

1. Cross-cutting Updates

- The Global Logistics Cluster will launch a transport needs consolidation platform to map the different international transport needs of the partners. This mapping will contribute to the pooling of requirements and resources, as well as contribute inputs to free-to-user service initiatives. The platform will be launched at the next meeting.
- The Global Logistics Cluster is regularly sharing information regarding the impact of COVID-19 on custom procedures produced by OCHA through the IMPACCT initiative. Detailed information from OCHA will be shared at the next Logistics Cluster global call.
- [Cargo Entry Point Updates](#) are being regularly shared via the [Logistics Cluster's dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#). These updates consolidate information received from both humanitarian and private actors on impediments to the movement of cargo around the world.
- The Global Logistics Cluster is working with the Logistics Emergency Teams partners on establishing a visualisation of the upstream transport possibilities as regular commercial services come back online, and is liaising with the International Air Transport Association to obtain early information on the reopening of commercial carrier routes.
- Opportunities for partners to transport their cargo by air on repatriation flights travelling from Europe to destinations around the world are being shared via the [Logistics Cluster COVID-19 page](#), with contact facilitated by email through COVID-19@logcluster.org. The Logistics Cluster urges partners to regularly check the website to ensure that they keep up-to-date with the latest opportunities.
- The most recent Global Logistics Cluster COVID-19 response conference call took place on 30 April 2020.

2. Cluster Operations

Central African Republic (CAR)

- In CAR, the Logistics Cluster has been collecting and consolidating pipeline information in order to support OCHA in liaising with Central African and Cameroonian Authorities to try to fast track items dedicated to the COVID-19 response. To date, 19 organisations, mainly health and WASH partners, have provided information on their humanitarian cargo currently on its way to the country.
- The Logistics Cluster is co-facilitating with WHO meetings of the 'Commission Logistique' created by the Ministry of Health and primarily attended by health and WASH partners. Discussions are focused on pipeline, physical inventory of stocks in country, needs assessment of items and procurement plans.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Kinshasa

- Discussions are ongoing between members of the humanitarian community in-country to develop a response plan for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Since 20 March, UNHAS DRC has suspended all passenger flights to and from Kinshasa, in compliance with the restrictions imposed by national authorities as part of COVID-19 mitigation measures. The current flight schedule is available [here](#).

Pacific Region

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide support to national logistics coordination mechanisms.
- The Logistics Cluster is working with WFP Aviation to arrange air transport services for humanitarian cargo. This air cargo transport service will be coordinated by the Logistics Cluster, and more information is available in the Concept of Operations on the [Pacific Region page](#) of the Logistics Cluster website.
- Information on air cargo ad hoc commercial services as well as shipping updates are being disseminated by the Logistics Cluster.

Syria

- The Logistics Cluster has set up a Supply Chain Working Group with participation from UN agencies, ICRC and SARC to:
 - Map overall existing logistics capacity of the UN, SARC and ICRC in-country and identify logistics gaps in relation to the needs expressed by WHO/Health Cluster.
 - Map supply routes into Syria and monitor these to quickly identify any potential supply bottlenecks.
 - Streamline access-related concerns through the Logistics Cluster for OCHA to advocate for fast-tracking of approval processes.
- The Logistics Cluster is sharing updates on the status of points of entry (POE) and checkpoints via the mailing list.
- In addition to common warehouse services, the cluster is exploring the possibility of facilitating access to free-to-user air and road transportation in response to COVID-19. This will be dependent on funding.
- International NGOs are encouraged to advise the cluster of any current logistics needs, or predicted needs as a result of COVID-19, to allow for the cluster to have a clear picture on how it can formulate its response.
- WFP has advised that it is making secondary transportation options available. These are small trucks that will operate within governorates that may be made available to other humanitarian organisations on a cost-recovery basis. Practical modalities are detailed in WFP service level agreement (SLA).
- The Procurement Working Group (PWG) and the Damascus-based NGOs (DINGOs) have each compiled a list of PPE suppliers, which the Logistics Cluster has shared through its mailing list.

- The Logistics Cluster shared a survey via its mailing list with all partners operating inside Syria in order to understand the impact COVID-19 is having on partner logistics operations. Key takeaways from the survey were:
 - Movement restrictions of staff and sub-contractors impacting operations.
 - Lack of availability of raw materials inflating prices on the local market.
 - Diminished supplier capacity.
 - Lengthy customs clearance processes delaying implementation of programmes.
 - No additional warehousing needs currently.
 - Responses regarding increased transportation needs were mixed.

Cross-border Operations COVID-19

- The Logistics Cluster has produced a document on the mitigation measures taken by the cluster at the Bab al-Hawa transshipment hub to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during operations. The document outlines all the measures clearly and can be accessed via [this link](#). Please note that this is a living document which will be frequently updated as further measures are taken.
- If organisations require any advice or information regarding the continuation of warehousing activities while following COVID-19 mitigation measures, the cluster can share best practices.
- Medical items originating outside of Turkey that are currently in-transit through Turkey may be exported. The Logistics Cluster sent a survey to all partners operating cross-border from Turkey into northwest Syria via the mailing list to understand the impact COVID-19 is having on partner logistics operations.
- Most difficulties expressed by partners were related to:
 - Movement restrictions, and the impact this has on organisations' staff and by extension on the whole operation. This includes running of warehouses, quality control and hub inspection.
 - Increase in the lead time for service provision from sub-contractors and a rise in logistics costs.
 - Future potential issues voiced among others included increased lead time for in-transit goods, future limited availability of medical items and other goods on the market at both the local and international levels, and border crossing uncertainty.
- The cluster reminded partners of WHO's document on the rational use of personal protective equipment (PPE) which can be accessed [here](#).
- To view WHO technical guidance documents regarding COVID-19, please go to [this webpage](#).

Somalia

- The Logistics Cluster was formally activated upon the recommendation of the Humanitarian Country Team and endorsement of the Emergency Relief Coordinator.
- The first Logistics Cluster Coordination Meeting took place on 28 April where the Concept of Operations (ConOps) was discussed and agreed upon. The ConOps will be published and shared once finalised.

- Staff have been identified to fill critical roles in the Logistics Cluster team; recruitment is at its final stages.
- The Logistics Cluster is coordinating the transport of urgent medical equipment, including ventilators, on behalf of WHO that will soon arrive in Nairobi for onward delivery via airlift to Mogadishu.

South Sudan

- The Logistics Cluster has doubled the amount of temperature-controlled storage space it makes available to partners in Juba, in order to support the expected increase in storage needs for COVID-19. The space was initially established last year as part of preparedness actions for Ebola Virus Disease but has now been repurposed for the current response. The space will provide storage for PPE, WASH items and other COVID-19 related cargo.
- Set up has commenced of the Logistics Cluster-loaned 10 x 32m mobile storage unit which will support WHO and the South Sudan Ministry of Health in their expansion of the John Garang Infectious Disease Unit in Juba.
- This week, the Logistics Cluster transported VHF-500 sets and testing kits by air to Aweil, Abyei, Kuajok, Wau, Bor, Malakal, Torit and Yambio on behalf of WHO and the Ministry of Health.
- Logistics Cluster operations in-country are continuing as usual without any major disruptions, although a downturn in service requests has been observed as partners focus on their COVID-19 responses.

Yemen

- COVID-19 mitigation measures at WFP/Logistics Cluster warehouses and facilities in Yemen are available [here](#).
- New UNHAS Yemen [COVID-19 SOPs](#) and [COVID-19 SOP Advisory Annex](#) have been published.
- Information about tentative UNHAS flights and bookings are published in real-time [here](#).
- The Logistics Cluster continues to engage with and attend the different coordination mechanisms dedicated to the COVID-19 response. Partners should share any key message they wish to be raised within those fora.
- A COVID-19 partner cargo mapping exercise was completed with the purpose of mapping COVID-19 related cargo, both already in stock in-country and expected in the pipeline.
- On top of the ongoing constraints affecting inland road transport between north and south, new preventative health measures have been put in place that foresee 14-day quarantine periods for trucks travelling this route. Partners are therefore encouraged to consider this while planning their upstream pipelines and ports of entry into Yemen according to the final destination of their cargo.
- The Logistics Cluster will continue to follow and consolidate partners' cargo in Dubai with Sana'a or Aden as final destination (priority will be given to Sana'a, as Aden is accessible via sea). When the amount of partners' lifesaving cargo justifies an aircraft to be organised from Dubai to Yemen, the Logistics Cluster will do its best to facilitate partners' free-to-user access to WFP-chartered aircraft.
- Partners in need of potential air cargo transport should submit a [Service Request Form](#) (SRF) to yemen.clustercargo@wfp.org as soon as possible.

- A guidance note that outlines how partners can access the sea cargo transport service from Port of Origin - through Jeddah - to Hudaydah Port, is being drafted and will be shared as soon as possible.
- Due to the volatile security situation in-country, the Security Management Team has requested that the two WFP-chartered vessels, the VOS Apollo and VOS Theia, remain on standby in Aden. Therefore, sea cargo transport capacity is currently reduced. Partners who have cargo in Djibouti destined for the north of Yemen are advised to use commercial shipping options from Djibouti to Jeddah, after which it can be transported by WFP (in accordance with the Jeddah – Hudaydah process outlined in the forthcoming guidance note).

3. Sector Operations

Bangladesh

- Since mid-March, the Logistics Sector in Bangladesh has worked closely with WHO to support partner planning and preparedness for the COVID-19 response.
- Logistics coordination forums, conducted in partnership with the Health Sector, have increased the frequency of their meetings to weekly during the scale-up and initial response phases. These fora aim to raise and resolve constraints, encourage partnerships and the sharing expertise and resources, and avoid duplication of effort.
- Following the introduction of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by the Government of Bangladesh, only critical humanitarian activities are now permitted within Cox's Bazar. The Logistics Sector and WFP, in partnership with the government's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC), have implemented a new system to facilitate humanitarian vehicle access to camp areas using digital technology, hence reducing the queue time at the checkpoints and enabling humanitarian vehicle movement.
- The Logistics Sector conducted an information session on hygiene measures such as hand washing and hand rubbing for staff at the Madhu Chara logistics hub.
- The Logistics Sector provided technical support in the set-up of tents for the International Rescue Committee at Camp 22 for COVID-19 response healthcare units.
- The Logistics Sector entered into a partnership with Humanity and Inclusion and Atlas Logistique through a WFP memorandum of understanding, to provide COVID-19 response specific secure common storage, and local transport of medical materials to isolation and treatment centres.

Contacts

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