Meeting Minutes, 8 January 2021
Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster, Fiji

LOCATION  
Remote meeting

DATE  
8 January 2021

CHAIR  
Pacific Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS  
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United States Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (BHA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO) and World Vision (WV)

ACTION POINTS
- Pacific Logistics Cluster (PLC) to circulate information on further transport services in connection with the Tropical Cyclone (TC) Yasa response, available on the HMAS Adelaide ship through Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), if any.
- Partners are requested to share any issues or challenges around transport, warehousing or distribution of relief items to better inform the PLC’s support.
- Partners are requested to share information on procurement and distribution plans over the coming six months so that the PLC can tailor support services as necessary.

AGENDA
1. Regional Situation Updates (COVID-19, cyclones, etc.)
2. Updates from partners (preparedness and response activities)
3. Pacific Logistics Cluster updates

1. Regional Situation Updates

No significant regional updates at the moment.

2. Updates from partners

World Vision
- WV is not involved in the TC Yasa response because it has no presence in Fiji. Its closest office is located in Vanuatu.
- WV currently has three COVID-19 projects in Vanuatu involving locally procured non-food items (NFI). Supplies from local vendors have already been secured. However, the international sourcing of 2,000 hygiene kits to be prepositioned in WV’s Santo and Tanna offices has been delayed for four months due to

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unavailability of one item in the kit and port congestion that took place in recent weeks. WV has addressed this by amending the contents of the kit and is expecting confirmation shortly and delivery around February 2021.

- Replenishment of WV stocks in Brisbane is also delayed due to similar reasons.

**UNFPA**

- UNFPA’s last orders of COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) have been received in their Suva warehouse and are in the process of being dispatched.
- For TC Yasa, UNFPA dispatched emergency reproductive health (RH) kits, dignity kits and tents for women-friendly safe spaces to the Fiji Ministry of Health and other RH commodities to other partners including dignity kits customized for women with disabilities.
- In addition, UNFPA has more dignity kits undergoing customs clearance in transit as well. Due to delays resulted from human resource issues, local procurement is also being pursued.

**WHO**

- WHO currently has 200 tonnes of medical equipment from Singapore in WFP’s transit warehouse in Nadi awaiting flights to the destination Pacific island countries and territories (PICTs). Remaining items from Singapore will be sent directly by sea freight to the destination PICTs. Similarly, portable X-ray machines purchased in Brisbane are being sent by sea freight (and air freight, where possible) directly to the destination PICTs.
- WHO is also distributing Bio Fire which is another COVID-19 test equivalent to GeneXpert. (The latest shipment arrived in Nadi will be picked up by Carpenter’s for storage in the WFP transit warehouse.)
- For the TC Yasa response, WHO rented a number of vehicles for the use of the Fiji Ministry of Health.

**MFAT**

- For TC Yasa, MFAT sent relief packages totalling USD 5 million, sent some supplies via Fiji Airways from Auckland, released some in-country produce and supplies through its grocery partners, and have made and are making a number of financial contributions.

**BHA**

- BHA partners were challenged in sending sea freight with the USAID-specific regulations concerning US flag carriers. This caused longer-than-anticipated delays in delivering COVID-19 WASH supplies into destination PICTs, but it has already been sorted out.
- For TC Yasa, BHA provided USD 100,000 to IFRC and is considering providing additional support. In addition, through a surge mechanism, BHA will provide an Information Management position for the Fiji National WASH Cluster.

### 3. Pacific Logistics Cluster Updates

**TC Yasa**

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific
• PLC is supporting the Fiji National Logistics Cluster with coordination and information management. Relevant partners are requested to share any issues or challenges around transport, warehousing or distribution of relief items to better inform the PLC’s support.

• Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has sent out information on the 30% reduction in freight charges for access to the Fiji Airways flights from Sydney. PLC has forwarded the announcement to partners including the process for accessing the service.

• Fiji NDMO is also coordinating access to HMAS Adelaide for the transport and distribution of goods. Requests are to be sent directly to the NDMO. The deadline for the first round was on 6 January. PLC will keep partners informed on new rounds, if any.

Coordination

• The PLC user feedback survey has been completed. The participation of partners is greatly appreciated.

• Meaghan Barry is taking a break in service and will return in February to hand over to a new PLC Coordinator. Steve Aumua will fill in the coordination role meanwhile.

• As discussed previously, coordination meetings will be held every four weeks.

Common Services

• WFP Pacific Air Service conducted a flight from Brisbane to Fiji on 24 December 2020 to support UNICEF and IFRC to transport humanitarian cargo for the TC Yasa response. WFP was also able to transport two mobile storage units (MSU) on the same flight. These were handed over to the Fiji NDMO. One has reportedly already been deployed in the Northern division. The deployment of the other is being worked out.

• WFP Pacific Air Service is planning cargo flights to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands within January. These are still in the scheduling stage, and clearances have not yet been requested.

• Matt Donoghue has arrived in Fiji to take on the Logistics Officer for Aviation role with WFP.

• WFP Global Passenger Air Service has a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Port Moresby to Nadi on 20 and 21 January similar to its flights in the past three months. Bookings via the Humanitarian Booking Hub close on 12 January.

• Partners are requested to share information on procurement and distribution plans over the coming six months so that the PLC can tailor support services as necessary.

Commercial Transport Services

• Fiji Airways have repatriation flights to and from Nadi and Auckland, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney until March 2021. More information is available on its travel alerts page.

Contacts

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