
Meeting Minutes, 27 November 2020

Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster, Fiji



LOCATION	Remote meeting
DATE	27 November 2020
CHAIR	Pacific Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Save the Children, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Vision (WV)
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pacific Logistics Cluster (PLC) to circulate information on the WFP Pacific Humanitarian Air Service flights to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) once finalised as well as plans for early 2021.• DFAT to circulate information on the launch of its Pacific Flights Programme once finalised.• PLC to send email on the Import and Customs Clearance Together (IMPACCT) project.• PLC to continue to provide training on its Pacific Logistics Mapping (PALM) tool as well as review the draft manual for possible circulation.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. COVID-19 regional situation2. Updates from partners<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Recently completed, ongoing or upcoming activities, challenges and opportunities, if anyb. Preparedness for the Pacific cyclone season around the following points:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Key lessons learnt from TC Harold about responding in pandemicii. Activities undertaken as part of cyclone seasoniii. Anything agencies are doing differently due to pandemiciv. Challenges and opportunities for cyclone season3. Pacific Logistics Cluster updates

1. COVID-19 Situation in the Pacific

Vanuatu has confirmed its first case of COVID-19 which has occurred in a quarantine facility. As part of the response, the Government of Vanuatu has temporarily suspended international and inter-island travel from Port Vila and imposed additional health screening and extended quarantine requirements to 28 days for arriving passengers. Entry of cargo by air or sea has not been impacted.

2. Updates from partners

Save the Children

- Herbert Poha will be Save the Children's supply chain focal point moving forward.
- In anticipation of the cyclone season and as a lesson learned from the TC Harold response, Save the Children is decentralising heavier stock (non-cash contributions and commodities including PPE, hand sanitizers and disinfectants) from Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne and prepositioning them with the country offices in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands. Lighter stock can remain in Brisbane to be shipped out more easily when and where ever needed.
- The country offices are also doing local procurement of additional items.
- The PNG country office is developing its first emergency preparedness plan (EPP). It organised an EPP workshop on the first week of December and hope to have a functional EPP by the end of that month.
- The PNG country office is also looking for partner warehouses to store their prepositioned stocks. It is hoping to share the warehouse with other agencies.
- In regard to alternative approaches to preparedness during the pandemic, Save the Children shifted from deploying experts to the field to having them provide remote guidance and advice to ground personnel. Save the Children is also building the capacity of its country office supply chain staff.
- The supply chain unit of the Save the Children Australian offices is exploring options to support international and domestic programming in-house or through fourth party logistics (4PL) providers. One of the purposes is to fix costs of goods and thus improve budgeting and planning and possibly expanding reach and bulk buying power.

UNICEF

- UNICEF has also sent a shipment of regular vaccines including syringes and safety boxes to RMI.
- Another lot of regular vaccines with syringes and safety boxes needs to be shipped to FSM. UNICEF is hoping this can go on the upcoming WFP Pacific Humanitarian Air Service flight for FSM and RMI. (The PLC will provide an update on this as soon as possible.)
- The new UNICEF regional supply and logistics specialist will be introduced and attending future coordination meetings.

IFRC

- IFRC hand sanitizers arrived in the Solomon Islands in mid-November
- IFRC also shipped hand sanitizers and teleconferencing systems to Kiribati and Tuvalu which will arrive in one month.
- IFRC requested from its regional office supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) for eleven national societies in the region. These will arrive between late December and early January.
- Non-food items use to replenish stocks used for the COVID-19 response in Samoa is due to arrive on 10 December.

World Vision

- World Vision is currently replenishing stocks in the region:

<https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific>

- in Brisbane (also serving PNG), to replace stocks used for the TC Harold response in Vanuatu and some were sold to IFRC;
- in Vanuatu, to preposition tarpaulins, jerry cans and hygiene kits for 2,000 families or 10,000 individuals;
- in Solomon Islands, replenishment is under discussion.
- World Vision airfreighted face masks to all their offices in the region as a preparedness measure.
- World Vision is also taking steps to build local capacities as a cyclone preparedness measure in the COVID-19 context.

MFAT

- MFAT is following up through its posts, high commissions and embassies across the region around receiving relief personnel and supplies from abroad in the event of a disaster response. There are evidently more restrictions in the case of personnel than in supplies. MFAT is therefore working with other New Zealand government agencies involved in humanitarian response to update COVID-19 protocols for deployment of personnel and supplies in order to minimise the risk of inadvertently exporting the virus during response operations. A shift from deploying personnel towards more focus on sending relief supplies and funding emergency response and early recovery organizations already on the ground is anticipated.
- MFAT maintains a slightly increased stockpile of humanitarian relief supplies complemented with PPE in Auckland in consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on supply chains.
- Jess joins MFAT's humanitarian and disaster management team and will be attending future PLC coordination meetings.
- MFAT will try to find a point of contact with Air New Zealand to inform on the seeming unavailability of flights from Fiji to Australia even with transit through New Zealand which was noted in the previous PLC coordination meeting.

WHO

- WHO continues with GeneXpert test distribution within the region. Currently, 70% of the 96,000 cartridges have been distributed.
- WHO is moving forward with the procurement and distribution of medical equipment (oxygen concentrators, patient monitors, etc.).
- WHO received the third shipment of cargo in Nadi and had it stored in the WFP warehouse while awaiting onward transport to their final destination in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT).

DFAT

- DFAT will be conducting its Pacific Flights Programme to help improve the availability of flights throughout the region. Evaluations have been completed and contract negotiations are ongoing.

3. Pacific Logistics Cluster update

Coordination

<https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific>

- After the next PLC coordination meeting on 18 December, meetings will be held on a monthly basis.
- PLC is finalising a partner survey to be conducted using Survey Monkey probably on the first week of December. Partners are highly encouraged to fill it out.
- IFRC is leading an Import and Customs Clearance Together (IMPACCT) project. At the moment it is focusing on challenges and issues around importation and customs clearance of humanitarian consignments in the Pacific and how they can be addressed on the operational and legislative levels. PLC will email more about it in order to get any useful information to share with the project.

Common Services

- PLC is supporting on the following WFP-managed flights:
 - A flight for FSM and RMI mainly for the UNICEF and WHO cargo which are bound for those countries.
 - A passenger flight from Kuala Lumpur to Port Moresby to Nadi on 2 December and back on 3 December 2020. Booking is closed for the Nadi-bound legs while the booking for the Kuala Lumpur leg closes on 28 November. Another flight is being planned for January 2021.
 - WFP is planning flights for the first quarter of 2021 to other PICTs particularly those not served from Fiji. PLC will inform partners once these are finalised.

Commercial Transport Services

- Fiji Airways have extended the cancellation of regular international flights to end of 2020 and possibly beyond. However, they have made available some repatriation flights for Australia, New Zealand and Fiji for the rest of the year and into January 2021. More details are on their [travel alerts page](#).
- Air New Zealand have also announced the availability of repatriation flights.
- An air charter company has reached out to PLC on a monthly Jakarta-Singapore-Delhi-Port Moresby-Nadi return cargo flight that can accommodate 19 tonnes of cargo at USD 2-4/kg for each segment. PLC can provide the point of contact to any interested party.

PALM

- PLC continues to encourage partners to update their PALM information particularly in terms of contingency of stock during the cyclone season. Training is still available upon request and possibly a manual as well after it is reviewed.

Contacts

Meaghan Barry

Logistics Cluster Coordinator

meaghan.barry@wfp.org

Mark Maulit

Information Management Officer

mark.maulit@wfp.org