Meeting Minutes, 16 October 2020
Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster, Fiji

LOCATION
Remote meeting

DATE
16 October 2020

CHAIR
Pacific Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Health Organization (WHO)

ACTION POINTS
• PLC to connect IFRC with UNICEF on possible sources of personal protective equipment (PPE).
• PLC to assist in locating IFRC’s two boxes of surgical masks transported on WFP flight to Kiribati.
• Partners to inform the PLC on arrivals of cargo at final destinations within two weeks so the flights can be closed in RITA.
• PLC to send communiques on
  o Cargo-tracking
  o WFP global air service exit strategy

AGENDA
1. Updates from partners
2. Pacific Logistics Cluster updates

1. Updates from partners

UNICEF
• UNICEF continues moving routine vaccines and other supplies around Pacific.
• UNICEF’s cold room expansion project in Nadi, Fiji is going on as planned, once completed they will have 80 CBM of cold storage capacity.
• The cartridges for the 50,000 swab tests UNICEF procured in May 2020 are still delayed so UNICEF is considering sharing the swab tests with its other offices in the East Asia Pacific Region.
• UNICEF’s project with Pacific Community (SPC) to procure oxygen concentrators, ventilators and patient monitors along with related consumables and implements is ongoing. Delivery to UNICEF’s Brisbane warehouse is expected within six weeks.
UNICEF has a consignment of USD 3 million worth of PPE in transit from Brisbane to Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga and Tuvalu through WFP.

UNICEF has dispatched 28 consignments of tents, oxygen concentrators, trolleys and soap to 13 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

UNICEF continues to support the WHO lab cell.

WHO

Cepheid, whose capacity is reportedly expanding in the United States and Europe, allocated to WHO 23,600 GeneXpert cartridges which are ten times the usual weekly delivery. Fulfillment of the WHO order is now expected around April 2021. Level of fulfilment is now at 75% which means the whole North Pacific and six South Pacific locations are covered.

WHO is moving 30 MT of medical devices for the Pacific Region via Fiji Airways Nadi (NAN)-Singapore (SIN)-Nadi (NAN) cargo flight on 21-22 October 2020. WHO may need PLC support to arrange for space at the airport. For the same purpose WHO is planning to take advantage of a second Fiji Airways flight with the same itinerary on 5 November 2020.

WHO is providing a container laboratory for Niue to arrive between mid-December 2020 to early January 2021.

UNOPS

UNOPS started delivering some items to Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing machines and waste management equipment such as incinerators for Samoa.

UNOPS is currently shipping a garbage truck and power air purifiers for Palau to arrive there in November.

IFRC

IFRC welcomes Colleen Ruru supporting from New Zealand with COVID-19 procurement and logistics.

IFRC transported hand sanitizers to Solomon Islands for Red Cross volunteers.

IFRC is looking into procuring PPEs for sending to the national societies throughout the Pacific and welcome any advice from colleagues on possible sources. UNICEF can share some related information. PLC will connect IFRC with UNICEF by email.

IFRC needs to confirm arrival of two boxes of surgical masks in Kiribati on the WFP flight. PLC will assist in enquiry.

UNFPA

UNFPA received most of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)-funded items for Vanuatu. Only the surgical gowns and reproductive health kits (RHKs) are left to be received.

COVID-19 PPEs for the eight countries where UNFPA is present have also been received with the exception of surgical gowns and gauzes. The PPEs have been distributed to Tonga, Kiribati, RMI, and Solomon Islands. More countries to follow.

For its Regional Prepositioning Initiative (RPI), UNFPA is waiting for RHKs coming from its Copenhagen hub.

DFAT

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific
• DFAT will be delivering the extra GeneXpert cartridges newly received by WHO throughout the Pacific.

2. Pacific Logistics Cluster update

Common Services
• WFP has conducted a number of flights in the last couple of weeks to move cargo stored in the Nadi transit warehouse to Tonga, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Kiribati.
• Flights to Samoa and Vanuatu are also pending and already fully booked.
• Approval for another Kiribati/Nauru flight is also being requested and will hopefully be granted within a couple of weeks.
• A flight for RMI and FSM is also being organised to pick up some cargo in Fiji as well as routine vaccines for UNICEF.
• The cluster continues to track humanitarian cargo and encourages partners to continue providing information on pipeline and cargo ready for distribution using the PLC template or in any convenient format. 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 also reminded to inform the cluster within two weeks on arrivals of cargo at final destinations so the cluster’s records can be completed and the RITA tracking system can be updated. Otherwise, safe arrival will be assumed. PLC will email a communication on this.
• WFP conducted a Kuala Lumpur (KUL)-Port Moresby (POM)-Nadi (NAN)-Kuala Lumpur (KUL) passenger flight on 13-14 October and hopes to conduct the same flight as well as a Sydney (SYD)-Nadi (NAN) flight in mid-November subject to government approvals. Booking may be done via a global account with the WFP Humanitarian Booking Hub.
• The WFP global service will phase out as commercial services resume and prices drop. Unless the situation changes, bookings will not be accepted after 31 October 2020. PLC will circulate the official communication. The Pacific Humanitarian Air Service will still continue services as there is a definite need for it in the region.

Shipping
• Madeleine Habib ended her contract as Logistics Cluster Shipping Officer and handed over her responsibilities to Logistics Officer Steve Aumua. Shipping updates will now be provided on a monthly basis with special shipping announcements made as needed.
• Cargo volumes are still relatively low even during the fourth quarter due to the pandemic. Sailings are also delayed for the same reason.
• Crew change continues to be a major challenge impacting the crew themselves as well as shipping companies and ports. In other parts of the world such as China, some ports are gradually allowing crew changes to be done under strict protocols. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Global Impact Organization and the UN Working Group on Human Rights are calling on the business sector and other stakeholders to address the plight of seafarers affected by the pandemic.
Aviation

- Fiji Airways have scheduled a one-off commercial passenger flight between Sydney and Nadi on 27 October 2020. Booking can be done via the Fiji Airways website. There is no COVID-19 test requirement for the Sydney-bound leg (only 14-day quarantine and possible testing within that period) but a negative test is required for the Nadi-bound leg.

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.

Contacts

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