Meeting Minutes, 24 April 2020
Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster, Fiji

LOCATION
Remote meeting

DATE
24 April 2020

CHAIR
Pacific Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Save the Children, The Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision

ACTION POINTS
• IFRC, CARE, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies responding to Tropical Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu will be in contact after the meeting regarding the sharing of resources for Vanuatu shipments, including bundling together multi-agency kits for distribution.
• MFAT will explore options available through MFAT for transport to Vanuatu.
• Pacific Logistics Cluster to follow up on the new processes for international air cargo arriving in Vanuatu.

AGENDA
1. Updates from partners
2. Logistics Cluster staffing update
3. WFP Global Common Services Provision update
4. WFP Pacific Aviation Operation update
5. Cargo tracking
6. AOB

1. Updates from partners

Logistics Cluster
• WFP Aviation is continuing to work on the airline operations in the Pacific. Coordination for access to this service will be done via the Pacific Logistics Cluster.
• The Logistics Cluster is continuing to support the gathering and dissemination of airline information, and to provide advice and support to national logistics coordination mechanisms.
• The Pacific Logistics Cluster will determine service provision links with the WFP Global Common Service, to ensure that it is straightforward for users.
• Air Vanuatu Cargo flights are on hold for now.

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific
• The Director of Public Health in Vanuatu is working on revising the measures currently in place for disinfection and quarantine of international cargo. Once this is completed, the flights into Vanuatu will resume.

• The issue of flight options from Australia and New Zealand into Vanuatu has been raised with the WFP Pacific Country Director.

SPC
• Tropical Cyclone Harold: The shipping service to Nauru is a concern. The next ship is expected to arrive in Vanuatu during the second week of May. Aircraft may be used as an alternative – fortnightly flights to Brisbane with Air Nauru.

IFRC
• PPE for national volunteers to 11 countries.
• Transport options to the North Pacific are limited and expensive.
• Current international transport restrictions in Vanuatu are challenging.
• Sea freight from New Zealand takes too long. Air options are being explored and discussed with the Pacific Logistics Cluster. Additional flights by MFAT and DFAT would also be useful.
• IFRC with CARE and UNICEF is also looking into hiring a dedicated vessel. Other agencies are welcome to participate.

UNFPA
• COVID-19: PPE stocks are being transported to affected Pacific Island Countries (PIC).
• Tropical Cyclone Harold: Dignity kits and other commodities which were supposed to be shipped to Vanuatu were affected by the Air Vanuatu cargo flight suspension.

Save The Children
• Tropical Cyclone Harold: It may be valuable to try securing a blanket tax exemption for all responding agencies. However, existing individual exemptions may already be sufficient.

WHO
• COVID-19: The third shipment of PPE is going to priority countries. Other kits are coming next week. The distribution of kits from Melbourne has begun but will be staggered due to slow production.

UNOPS
• Palau: As per discussion with the government, UNOPS is providing a garbage truck to transport infectious material to dump sites.
• UNOPS asked whether any Pacific humanitarian actors are utilising Asia Pacific Airlines.
UNOPS asked whether any relief supplies are being sent to Samoa: WHO sent its latest shipment two weeks ago.

MFAT

- MFAT is working with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat on a COVID-19 response.
- Tropical Cyclone Harold: MFAT will revert back to the Pacific Logistics Cluster regarding any updates on additional government flights to Vanuatu.

UN RCO

- UN RCO is supporting the collection of feedback that is going into the Pacific Humanitarian Response Plan.

2. Logistics Cluster staffing update

- A new Shipping Officer and new Information Management (IM) Officer are now on board.

3. WFP Global Common Services Provision update

- The [Emergency Service Marketplace](https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific) (ESM) (an online platform where UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and civil societies can access cargo transport services for the COVID-19 response on a free-to-user basis) was launched 28 April 2020.
- The general concept of operations for the ESM includes:
  - Shipping, airfreight, passenger services, cargo consolidation, medevac, and field hospitals
  - Strategic consolidation hubs in Liege, Guangzhou, Dubai
  - Regional staging areas are in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Panama City (Panama), Accra (Ghana), and Johannesburg (South Africa). In certain circumstances, cargo directly from suppliers may also be accepted at regional hubs for onward movement.
  - Cargo storage is not available in hubs or staging areas, just available for cargo in transit only.
  - Service accessed through Emergency Service Marketplace, the online platform that enables organisations to make a request and review and track requests through the system. Staff identified as focal points by the listed organizations will be able to access the platform.
  - WFP is requesting that all users provide an upstream pipeline estimate covering the next 45 days of its operations. This is essential to ensure visibility over capacity requirements and will be an ongoing requirement in order to access services.
- The Pacific Logistics Cluster is working with the WFP team to ensure that the respective global services are fully integrated with PIC services, hopefully to ensure that access for users is smooth.
- Further information including Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) will be shared when they are complete.
4. WFP Pacific Aviation Operation update

- Contract and SOPs being finalized.

5. Cargo tracking

- The collection of information regarding cargo (procurement and pipeline) is to inform the Logistics Cluster’s facilitation of service provision.
- If agencies don’t have specific details, high level information is also useful for this purpose.

6. AOB

- None raised.

Contacts

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