Meeting Minutes, 26 July 2023
Global Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)

LOCATION
Online

DATE
26 July 2023

CHAIR
Mary Jelliti, Deputy Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
Blessing Dzambo, Mary Jelliti, Nadia Griffin, Richard Kneller, Sebastien Cazenave, Stephen Cahill

ACTION POINTS
• Dedicate the next SAG meeting to the mandate, role, and responsibilities of each Working Group
• Convene a Working Group that defines the key gaps and best solutions for medical logistics

AGENDA
1. SAG Working Group leads
2. GLM – feedback on the previous edition and preparations for the next GLM
3. IMPACCT – way forward
4. Collaboration with the LET
5. Any other business

1. SAG Working Group leads

• Before leaving the SAG following the election of new SAG members at the previous Global Logistics Cluster Meeting (GLM) in Budapest, Theo Lingens and Pierre Tripon used to serve as Training and Partnerships focal points respectively. In this SAG meeting, it was decided that Nadia Griffin will take the role of Partnerships focal point and Richard Kneller will take on the role of Training focal point on behalf of the SAG.

• The next SAG meeting will be exclusively devoted to the work carried out by the Working Groups to date. This will allow the SAG to assess which ones require further attention and collaboration, and which ones can be closed down given that their objectives have been met throughout the year.

2. GLM – feedback on the previous edition and preparations for the next GLM

Feedback on the previous edition:
• Generally speaking, the different sessions are considered to have been informative but some of them could have been a bit longer.

• Some of the sessions focused insufficiently on sharing the most recent project updates and focused too much on breaking down topics on flipcharts. This led to group exercises becoming a bit too repetitive and
there is a need for refocusing these exercises to make them as relevant as possible at a particular moment in time.

- Some of the sessions were very informative given that field representation was ensured. However, this could be further improved by possibly inviting an OCHA representative to further present a particular country case study on the basis of first-hand experience.
- The rotated marketplace approach was interesting but too fast, leading to insufficient time for partners to discuss.
- Some of the elements presented by the different working groups were redundant and could have been presented in plenary sessions to the entire group of attendees. As a recommendation, smaller groups for targeted practical and technical brainstorming sessions could be organized, to avoid discussions being timed and cut short.
- There is a need for further broadening participation of national NGOs to improve localization and field representation. Representation of Logistics Cluster Coordinators adds tremendous value to the different GLM discussions. The organization of a regional GLM involving regional stakeholders and partners is probably a good idea in this respect.
- There is a need for the SAG to provide more direction throughout the GLM on ensuring that the outcomes of different sessions and discussions are adequately adopted as action points for future global meetings.

**Preparations for the next GLM:**

- The next GLM will most likely be delivered in a hybrid format at the end of November.
- Central working sessions will be delivered online for all GLM members to follow.
- In parallel, smaller and more localized physical gatherings will be organized in six different Regional Bureaus around the world (Panama, Bangkok, Johannesburg, Dubai, Dakar, and Nairobi). In these locations, partners and stakeholders will be able to follow together the online sessions and submit questions but there will also be offline exercises that will need to be completed.
- Sessions will be delivered in English, French, and Spanish. Academic representation will be ensured to provide scientific evidence behind situational updates. National NGO representation via the Logistics Cluster Coordinators and the Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) will improve localization and field representation. To reach as many national NGOs as possible, the Logistics Cluster Coordinators can follow the online sessions with their respective partner communities.
- A private sector support problem statement in the form of a brainstorming session is to be organized to tackle the issue of private sector engagement.

**3. IMPACCT – way forward**

- The Importation and Customs Clearance Together (IMPACCT) Working Group provides customs-related information to humanitarian partners worldwide. IMPACCT currently falls under the umbrella of the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC).
Not all of IMPACCT’s strategic goals fall directly under the mandate of GLC and WFP, and discussions are ongoing with OCHA to assess whether GLC is to oversee the whole of IMPACCT’s mandate.

A request has been set to OCHA to appoint a focal point within the organization to respond to third parties enquiring about the legitimacy of IMPACCT’s work, and for any relevant escalation needed.

Further work is required in terms of formalising the connection with UNCTAD on possible provision of technical support.

4. Collaboration with the LET

- Part of the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) (comprised of four of the largest global logistics and transportation companies: Agility, UPS, Maersk, and DP World) believes GLC’s mandate is too narrow for the spendable budget of LET’s members. Discussions are ongoing between the LET and GLC to assess the collaboration for the upcoming years.
- Given that the LET was formed at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2005, discussions are ongoing with WEF to provide the LET with ideas for different modalities of collaboration.
- Generally speaking, there is a need for private sector engagement in humanitarian response, and the LET has a role to play in terms of coming up with common solutions to boost private sector participation.

5. Any other business

- During an emergency, very regularly there is the need for prompt deployment of medical storage solutions. There appears to be confusion among UN agencies and implementing partners about the available medical storage solutions in different types of emergency response.
- The SAG has identified the need to:
  - Separate information products that focus on traditional humanitarian aid commodities vis-à-vis medical commodities and systematically push for a combined approach in terms of information gathering and communications in the field of humanitarian logistics.
  - Provide more detailed information on the range of insulated/pharma-ready storage possibilities to UN staff and implementing partners, for humanitarian logisticians to deploy the most appropriate solution depending on the local context.
- During the next SAG meeting, discussions will be held to convene a working group to define the key gaps and best solutions for medical logistics. In terms of the involvement of third-party service providers in the field of medical logistics, advice will be sought to the members of the Service Provision Working Group.

Contacts

SAG  sag-logs@logcluster.org
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Mailin Fauchon  
Global Logistics Cluster Coordinator  
mailin.fauchon@wfp.org

Mary Jelliti  
Deputy Global Logistics Cluster Coordinator  
mary.jelliti@wfp.org