Meeting Minutes, 7 May 2021
Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster, Fiji

LOCATION
Remote meeting

DATE
7 May 2021

CHAIR
Pacific Logistics Cluster

PARTICIPANTS
Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO)

ACTION POINTS
• Partners are requested to participate in a survey to share thoughts and suggestions regarding the usefulness, relevance and frequency of future coordination meetings.
• Partners are requested to continue sharing any issues or challenges around transport, warehousing or distribution of relief items to better inform the PLC’s support.
• Partners are requested to continue sharing information on procurement and distribution plans over the coming months so that the PLC can tailor support and services as necessary.

AGENDA
• Regional Situation Updates
• Updates from partners (preparedness and response activities)
• Pacific Logistics Cluster updates

1. Regional Situation Updates

States of Emergency
• States of Emergency have been extended in American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia and Guam.
• The alert status has been lowered in Vanuatu.
• Palau has declared a State of Emergency from Typhoon Surigae.

Border Restrictions
• New COVID-19 outbreak in Fiji caused all passenger flights to be cancelled.
• Ongoing COVID-19 vaccinations in some Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) as well as elsewhere influence modified restrictions in the Northern Marianas, French Polynesia and Samoa.
• Quarantine-free travel arrangements with New Zealand are to be implemented in the Cook Islands (starting from 17 May) and Niue (upon vaccination of sufficient proportion of the population).
• No significant restrictions on cargo movement have been documented during April.

https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific
2. Updates from partners

UNICEF

- UNICEF received the COVID-19 vaccines on 6 May together with some tents. These are being distributed to Fiji’s Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS).

WHO

- Phase 2 delivery of COVID-19 medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE) and laboratory supplies to the PICTs has been completed via WFP Pacific Humanitarian Air Service (PHAS) and commercial seafreight.
- Fiji’s MHMS and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) have listed items they require for their response to the current COVID-19 outbreak including testing and laboratory facilities. The Logistics Pillar is discussing how to fulfill these requirements.
- Testing equipment (reagents and machines) to increase testing capacity are also being provided by partners (WHO, UNICEF, etc.)
- 100,000 GeneXpert cartridges for all the PICTs are on the way to Fiji from Europe.
- Fiji has sufficient stock of personal protective equipment (PPEs).

SPC

- SPC shared a news article on the United Nations’ initiative to protect seafarers’ rights during the COVID-19 crisis.

USAID-BHA

- Typhoon Surigae relief supplies (plastic sheeting, buckets, blankets, etc.) are arriving in Palau on 13 May.

DFAT

- 400 family kits were sent to Palau on 6 May via WFP PHAS.
- DFAT will supply 10,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine per week to 5 PICTs and Timor Leste.
- The 6 May shipment of vaccines to Fiji arrived with medical equipment and supplies including hospital beds and PPEs.
- DFAT is also contributing to fulfill the requirements for the COVID-19 outbreak response in Fiji as listed by the MoH.
- DFAT procured GeneXpert cartridges and rapid antigen tests. 50,000 rapid tests and 23,000 GeneXpert cartridges were sent to PNG. 20,000 more GeneXpert cartridges will also be sent to PNG.

UNFPA

- 500 coveralls (PPE) for Fiji MHMS are in transit and due to arrive in Suva next week. They are intended to be used by reproductive health service providers to ensure continuity of care during the COVID-19 outbreak.

WFP

- The PHAS conducted two flights in April and two flights in the first week of May:
  - to Kiribati on 26 April with 11.832 MT or 53.027 CBM of urgent medical equipment and supplies;
  - to Nauru on 29 April with 25 KG or 0.365 CBM of medical equipment; and
  - to Palau (from Kuala Lumpur) on 6 May with 16.562 MT / 93.3 CBM of relief items from DFAT and International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) for the Typhoon Surigae response.
  - Another flight is bound for Palau (from Kuala Lumpur) on 8 May with 1.925 MT / 87 CBM of relief items from DFAT and IFRC for Typhoon Surigae response.

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• The planned flight for the Marshall Islands has been postponed due to the Fiji COVID-19 outbreak and has been pushed back to around June.
• WFP assisted in the medical evacuation of a dependent child of a UN staff member along with the parent from Samoa to New Zealand.

3. Pacific Logistics Cluster Updates

Coordination
• Partners are requested to participate in a survey to share thoughts and suggestions regarding the usefulness, relevance and frequency of future coordination meetings. The current frequency is monthly.

Common Services
• Airfreight – Please see the WFP PHAS update above.
• Transit Storage – The Nadi bonded warehouse is currently holding 15 MT of stock on behalf of partners including COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE). It is also preparing to receive the testing kits and other COVID-19 response items from partners for temporary storage until deployed.

Contacts

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