked the GSAG how the SCICC working group on logistics can involve the broader community of partners and not just the Global Logistics Cluster Support Team in Rome while remaining operationally agile and streamlined. Would there be a need for another consultative modality or do partners see the Logistics Cluster as an appropriate forum to raise their concerns to the SCICC?
- GSAG members expressed trust in the existing mechanisms of the Logistics Cluster thanks to broad partner participation and representation and agreed that cluster mechanisms were therefore preferable to separate SCICC ones.
- With regards to which Logistics Cluster modality would be appropriate to use for consultations, the GSAG considered the advantages of a) using the GSAG and the global COVID-19 calls for consultations; b) using an expanded GSAG including more medical NGOs, another UN agency and a representative of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; and c) using a dedicated Logistics Cluster working group for SCICC consultations in order to ensure that a broader range of organisations dependent on the services of the new SCICC mechanism would also have the chance to influence it.
- It was found that an expanded version of the GSAG would be preferred as consultation mechanism and partners would be asked to volunteer candidates to be considered by the GSAG in order to ensure a representative mix of members.
- To the extent that the SCICC working group might need to cover areas outside of the current scope of the Logistics Cluster, it was considered whether the Logistics Cluster mandate could be amended for a period of six months due to the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic response. This proposal was not discussed in further detail as initial conclusion was that altering the mandate even temporarily would be a complex process which would set a precedent with unforeseen consequences and could risk slowing down practical action and detracting from current urgent operational needs. Nevertheless, it was recognised that there may be an increasing number of weather-related and other disasters with regional impact and that it would therefore be worth considering and regional humanitarian responses could best be supported in the future. For the current COVID-19 response, it was flagged that at country-level, while there is guidance on what the Logistics Cluster should be doing, the relevant structures always had the right to shape the response in accordance with the needs on the ground. It was also emphasised that the mandate of the SCICC working group on logistics continuity aligned well with the current function of the Logistics Cluster.

Principles for prioritisation of access to common logistics services

- The GSAG discussed how the principles for prioritisation of access to common logistics services for the global level response could best be agreed and endorsed.
- While cargo for the COVID-19 response would have priority in line with the global appeal, the GSAG sees a need for a transparent and clear prioritisation of transport of other humanitarian cargo with the same shipments would need to be established. Discussions on this were ongoing with the SCICC, WFP and OCHA.
- The best option identified, supported by the GSAG, was to defer to the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) which is responsible for advising the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on operational issues of strategic concern. The EDG is composed of executive level decision makers from both NGOs and UN agencies and would therefore serve as a global equivalent to a Humanitarian Country Team. If the EDG could set the principles for cargo transport priorities, the Logistics Cluster could focus on implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Discussion on the SCICC working group on Supply and Markets

- The GSAG briefly discussed ongoing global coordination efforts on procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) covered by the SCICC Supply and Markets Working Group.
- The Logistics Cluster is encouraging engagement by the group with the broader humanitarian community and has dedicated a space for information from the Supply and Markets Working Group on the Logistics Cluster COVID-19 webpage but is otherwise not involved in the work of the group.
- GSAG members supported this approach to not create confusion on the Logistics Cluster's role and expertise.
- Because of the uncertainty around the feasibility and timeline of joint procurement efforts for the COVID-19 response, or the composition of the SCICC Supply and Markets Working Group, it was raised that humanitarian organisations felt obliged to proceed with their own procurement processes for PPE, in a standalone or combined manner.

Operational update

- Information about the impact on supply chains and logistics structures is already being collected and published on a dedicated cluster [COVID-19 webpage](#). The cluster will continue to build on the page to improve its utility to users.
- The LET has been activated for the COVID-19 response and can contribute with information and WFP is mapping supply chain constraints that the cluster can draw on.
- The Logistics Cluster will ask partners for their pipelines and upstream transportation demands in the call on 31 March to be able to push this into the operational planning of service providers which is still taking shape.
- In parallel, the Logistics Cluster will advocate for broad access to consultations in SCICC fora.
- Athalie encouraged the GSAG to flag any relevant topics for discussion in the global COVID-19 calls.

The next GSAG meeting will be scheduled beginning of April

<https://logcluster.org/strategic-advisory-group>

Meeting Minutes, 30 March 2020

Global Strategic Advisory Group



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