Meeting Minutes, 16 March 2023
Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster – Vanuatu Emergency Response

LOCATION
Vanuatu NDMO Conference Room and Online

DATE
16 March 2023

CHAIR
Pacific Logistics Cluster (PLC)

PARTICIPANTS
Airlink, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Respond Global, United Nations Information Centres, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization Pacific Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

ACTION POINTS
• Logistics Cluster to provide further information on the bonded warehouse capacity and procedures (for air cargo)

AGENDA
1. Action Points from the last meeting
2. Updates from NDMO Vanuatu
3. Updates from the Pacific Logistics Cluster
4. Logistics constraints
5. Updates from Partners
6. AOB

Action Points from the last meeting

• The PLC Coordinator confirmed that the Health Cluster, led by the Ministry of Health and WHO, has two fully equipped containers in Port Vila with backup generators for cold chain storage needs. Partners were encouraged to share information on needs related to temperature-controlled warehousing with PLC.

• NDMO has a temporary storage facility in Port Vila, where supplies from donors and partners are received and consolidated. Partners that would like to use the NDMO storage facility will need to liaise with the national cluster leads (see below for details).

NDMO Vanuatu Updates

• The PLC Coordinator re-emphasised that the NDMO coordinates and leads the emergency response.

• NDMO-coordination distribution of dry food rations has started. These include four commodities: rice, canned tuna, baked beans, and crackers. The Tiwi and Kiwi ships are currently being loaded with food rations for transportation to Tafea Province.

• Two international flights expected to arrive on 16 March, carrying NFIs from the Government of Australia with cargo from different organisations (Oxfam, World Vision, UNFPA, Save the Children, and DFAT) and the Government of China, carrying Non-food items. An MFAT flight will arrive on 17 March with food rations from the Government of Fiji.
• Organisations who need logistical support in warehousing, transportation (shipping), and procurement should contact the respective National Cluster Leads: [https://logcluster.org/document/pacific-vanuatu-national-cluster-leads-15-march-2023](https://logcluster.org/document/pacific-vanuatu-national-cluster-leads-15-march-2023). The process for requesting assistance from NDMO is outlined below:

![Diagram](image)

- Identifies needs
- Provides comprehensive details of needs requirements (such as item description, weight, volume, quantity, etc.).
- Communicates these to the respective National Cluster Lead
- Reviews, consolidates, and prioritises request(s) from partner(s)
- Prepares the Request for Assistance (RFA) form and submits it to NDMO
- The NEOC controller at the NDMO reviews the RFA
- Once authorised the RFA is directed to the correct focal point for action

### Pacific Logistics Cluster Updates

- The PLC deployed two staff to Vanuatu to support on-ground logistics coordination and information management led by NDMO. The team is now embedded into the Logistics Section under the NDMO and supported NDMO in drafting a distribution plan for the outer islands. Moving forward, the team will work with the NDMO to enhance the warehouse management practices in the newly established hub in Port Vila to ensure the visibility of supplies available and improve the overall logistics response.
- The UN OCHA-led Humanitarian Needs and Priority Document, which identifies the needs, the response strategy, activities, people targeted, and breakdown of costs per activity, will be submitted by PLC to the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) by close of business 17 March. This PHT response plan is not to be confused with the six months response plan, which the NDMO will share. PLC uses this meeting and other engagements with partners to identify logistics gaps and needs in the current response.
- Two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) and indoor/outdoor lighting systems dispatched before the emergency response by the PLC as a preparedness measure arrived in Port Vila on 13 March.
- The PLC conducted the basic Logistics Service Market Assessment (LSMA) in Vanuatu to collect information on companies offering air, sea, road transport, and warehousing services. Interested organisations can contact the PLC ([pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org)) to request the detailed assessment with contact details. Partners have been requested to advise the PLC ([pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org)) of any other relevant service providers active in Vanuatu so that their details can be added to the LSMA.

### Logistics Constraints

- **Road:** 22% of the arterial road network in five out of six provinces remains inaccessible.
Air: Deployment by air to outer islands is limited under the current situation and requires regulatory approval for some airports.

Communication: Network communication is not fully restored in all areas, largely hindered by the lack of power grid restoration.

Updates from Partners

- Airlink is working with partners IFRC, Save the Children on preliminary cargo (e.g. hygiene kits) and disaster responder support. This includes facilitating cargo movements from within the Asia Pacific region, through Australia, to Vanuatu.
- DFAT advised that their flight to Port Vila today departed one hour later than scheduled.
- Respond Global ([https://respondglobal.com/help/](https://respondglobal.com/help/)) provides sea transport to supply medical and other emergency response equipment and personnel. Its HELPR-1 (Health Emergency Logistics Preparedness and Response) vessel has returned to Port Vila after supplying relief items to the outer islands in Shefa Province. HELPR-1 is a fit-for-purpose medical and disaster response vessel permanently based and registered in Vanuatu with the capacity to safely accommodate 51 crew and response team members overnight and carry a further 21 people as ferry passengers (no accommodation). Under the current State of Emergency, Respond Global is available to support the Government of Vanuatu under the leadership, priorities, and direction of the NDMO and Ministry of Health. For further information, partners can contact rebecca.weir@respondglobal.com.
- Following the meeting, Respond Global shared a tentative schedule for the next weeks, which can be adjusted to meet changing assessments and requirements as tasked by Vanuatu NDMO/ National Health Emergency Operation Center (NHEOC):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malampa &amp; Shefa</td>
<td>Malekula, Maskeylyne Ambrym, Paama, Tongoa, Emae Tongariki, Epi, Buninga, Makura and Mataso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malampa</td>
<td>Malekula (South, SW, West, NW), Ambrym and Paama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penama (and Mere Lava)</td>
<td>Ambae, Pentecost, Maewo with Mere Lava additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanma</td>
<td>West Santo, Big Bay</td>
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[https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific](https://logcluster.org/ops/pacific)
• UNFPA is currently conducting assessments in terms of maternal health, gender, and disability needs and is also delivering reproductive health and dignity kits in the first wave of non-food items.
• PIANGO launched the Facility Aiding Locally-led Engagement (FALE) Vanuatu and stressed the community-based approach for assessing the needs. They also highlighted a shortage of fruits and vegetables in the market, and there is a risk of health issues relating to nutrient deficiency over the next few months.

AOB

• Partners are requested to contact the PLC if they would like to present or share anything relating to the Vanuatu emergency response at the next PLC meeting.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, 23 March 2023, at 01:00 PM (Suva time)

Contacts

For general queries contact: pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org
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