Meeting Minutes, 29 May 2020
Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster, Fiji

LOCATION
Remote meeting

DATE
29 May 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), Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Save the Children, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision

ACTION POINTS
• The Pacific Logistics Cluster will share contact details between relevant agencies regarding NFIs (specifically shelter kits) in Vanuatu.
• Partners to update PALM entries when able.

AGENDA
1. Updates from partners (COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold)
2. Logistics Cluster Service Provision
3. Logistics Cluster (Global and Pacific) webpages
4. Supply Portal – WHO to update

1. Updates from partners (COVID-19 and Tropical Cyclone Harold)

Logistics Cluster
• Fiji Airways flights between Nadi and Port Vila are now operating every Sunday.
• The Pacific Logistics Cluster shared the new protocols for air cargo for Vanuatu last week.
• The quarantine period for airfreight arriving in Vanuatu is now generally 24 hours, depending on the cargo received.
• In July, Vanuatu will shift to recovery phase for Cyclone Harold.
• Pacific shipping operations continue to stabilise throughout the region. However, there is a reduced demand with some shipping companies imposing new tariffs and amending their schedules.

UNOPS
• UNOPS signed an agreement to provide powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs) and one garbage truck for waste management purposes in Palau. Procurement is ongoing.
• UNOPS also signed an agreement with the government of Samoa for the procurement of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), items for waste management purposes and laboratory equipment.

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Save the Children
- Relief items provided by Save the Children are scheduled to be delivered by sea to Vanuatu within the first week of June.
- Brisbane warehouse has been operating at capacity linked to Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold and the COVID-19 responses in the Pacific.

WHO
- WHO has completed the distribution of batches of 1, 2 and 4 of GeneXpert cartridges used for COVID-19 testing across the Pacific countries, except for Tuvalu and Tokelau.
- Procurement of the fifth batch of cartridges is on-hold pending discussion at WHO headquarters in Geneva.
- 2,495 PPEs were shipped to Solomon Islands as part of the first phase of assistance. Two shipments to Kiribati are going by sea and one shipment for Nauru is transiting through Brisbane.
- WHO has sent to its in-country liaison officers the lists of COVID-19 response items to be validated against the national action plans.

IFRC
- IFRC is working with 11 national societies over the next two weeks to update their COVID-19 response plans.
- No requests for additional PPEs were received. Further procurement will depend on potential requests to be received.
- IFRC is supporting Fiji Red Cross with early recovery assessments for TC Harold.
- The Vanuatu Red Cross is completing non-food items (NFI) distribution and will also begin early recovery assessments. Stock for additional distributions will arrive on 3 June.
- IFRC may need the Pacific Logistics Cluster’s support to ship items to Palau and Marshall Islands.
- The Vanuatu Red Cross is requesting partners to share information on tarpaulins and shelter toolkits in-stock within the region as there is a significant shortfall of these items for distributions – the Pacific Logistics Cluster will share contact details between relevant agencies.
- IFRC is replenishing its stock in Brisbane with items from the Australian Red Cross.

World Vision
- NFIs bound for Vanuatu will be forwarded to Port Vila from Fiji where they currently are.
- Vanuatu NDMO has given verbal confirmation that it has shelter stocks available for distribution.
- World Vision is expecting a new shipment of jerry cans and hygiene kits from UNICEF to arrive on 3 or 4 June as well as a shipment of 30,000 face masks from Malaysia to be received within June.
- World Vision will explore local purchase of tarpaulins depending on availability of stocks in-country.

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UNFPA
- UNFPA is moving essential sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) supplies from Fiji to Vanuatu by seafreight and will no longer require the Pacific Logistics Cluster assistance.
- Procurement of COVID-19 items (PPEs for SRH and GBV workers) is on-going through UNFPA’s Copenhagen procurement office. Clarification on how the COVID-19 Emergency Service Marketplace (ESM) can support transport of globally procured supplies to the Pacific has been requested.

MFAT
- A New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) flight to Vanuatu has been approved and will fly on 3 June to deliver shelter kits and other relief supplies. Details are being finalised – flight will be MFAT cargo for the NDMO and will include shelter kits.
- MFAT is working with countries in the region and with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) on cargo protocols.

PIFS
- The second Regional Task Force meeting took place on 22 May.
- PIFS continues to work with WHO, SPC, the Joint Incident Management Team for COVID-19 and other groups to draft protocols for the Pacific Humanitarian Pathway in support of the COVID-19 response.
- The five protocols are on:
  - customs;
  - diplomatic clearances;
  - immigration;
  - repatriation;
  - technical team deployments.
- Another meeting on the protocols will take place on 4 June. The outputs of this meeting will be reviewed and potentially approved in a ministerial meeting on 10 June.

SPC
- SPC continues to collect maritime information from countries and service providers and share it with the Pacific Logistics Cluster

2. Logistics Cluster Service Provision
- The contract between Fiji Airways and WFP aviation (which will enable the WFP Pacific passenger transport services and support the Pacific Logistics Cluster cargo transport services) is being finalised. Standard operating procedures are ready and will be posted on the Pacific Logistics Cluster operations website once the contract has been signed.
- The Pacific air cargo transport service will be managed by the the Pacific Logistics Cluster and will be distinct from WFP’s ESM. There will be complementarity and flexibility between the ESM services (i.e.
Global COVID-19 air transport services), the WFP Pacific Air services (i.e. passenger transport services in the Pacific) and the Pacific Logistics Cluster services (i.e. cargo consolidation, temporary storage and transport in the Pacific).

- There will be no scheduled flights as flights will operate on a demand basis, according to requests received and upon government authorisation.
- The Pacific Logistics Cluster cargo transport services will be a free-to-user service that will fill identified logistics gaps and will not compete with commercial options.
- Temporary storage will be made available in bonded warehouses, on an on-demand basis (i.e. using the Service Request Form) and for short term periods only. An initial transit hub in Nadi is being set up with a possible second hub to open in the North Pacific.
- Requests for services will be made using a service request form (SRF) filled by the requesting party and submitted to the Pacific Logistics Cluster.
- The Pacific Logistics Cluster Concept of Operations will be updated to reflect available services.

3. Logistics Cluster (Global and Pacific) webpages

- Links to the webpages have been shared in the updates regularly sent out.
- The GLC webpage has a useful link to the Global COVID-19 webpage focusing on the global response to the pandemic. WFP’s ESM platform can be accessed from this webpage as well as directly through this link.
- The Pacific Logistics Cluster webpage features the latest updates for the Pacific operations along with meeting agendas and minutes, the Concept of Operations as well as other key documents. The Pacific Logistics Cluster will gradually shift to providing links to the updates in its regular emails rather than sending out documents.

4. Supply Portal – WHO to update

- The COVID-19 Supply Chain System aims to consolidate demand, coordinate purchase and streamline distribution.
- The supply portal can be accessed through a two-step secure login process which each user registers for through the portal as well. Different types of user access (global, country, partner and supporting agency) can be selected.
- Governments, the UN Country Team and other requesting parties need to identify and prioritise 3-month needs and funding sources under national action plans to be validated and prioritised with the Resident Coordinator. Upon submission of requests through the portal, requesting parties will be matched with
available supplies through the portal. After purchase, supplies will be transported to ports of entry to be received by requesting parties for distribution.

- Dominique Frankenne from WHO has been nominated as the Supply Coordinator for the Pacific.
- More information can be found on the COVID-19 Partners Platform.

Contacts

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