
LOCATION	Teleconference
DATE	15 April 2020
CHAIR	Athalie Mayo
PARTICIPANTS	Didier Merckx, Fabrice Perrot, Katja Hildebrand, Mary Jelliti, Theo Lingsens, Bruno Vandemeulebroecke (observer)
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) Support Team to send out reminder on second survey on the global COVID-19 response today.• GSAG members are asked to share the link and encourage their networks to response.• The Logistics Cluster will continue to share information and available cargo transportation options as they emerge from a range of actors, including operating commercial providers (with standard caveats).
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Consultation on the Logistics Cluster and the COVID-19 Response

1. Consultation on the Logistics Cluster and the COVID-19 Response

GLC update on activities since last GSAG call

- Two global COVID-19 calls held attended by 150 and 120 people respectively.
- The GLC Support Team aiming to incorporate relevant information beyond Logistics Cluster actions in the calls, including updates on the Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell (SCICC) and the WFP service provision plan.
- As WFP proceeds with operational planning for the service provision package, the Logistics Cluster is not involved in implementation but advocates for clear prioritisation processes for cargo and transparency towards partners as part of the SOPs. It also contributes to the planning with lessons learned from cluster operations.
- Four new staff members joined the GLC Support Team to strengthen the support to country operations in light of COVID-19 impact and to be ready to deploy as surge capacity.
- Large number of requests received for advice on what coordination mechanisms and tools to use at country-level. Support is provided both for country-level COVID-19 response and to manage the COVID-19 impact on existing operations. A major effort is made to remotely support countries with Gaps and Needs Exercises, normally conducted through several-week field missions.
- The GLC Support Team structure is being adapted to the new needs of COVID-19 response and an overview document will soon be shared with information.
- GSAG members were asked to share the link and encourage their networks to fill out the second Logistics Cluster survey on the COVID-19 response. The GLC Support Team will send a reminder today.

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

Discussion of the role of GLC in the global response

- No clear-cut guidelines exist for the Logistics Cluster's role in a global level response. Relatively clear guidelines at country-level.
- So far, the cluster has focused on information management and to provide a joint forum to facilitate coordination.
- As discussed at previous GSAG, a second working group of the SCICC – the Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group – is to look at collateral impact on humanitarian supply chains as result on COVID-19. So far, only World Vision International signed up for the Logistics Cluster working group announced for this.
- In parallel, the SCICC in Geneva is strongly focused on the demand and supply for COVID-19 critical items. There may be changes to the structure and focus as a result of the establishment of the new Supply Chain Task Force.
- To avoid gaps in the response, the Logistics Cluster will seek to reflect the traditional activities of the Logistics Cluster at Country Level in the Logistics Cluster global COVID-19 response but recognises the need to adapt to and complement the evolving structures for the COVID-19 response as these unfold.
- During the discussion, GSAG members identified current logistics challenges for humanitarian operations as linked to limited information on a number of points including availability of cargo flights (both commercial and free-to-user), prioritisation principles for humanitarian cargo, current regulations and export restrictions impacting cargo routing, medium-term cargo transportation prices, forward-planning of repatriation flights (preventing their use for cargo), and overview of global humanitarian pipelines.
- It was agreed that any information helping to fill these information gaps would be helpful from the side of the Logistics Cluster, even if not comprehensive.
- The GSAG indicated that a key role for the Logistics Cluster in the global response is the sharing of information on any available transportation options as they emerge from a range of actors which may also include information on relevant operating commercial providers. In line with the methodology of a country level Logistics Capacity Assessment, any such information would need to be duly caveated.
- The Chair commented that visibility on partners' needs is key to guiding the information sharing process and encouraged the GSAG to reach out to partners to complete the latest version of the COVID-19 survey.
- By providing a forum for information exchange, the Logistics Cluster can also facilitate pooling of resources by partners.
- It was noted that mapping of price increases for cargo handling could be an important service to facilitate planning.
- While recognising that cargo, as opposed to passenger transport, is the focus of the Logistics Cluster, the GSAG supported the use of the Logistics Cluster as a forum for WFP Aviation to share information on humanitarian passenger traffic at the global level. GSAG members commented that, currently, a key challenge for passenger traffic appears to be linked to quarantine and administrative restrictions.
- The GSAG agreed that a follow up call was required this week to follow up on this discussion and include also country level issues.

The next GSAG meeting will be held Friday, 17 April.

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

Meeting Minutes, 15 April 2020

Global Strategic Advisory Group



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