
Meeting Minutes, 25 September 2020

Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster, Fiji



LOCATION	Remote meeting
DATE	25 September 2020
CHAIR	Pacific Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), USAID Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO)
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WHO to confirm arrival of mobile testing laboratory in Tokelau.• Partners to inform the Pacific Logistics Cluster (PLC) on arrivals of cargo at final destinations so the cluster’s records on these cargo may be closed as well.• PLC to publicise details about upcoming passenger and cargo flights on common services once confirmed.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Updates from partners2. Pacific Logistics Cluster updates

1. Updates from partners

UNICEF

- UNICEF doubled its cold-chain storage capacity to 80 cubic metres in Nadi, Fiji.
- UNICEF is working closely with the Pacific Community (SPC) to procure oxygen concentrators, ventilators and patient monitors along with related consumables and implements.
- UNICEF is planning to dispatch up to 200 m³ tents, oxygen concentrators, trolleys and soap (500,000 bars) in 13 shipments by seafreight from Fiji. Tokelau, Tonga, and Tuvalu shipments are expected to sail by around 2 October along with 1 container load of hypochloride solution bound for Tonga.
- UNICEF has a consignment of USD 1.7 million worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) in Brisbane for dispatch to some Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) through WFP. Government clearances are pending.
- UNICEF continues to act as WHO’s importer-of-record for 2,000 GeneXpert cartridges per week. Based on the supplier’s rate of delivery, the WHO order will be fulfilled by March 2021 which means UNICEF’s own order of 70,000 cartridges will be further delayed and will have to be distributed separately from the 50,000 units of viral transport media (VTM) and swabs, which need to be dispatched before they expire.

WHO

- Drew Chandler is the pillar lead for Operations, Supply and Logistics for WHO Western Pacific regional office in Manila and will also be attending the meetings moving forward.
- WHO is consolidating a large supply of medical supplies and PPE from Europe, India and China in Singapore for dispatch to PICTs through air or sea directly or via Brisbane or Nadi.
- WHO is negotiating with the Australian Government for dedicated storage space in Brisbane to stockpile emergency supplies closer to the PICTs.
- WHO provided Tokelau with a mobile testing laboratory which was expected to arrive the week of 18 September. This is currently being confirmed. Temperature controls are still to be sent by air to Samoa and onward to Tokelau by sea. WHO is considering to provide a second mobile laboratory for Tokelau.

UNFPA

- UNFPA's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) items for Vanuatu and other PICTs are about to arrive at their final destinations. The third quarter reproductive health items are expected to be shipped by the end of September or early October.

2. Pacific Logistics Cluster update

Coordination Meetings

- Meetings frequency will remain at every three weeks. The next meeting will be on 16 October 2020.

Common Services

- The cluster is still working on scheduling cargo flights to Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tonga as well as one for UNICEF originating in Fiji to deliver standard (non-COVID-19) vaccines to both the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI). Partners can take advantage of these flights to move any of their cargo bound for these destinations.
- The cluster continues to track humanitarian cargo and encourages partners to continue to provide information on pipeline and cargo ready for distribution. This assists to inform the cluster's planning of its transport service provision as well as to tailor-fit information on available services for each partner based on their specific needs. Partners are requested as well to inform the cluster on arrivals of cargo at final destinations so the cluster's records on these cargo may be closed.
- The WFP Global Passenger Air Service already has a regular passenger-only Kuala Lumpur-Port Moresby return flight and is planning to add a stop at Nadi from Port Moresby arriving on 13 October and departing for Kuala Lumpur on 14 October. (The flight is now confirmed.) Booking may be done via a global account with the [WFP Humanitarian Booking Hub](#). Information on this has been sent to heads of agencies, diplomatic missions, etc. and will be sent through the cluster mailing list as well. Partners are also encouraged to inform their agency human resources teams on the availability of these flights and to tell them to email pacific.passengers@wfp.org if any agency personnel need to avail of them. The flight will cost a nominal fee of USD 500 to help ensure that last-minute cancellations do not happen and to avoid competing with available commercial options.

- WFP Aviation is scheduling three passenger flights in October the details for which will be publicised once approved:
 - Kuala Lumpur-Port Moresby-Nadi-Kuala Lumpur flight (discussed above)
 - Sydney-Nadi-Sydney flight
 - Sydney-Apia-Sydney

Shipping

- PLC Shipping Officer Madeleine Habib will be ending her contract shortly and will hand over her responsibilities to PLC Logistics Officer Steve Aumua. Shipping updates will then be provided on a monthly basis with special shipping announcements made as needed.
- Across the Pacific, shipping companies are introducing additional fees caused by regular changes in fuel prices and service costs as well as current crew change pressures.
- Cargo volumes are steady and expected to increase during the fourth quarter. This is the regular peak season in the Pacific region.
- Globally there is a huge back-log of ships' crew who have either completed their contracts on board or are onshore waiting to join ships. On International Maritime Day (24 September), the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) co-hosted a side event at the UN 75th General Assembly. UN agencies and programmes involved in the maritime sector, human rights, trade, travel and transportation called on all UN Member States to take urgent action to resolve the humanitarian crew change crisis faced by the world's seafarers. This however does not address one aspect of the issue which is the lack of available flights to home countries for relieved crew living in PICTs such as Tonga, Samoa, Kiribati and Fiji. These nationalities make up a large portion of the Pacific expatriate workforce.

Aviation

- Nauru Airlines are beginning to schedule regular fortnightly cargo flights to Tarawa, Kiribati; each flight will be departing only if the amount of cargo makes it viable. The 27 September flight is not viable, so the next possible one is scheduled on 11 October.
- Solomon Airlines are conducting repatriation flights for citizens and pre-approved residents of the Solomon Islands intending to go home from the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. Further details and booking information are available on the airline website.

PALM

- The cluster's Pacific Logistics Mapping (PALM) tool is available for agencies to update their information on their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in preparation for the coming cyclone season. Guidance on the use of the system is available upon request.

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