

Date: 21st May 2021, 11:00 – 12:00

Participants

1. Action Against Hunger (ACF)
2. ADRA Nepal
3. Care Nepal
4. Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
5. Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
6. Humanity Inclusion (HI)
7. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
8. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)
9. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
10. IPAS Nepal
11. Islamic Relief Nepal
12. Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
13. Mercy Corps Nepal
14. Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)
15. Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)
16. Mountain Child
17. Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)
18. People in Need (PIN)
19. Plan International Nepal
20. Save the Children
21. The British Red Cross
22. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
23. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
24. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
25. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
26. Welt Hunger Hilfe (WHH)
27. World Food Programme (WFP)

Meeting chaired by: Mr. Dil Kumar Tamang, Chief of National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC), MoHA.

Agenda:

1. Nepal National Logistics Cluster update
2. Health logistics update
3. Logistics gaps and issues
4. AOB

Action points:

- WFP to share the link and a user guide to access WFP Service Marketplace with the National Logistics Cluster members: <https://servicemarketplace.wfp.org/>
- WFP to share Covid-19 response 3W template with National Logistics Cluster members, to collect information of any logistics cluster related activities their organization is doing.
- WFP to share the updated customs duty waiver information for COVID-19 related supplies.

1. Nepal National Logistics Cluster storage and transport update

The following updates were shared regarding the Nepal National Logistics Cluster services:

- The National Logistics Cluster continues to provide common transport, storage and coordination services to MoHP and Provincial Health Directorates, to ensure a timely and uninterrupted flow of essential lifesaving health supplies and equipment to the health facilities across the country.
- The National Logistics Cluster this week:
 - Transported oxygen cylinders for refilling for hospitals in Biratnagar, Chitwan, Dhangadhi.
 - Dispatched 110 MT (209 cbm) medical supplies, mainly oxygen cylinders, to all seven provinces.
 - Provided support to Seti Zonal Hospital in Dhangadi district to transport full and empty oxygen cylinders.
 - Upon request from NEOC, MoHA, 50 tents and 200 tarpaulins were delivered for the households affected by the earthquake of 19 May in Lamjung district of Gandaki Province.
 - Received 2,560 oxygen cylinders (2,000 donated by the Government of China and 560 donated by the Oman government) for storage at the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Kathmandu. Received various medical items such as PPE, ventilators, oxygen concentrator, thermometer and antigen test kits donated by various donors received for storage and onwards distribution at the HSA.
- The National Logistics Cluster assessed the oxygen supply chain to see how resupply could be sped up. The initial finding showed that the resupply of oxygen in the country could be sped up by increasing the number of staff at MoHP and enhancing coordination with oxygen manufacturers.
- The National Logistics Cluster developed a Google spreadsheet with cargo flight information, to enable cargo consolidation of air shipments to Nepal. The spreadsheet will be updated with flight information regularly. Link to this online sheet: [Nepal Cargo Flight information](#)
- WFP offers upstream logistics services (by air, ocean, road) for international shipments and cargo consolidation at strategic hubs for cargo destined to Nepal, through its **Service Market Place**. This service is available at-cost to all humanitarian agencies in Nepal. The website clarifies how a transport service can be requested. Link: [Service Marketplace](#) .

2. Health Logistics Update

- The USAID-chaired External Development Partners-Supply Chain Management working group (EDP-SCM) informed that they are working closely with the Management Division of MoHP, the Global Health Supply Chain Program-Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) project and WFP to track arrival and plan distribution and delivery of the COVID-19 supplies in the country. USAID requested all partners to update the supplies being procured for COVID-19 response on the google spreadsheet here: [Covid-19 Commodity mapping tracking sheet](#).
- UNICEF informed, early this month, they handed over syringes worth three million USD and 155,000 pcs of antigen test kits to the Government of Nepal (GoN), brought from South Korea. UNICEF also donated oxygen concentrators to the regional hospitals in Janakpur and Parsa districts. They further informed that procurement of PPEs is under process and 800 oxygen cylinders are expected to arrive in Kathmandu by the first week of June. 20,000 oxygen cylinders requested by the GoN to UNICEF are also under procurement in China.

- Care Nepal informed that Association of International NGOs in Nepal (AIN) is doing a joint procurement of COVID-19 supplies based on the list received from the MoHP. They requested to directly contact Care Nepal if any of the agencies are interested in the joint procurement. They also informed that CARE Nepal has been selected by AIN as lead agency for the procurement, with technical support from One Heart Worldwide.

3. Logistics gaps and issues

- IFRC inquired if WFP has any plan to restart the air service like last year. If yes, would it be possible for IFRC to use the air service to bring medical equipment from China? They also inquired if IFRC could use the National Logistics Cluster common services in Nepal. WFP informed that the transport and storage services were stopped at the end of February and have not resumed. Currently WFP is only providing transport and storage services to the MoHP and Provincial Health Directorates, to support with the COVID-19 response. Regarding the WFP air service: There is no plan yet to restart the air services, since the government has given approval last week for two commercial flights per week to resume (from Kathmandu to Doha and Guangzhou). Since that is expected to fulfill the immediate need of humanitarian organizations, there will be no need to resume air services. Regarding storage at the HSAs, long term storage is possible on cost recovery basis through establishing a Service Level Agreement with WFP.
- ACF inquired if there was any update on the customs waiver for medical supplies for COVID-19 response. WFP informed that no tax will be charged on medical supplies for the COVID-19 response and advised for these supplies, to request the Development Support Coordination section of MoHP to issue a letter to support customs clearance, to the Inland Revenue Department.
- Mountain Child inquired if the dates have been finalized for the weekly commercial flights approved by the Government and if there is any gap expected regarding cargo flights to Nepal? WFP informed that it does not yet know the dates of the weekly commercial flights and believes there won't be any gap in cargo flights due to the planned resumption of commercial flights to Doha and Guangzhou. At regional level, during the recent Global Logistics Cluster Call – Southeast Asia – Impact of COVID-19 on Humanitarian Logistics, the private sector has shared their perspective that regional cargo flow is stabilizing and the absence of commercial passenger flights is being compensated by cargo flights and trade is picking up. Therefore, there are no major gaps expected by the private sector at this point.

4. AOB

- WFP informed that the National Disaster Risk Reduction Authority (NDRRMA) and MoHP have issued two policy documents. The policy document issued by NDRRMA was to announce activation of all national clusters to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. MoHP requested all health partners and donors to provide support through the one-door mechanism in coordination with Health Coordination Division of MoHP, following a meeting of Incident Command team held 12 May.



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- WFP informed that on 18 May 2021, the GoN announced that they will allow two commercial flights a week, one flight each from Guangzhou and Qatar through Nepal.

In case of any logistics gaps, questions, or issues, please do not hesitate to contact the National Logistics Cluster:

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