Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell  
Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group  
Terms of Reference

Background

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2, was first detected in Wuhan city, China in December 2019. On 30 January 2020, the WHO Director General declared that the current outbreak constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. As of 23 March, more than 336,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide.

Global manufacturing and transportation concentration around a single-market (China) has led to unprecedented market pressure on items critical to the COVID-19 response, as well as having far-reaching effects on the wider global marketplace.

Supply Chain Inter-Agency Coordination Cell (SCICC)

The Supply Chain Coordination Cell (SCICC) is part of a coordination mechanism established UN Crisis Management Team (UNCMT) to support strategic guidance, operational decision-making, and overall monitoring of the global humanitarian response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

In large scale health outbreaks, overwhelming demand, lack of market visibility and capacity, and competing on suppliers and contractors put undue pressure on the market.

As a consequence, the crisis is affecting all humanitarian operations. The normal flow of supplies and services necessary to humanitarian activities is being hindered and so is the ability of humanitarian responders to perform their work.

The following Working Groups will support the work of the SCICC:

Supply and Demand Working Group - Sharing insights on the markets of critical health items, coordinate procurement when possible, update and coordinate on the fulfilment of minimum requirements globally. Foster a global and coordinated approach to market. Participation by invitation. Chaired by WHO

Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group - Ensuring the humanitarian community has the ability to save lives through timely and reliable logistical service support and information. Detailed ToR below

Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group – Terms of Reference

The Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group is established to suggest appropriate solutions to the global supply chain constraints created by COVID-19, by sharing critical information and by exploring solutions for multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Where SCICC will share updates on the availability of relevant medical supplies, the Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group will gather and share updates on supply chain services, will raise any
access constraints and supply chain related issues and gaps affecting humanitarian programmes and will map and escalate any logistics or sourcing issues negatively affecting the humanitarian logistics continuity. The Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group will be an open forum where organizations can share issues, ask questions and propose solutions.

Structure

The Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group is an inter-agency, multi-stakeholder, interorganizational coordination mechanism. The Working Group is led by the Logistics Cluster given its inter-agency nature, the large base of organizations participating to the cluster, as well as its thematic focus on logistics.

Key activities

The Logistics Cluster will set up a webpage dedicated to COVID19 on its website to share information and updates as described above. The products published will include, but will not be limited to:

- situation reports,
- minutes of the WG meetings,
- links to relevant webpages and tools,
- dashboards,
- WHO issued guidelines,
- relevant contact details,
- calendar of events
- relevant logistics information

The SCICC will manage the engagement of the Supply and Demand Working Group medical supply chain aspects of the page in coordination with the Logistics Cluster and WHO to ensure appropriate clearance of public documents.

The Logistics Cluster will manage the standard Logistics Cluster information on the website (access constraints mapping and relevant documentation, conops, meeting minutes, ...) and will obtain SCICC approval where relevant.

The Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group will meet once a week to share general updates, discuss common issues related to the supply chain of humanitarian operations and propose solutions. The Logistics Cluster will chair the discussions.

There will be a direct contact between the chair of the Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity working group and the chair of the SCICC (or delegated) every second day.

The work of the Global Humanitarian Logistics Continuity Working Group will feed into the work of the Supply Chain Coordination Cell and relevant information will be used to report to the UNCMT.