
LOCATION	Online
DATE	10 March 2023
CHAIR	Pacific Regional Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS	ADRA, Airlink, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision, IFRC, World Health Organization (WHO), UN OCHA, Save the Children
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Logistics Cluster to contact UNICEF for further details on Vanuatu's cold chain logistics capacity.• The Logistics Cluster to seek further information from NDMO Vanuatu on the available warehousing space.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Regional Pacific Logistics Cluster Updates2. Logistics Constraints3. Updates from Partners4. Gaps & Needs - Discussion5. Donate Responsibly campaign6. AOB

Regional Pacific Logistics Cluster Updates

- The National Logistics Cluster, led by Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), coordinates logistics efforts, and the regional Pacific Logistics Cluster (PLC) is in a supporting role. Since the first days of the response, the PLC, as a co-lead of the logistics response, has been following-up with the NDMO team to identify logistics needs and gaps. The PLC Coordinator joined three Pacific Humanitarian Team coordination meetings in Fiji dedicated to Vanuatu emergency response. The PLC Coordinator arrived in Vanuatu on 9 March and is closely coordinating with the NDMO and partners.
- Two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) and indoor/outdoor lighting systems, were dispatched before the emergency response by the Logistics Cluster as preparedness measure, are enroute to Port Vila expected to arrive on 13 March.
- More mobile storage units, forklifts, generators, etc are available and ready to be deployed based on response needs from Brisbane, Australia, and UNHRD (Kuala Lumpur) warehouses.
- The PLC launched a basic Logistics Service Market Assessment (LSMA) last week and contacted eight logistics companies in Vanuatu, offering air, sea, road transport, and warehousing services. Interested organisations can contact PLC (pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org) to request a detailed assessment with contact details.
- The Logistics Cluster published the first Situation Update: [Vanuatu Earthquake & Tropical Cyclones - Situation update #1, 9 March 2023 | Logistics Cluster Website \(logcluster.org\)](#)

- The Logistics Cluster published the General Logistics Planning map for Vanuatu: [Pacific Region - Vanuatu Map, March 2023 | Logistics Cluster Website \(logcluster.org\)](#)

Logistics Constraints

- Based on the latest NDMO Vanuatu Situation Report #11 regarding logistics, transport and infrastructure updates:
 - France Navy ship arrived on 10 March with NFIs to be distributed to Shepherds Islands.
 - Australian Navy ship (Canberra) arrived on 9 March with three helicopters to distribute NFIs.
 - 43% of the road network remains inaccessible as follows: 80% in Tafea, 40% in Penama, 38% in Malamapa, and 17% in Sanma and Torba.
- Current road conditions may be difficult on rural routes and regional highways in parts of Vanuatu.
- Deployments by air to outer islands are limited under the current situation and require regulatory approval for some airports.
- Network communication is not fully restored in all areas; hence communication is challenged.

Updates from Partners

- Airlink: Airlink is a global nonprofit organisation partnering with airline actors and logistic partners globally to harness private sector capacities to move passengers and cargo on behalf of NGO partners during disaster. In the current response, Airlink is looking into cargo movement and passenger travel coordination for responders that includes emergency responders, health professionals, logisticians, and any additional programmatic staff that will be moved into major hubs, including Fiji and Australia, with further support on regional airlines and utilizing sea and air freight to provide access into Vanuatu, while intra country travel will be considered on a case by case basis. Airlink is exploring the capacity within their partners and then building relationships with regional actors. For further information, partners can contact bmckeon@airlinkflight.org and claireleow@airlinkflight.org.
- UNFPA asked if there was any plan to provide common in-country logistics services. Currently, based on the needs, the PLC does not intend to provide in-country logistics services. Partners can share any updates on logistics gaps, needs, constraints via email: pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org. For now the two MSUs en route to Vanuatu were dispatched before the emergency and are a donation to NDMO Vanuatu who will decide on how to utilise them. PLC will provide further details as soon as available.
- UNFPA asked about pharma-grade cold storage capacity. The Logistics Cluster can share the basic Logistics Service Market Assessment (LSMA), which includes some information on cold chain warehousing services. The Logistics Cluster will also liaise with UNICEF to get more information.

Gaps and Needs

- The PLC obtained the following logistics constraints before the meeting from partners:
 - Limited budget which limits hiring of enough volunteers to carry out the distribution
 - High cost of transport
 - Bad weather and road conditions that pose risks of kits being damaged during transportation of prepositioned stocks
 - Delayed rapid assessment for affected areas coordinated by NDMO

- Storage/warehouses capacity limited
- limited support from NDMO to cover cost of logistics for distribution of kits. E.g. NDMO provides kits but partners/ngos bear cost for transportation and hiring of volunteers etc
- WHO provided an update from health perspective, assessments are ongoing and not much information available. There might be some additional funding support needed for health facility repairs.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator, currently based in Port Vila, emphasised a need for centralised coordination and communication on logistics operations with NDMO, as information management is currently the biggest challenge.
- IFRC met with the Vanuatu Red Cross Society (VRCS) and its National Society in Vanuatu and heard that the NDMO was provided a Sports Complex for a warehouse space in Port Vila by one of the Ministries. It is a multi-complex building provided during the emergency phase, which can be assumed for the next six months. Its capacity is not clear at this stage. It is unclear if the warehouse space is provided in anticipation of the large incoming relief items. VRCS was provided half of the available space. Logistics Cluster Coordinator on the ground will seek further details on the warehousing space available for relief items.

Donate Responsibly campaign

- The Logistics Cluster presented the Donate Responsibly campaign launched by Governments and humanitarian partners. Its main objective is to reduce the influx of goods donations arriving in the Pacific after a disaster by educating the general public about why during disasters, not all goodwill (though well-intentioned) does good. The Donate Responsibly campaign has been activated with Vanuatu being devastated by back-to-back cyclones.
- Donate Responsibly does not promote any one organisation or donation method but gives people the facts and resources they need to decide the best way to donate responsibly and effectively.
- Governments and humanitarian organisations involved in the project have experienced first-hand how well-intentioned donated goods can hamper relief efforts on the ground after a disaster. Unrequested goods, officially called unsolicited bilateral donations, received immediately after a disaster clog up valuable port space, block vital aid from getting through, and stretch the resources of first responders. Once accessed, if at all, these donated goods are often deemed unusable for several reasons and need to be disposed of, likely going straight to landfill.
- For any questions, organisations can contact WFP Communications Officer at maria.shumusti@wfp.org.
- Further information can be found on the campaign website: [Donate Responsibly](#)

AOB

- Partners agreed the meeting should be held weekly to update.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 March 2023.

Contacts

	<i>For general queries contact:</i>	pacific.clustercargo@wfp.org
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