Highlights

- Since April, the Health procurement Working Group and the National Logistics Working Group (NLWG) (presented in the below chart and working in coordination with Central Medical Store of the Ministry of Health (CMAM) and the National Institute of Disaster management (INGC)), have been very active during the weekly meetings in monitoring the supply planning of COVID-19 related commodities. They also discussed the logistics challenges, mainly for the importation of critical items, as well as discussed the identified gaps with the partners and authorities.

- On April 17, in coordination with CMAM, the National Health Institute (INS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), humanitarian cargos were received at the Maputo International Airport: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Jack Ma Donation and 40,000 surgical masks, 8,500 gloves and 900 protective face shields from WHO medical cargo. On June 9, triage tents, necessary for the preliminary screening of patients, arrived in Mozambique. These tents were delivered to Doctors with Africa (CUAMM), partner of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), through the logistics services (Service Provision).

- In April, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) funding proposal for Cabo Delgado was approved. The proposal includes a budget to support the logistics operations of the humanitarian partners and ensure the delivery of humanitarian cargo to affected areas.

- From May, the World Food Programme (WFP) logistics preparedness team has been strongly involved to support the opening of the humanitarian corridor in order to bring the necessary aid to Mozambique from the regional hubs. On May 29, following the formal authorization given on May 15 by the President of Mozambique Filipe Nyusi, a flight clearance request to operate humanitarian flights was submitted to Civil Aviations Authorities and on June 17, the blanket authorisation was granted by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The first humanitarian flight arrived in Mozambique on June 23 and since then, two flights per week have been operated between Johannesburg-Lilongwe-Maputo on Tuesday and Thursday.

- In May, in response to a request from the Government of Mozambique and through the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brasilia, the Brazilian Embassy has requested WFP Mozambique to assist with the purchase of medical equipment and material for a total amount of 100,000 US dollars, as a humanitarian donation from Brazil to Mozambique, as part of the efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

- On June 9, the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) formalized their commitment with the implementation of the activities defined in the Plan of Action (POA) Mozambique for the Logistics Preparedness Project. In the INGC letter, the institution is asking WFP to support the organization of the Logistics Response Training in Mozambique in October 2020.

https://logcluster.org/preparedness/moz19
Background

The second quarter of the year 2020 was marked by key achievements such as the opening of the humanitarian corridor allowing aid workers and relief goods to better circulate between South Africa and Mozambique. Continuous support was provided to partners with information sharing about logistics services and, particularly, the assistance with coordination among relevant national authorities for COVID-19 response and humanitarian assistance in Cabo Delgado.

The different coordination mechanisms, in place since March 2020, are described in detail in the below chart.
The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between INGC and WFP has been a critical step in enhancing INGC commitment to improve emergency response management and increase national capacity through a better coordination between key stakeholders and planning of activities. The Logistics Preparedness Project (“the Project”) is serving the emergency response in Mozambique through the Logistics Working Group. On 22 March, the first case of COVID-19 was announced in Mozambique. On March 26, the first in-country health procurement meeting was held by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and co-chaired by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), designated as COVID-19 procurement agent to discuss the Ministry of Health (MISAU) response plan and urgent needs of medical commodities: lab tests, medical supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). On March 30, the state of emergency was declared by the Mozambican government and since then, was renewed three times and will end on July 30.

Coordination

- At national level, better coordination has been achieved for COVID-19 response and for the emergency situation in Cabo Delgado. The focal points in logistics and supply chain from the government institutions, humanitarian organizations and donors have been well identified and their active participation in the discussions has considerably improved the communication flow between the relevant partners and donors. At the provincial level, the Logistics Working Group of Cabo Delgado is still operational and the objective will be to have other provincial groups established to gather information on more logistics capacity, needs, challenges and gaps encountered in the Province.

- A task force group was established on June 23 with WHO, WFP and the Resident Coordination Office (RCO) of Mozambique to facilitate the management of the humanitarian flights: migration policy under State of Emergency, health protocol for arrival of passengers in Maputo International airport, access to all airport restricted areas and communication with the hub in Johannesburg.

- During this quarter, WFP has given technical assistance and supporting information sharing to the partners (UN agencies, donors and NGOs) regarding the logistics services for humanitarian cargo through the Service Provision and the use of the ESM platform & Aviation Packages. For humanitarian passengers flights, WFP answered the requests from donors and partners about booking process, financial conditions, flight schedule and arrival health protocol at Johannesburg and Maputo Airports. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, WFP team assists the passengers at the Maputo International Airport with the check in and the boarding on the humanitarian flights.

- The POA has been approved by the new Directorate of INGC who has formally requested the support of WFP to implement the activities of the national plan. It includes the preparation of the Logistics Response Training (LRT) and the Get Airport Ready for Disaster (GARD) training.

https://logcluster.org/preparedness/moz19
Information management

- In the context of COVID-19 response, key documents and updates about WFP logistics services and aviation services for passengers have been shared with partners and donors.

- INGC & WFP have been leading the Logistics Working Group weekly meetings sharing and coordinating latest information on logistics preparedness as well as clarifying questions regarding importation and WFP logistics services upstream and downstream.

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