Meeting Minutes, 20 April 2020
Bangladesh, Cox’s Bazar

LOCATION
Cox’s Bazar - WFP Meeting Room and Online

DATE
20 April 2020

CHAIR
Logistics Sector

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
• The Logistics Sector to share the compiled suppliers list weekly.
• Partners continue sharing contributions to suppliers list.
• Partners involved in the procurement of medical equipment, PPE and oxygen supply for the Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITCs) are requested to share brief updates on their pipeline status for the coming meetings.
• The Logistics Sector to share contacts for the food and livelihoods projects for locally produced PPE.
• UNHCR will share contacts for alternative core PPE suppliers later in the week.
• The Logistics and Health Sector to discuss potential solutions for core PPE procurement shortages.
• The Logistics Sector to circulate new restricted vehicle access flow chart to partners.

AGENDA
   o Dhaka Supply Pillar.
   o Critical Medical Items Procurement.
2. Logistics Sector Updates
3. Restricted Vehicle Access to Camps
4. AOB

https://logcluster.org/sector/bangl17

- Dhaka Supply Pillar: WFP provided a summary of the national market core Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) situation. WFP leads the Logistics and Procurement Pillar in the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP) and works in partnership with key UN agencies to coordinate procurement of PPE - among other items - to support the Government of Bangladesh in the COVID-19 response. Challenges are faced with:

  Imports –
  - Difficulties in identifying viable, reliable sources. Suppliers have given our vendors false certificates of authenticity, outdated certificates of authenticity, and in one case, supplied products that were different from samples shown.
  - Volatile prices of the market, which are susceptible to change daily.

  Building local production capacity –
  - A provider of PPE was identified locally, contacts can be provided by the Logistics Sector. The company produces between 300,000 and 400,000 pieces per month of various types of PPE, of which 100,000 pieces are Level 3 or 4 PPE, offering protection against bloodborne pathogens. Ten or so garments factories have started Level 1 PPE production to supply the government as part of their Corporate social responsibility activities, using materials sourced locally (mostly taffeta, or cotton with a waterproof coating), or material remaining from their production cycles.
  - There is an insufficient quantity of necessary raw materials for higher-level PPE production in-country.
  - There are no testing facilities in the country to certify the PPE compliance with production standards. To address this, and to provide some level of certification, WHO is spearheading, with WFP, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR,B), the creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG), including representatives from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control And Research (IEDCR), and the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).
  - There are labour force challenges around worker compensation, worker safety, transportation to and from factories as well as accommodation arrangements during the lockdown.

- The Director-General of Health Services is reporting an acute shortage of N95 masks, goggles, and face shields.

- In summary, the availability of certified core PPE on the national market is limited.

- Critical Medical Items Procurement: Partners involved in the procurement of core PPE and oxygen for the response in Cox’s Bazar provided the following pipeline status reports:
  - UNHCR has completed technical evaluations and intend to place medical equipment and core PPE orders in the coming days with national and international suppliers. A long lead-time is to be expected. UNHCR are facing difficulties identifying several items such as masks, oxygen
concentrators and gowns. Alternative to specification options are being explored. Oxygen cylinder supply contracts are to be put in place in the coming days, though shortages are anticipated due to high market demand. Site set up is progressing well.

- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) has put in place systems for local supply of oxygen cylinders, however, IRC is concerned with the supply shortages. National and international procurement is ongoing for core PPE with notable shortages of masks, gowns and oxygen concentrator. Coordination with partners is ongoing through information sharing.

- UNICEF procurement is ongoing at various stages with some items starting to be received. Nationally, PPE are becoming difficult to find and of poor quality. UNICEF is concerned about the ongoing availability of oxygen cylinder refill.

- Save the Children (SCF) is in the process of conducting local and international procurement and is set to place orders. PPE procured nationally is of poor quality. SCF has placed orders locally for the supply of oxygen cylinders and have noted shortages.

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is discussing with DFID on the possibility of rapid procurement of oxygen generation machines from an international supplier. There is a limited availability of generator stocks. The Health Sector is undertaking an oxygen-capacity-assessment amongst partners, staff health provision and hospital facilities. This information will be used to help determine the gaps as well as the best pre-positioning of oxygen generators due to the limited supply.

- The Health Sector continue to stress that each partner needs a multi-oxygen strategy that includes local / national oxygen supply using cylinders and refill (i.e. through contract) and the use of oxygen concentrators. The proposed use of oxygen generators is for surge support. Partners are advised that oxygen concentrators can be divided between patients.

- If partners are providing critical care, it is possible for two oxygen concentrators to be connected to deliver a double amount of oxygen).

- Partners anticipate that there will be shortages for several core PPE items, and that the procurement of oxygen generation machines is a high priority. Solutions must be identified to resolve the possible shortages.

- The Logistics Sector continues to request partners involved in the procurement of medical equipment, PPE and oxygen supply for the Isolation and Treatment Centres (ITCs) to share brief updates on their pipeline status in the coming meetings. The purpose is to enable a quick system of reporting through the forum to identify any market constraints that may warrant deeper discussion for solutions and to disseminate the compiled update to other coordination groups.

### 2. Logistics Sector Updates

- The Logistics Sector - in partnership with Humanity & Inclusion - is in the early stages of planning for a COVID-19 specific interagency central storage hub to be located outside of the camps.

- Hand sanitiser remains available to partners upon request to the Logistics Sector.

**Asset loan and services**

- Temperature and humidity sensor (PDF data logger) are available for loan.

[https://logcluster.org/sector/bangl17](https://logcluster.org/sector/bangl17)
3. Restricted Vehicle Access to Camps

- The access pass request process flow chart has been revised and will be circulated to partners in the coming days.
- The government has enforced a rule of no more than three passengers per vehicle with a one-seat-gap between passengers. Partners can request additional passes to increase their number of required vehicles.

4. AOB

- Food Security Sector (FSS)/Livelihoods working group have information on homemade production of masks. FSS through the livelihood working group has a few implementing partners that have started production of homemade masks in the camps. The design is harmonized with the approved civil surgeon design. Contact leah.beaulac@wfp.org for more information.

The next Logistics Sector Coordination meeting will be held on Monday, 27 April 2020 at 11:00 in the WFP Meeting Room, Cox’s Bazar for focal points and presenters, and online through Microsoft teams invite.

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