

21 July 2020

Organizations in attendance

CARE, CHAI, DRC, FAO, Global Fund, IAEA, ICAO, ICRC, ICVA, IFAD, IFRC, IMC, IMO, IRC, MSF, OCHA, Rescue, SCHR, UNDOS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO, World Bank

Action points

- All to submit proposals/suggestions on how and when to organize a meeting to conduct the review of the Task Force.

Opening remarks and follow up on action points (Taskforce Co-Chair)

- Co-chairs opened with discussion on the way forward for the Task Force stressing the need for a communal approach and for all members to participate in steering the strategy.
- Co-chairs recognize the developments in the operational environment and therefore the need to adjust actions accordingly.
- Members also recognized the need to look at the functioning and role of the consortia going forward including preparedness elements.
- Discussions are ongoing to organize a meeting to assess the current situation, define lessons learned thus far and how to move forward.

Updates (WHO, WFP, Consortia Leads)

Epidemiology update

- WHO provided an update on the current state of the pandemic highlighting the current acceleration of cases with over 14.4 million and 600,000 deaths.
- The Americas (USA and Brazil) recorded more than half of the new cases followed by India.
- Increase in cases also continue to be registered in South-East Asia and Africa region (around 25% increase over the past week).

Data consolidation exercise

- WHO continues to work on data consolidation using 21 data sources and provided an update on the pipeline of essential COVID-19 items including information from UNICEF, IOM and The Global Fund.
- USD 100 million worth of supplies have been delivered to 161 countries, additional USD 62 million are in transit and USD 157 million are being prepared for shipment.
- Currently confirmed demand accounts for USD 291 million requiring action (generated both from the portal and bilaterally). Discussions are ongoing with partners to determine allocations.
- Plans are to reach the USD 200 million mark for delivery by the next Task Force meeting.
- To improve visualization and data sharing, WHO is also working on POWER BI dashboards to drill down information at category level and/or at country level; these will be available to all.

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Common Services

Passenger service

- WFP reported 700 flights operated to 50 destinations with an average of 2,000 passengers weekly.
- WFP has started direct flights from Rome to Accra and this week is initiating services to some destinations in Latin America and the Caribbean, with first flights serving Colombia and Mexico.
- WFP pointed out that some commercial flights are resuming services, hence services will be discontinued accordingly (e.g. Egypt, Kenya, Lebanon and South Sudan). Nevertheless, there's still uncertainty and some destinations will be extended due to low reliability in commercial services.

Cargo

- Thus far 21,000 m³ of cargo were dispatched through free-to-user services on 320 flights reaching 120 countries. WFP continues to push for increased movement of cargo with a focus of increase reach in PAHO, AFRO and EURO.
- With network optimization, WFP is now able to serve more destinations directly with dispatches outgoing from hub of origin to destination countries.
- WFP is increasingly using multimodal deliveries, for shipments going out from Europe and from China including overland delivery in Asia and Southern Africa.
- Thanks to the optimization of the network and a decrease in the commercial rates of 15-20%, as well as additional funding being pledged, WFP will be able to extend its services beyond the summer into August/September, except a resurge in rates and/or new logistics limitations.
- WFP mentioned the need and availability to discuss the current network design and the Concept of Operations (ConOps).

External visibility

- WFP has started to share external pipeline information in the last month as more visibility and accuracy (60 to 80 percent) is possible, especially for partners with closer collaboration.
- Requests for services handled over the past weeks leading to dispatch and delivery accuracy from to with higher accuracy observed
- WFP has also developed online tools to provide an overview on the partner's pipeline and for requests management. Two tools were demonstrated:
 - ESM dashboard: partners registered in ESM can directly access their own dashboard using provided credentials and check on the status of their requests and have at a glance figures on countries served and those that will be served.
 - Customized dashboard: these were developed for WHO and UNICEF, the main service users, enabling end to end visibility on services being implemented including pipeline information.

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Consortia

PPE

- Eight LTAs concluded following the PPE tender. Offers for gloves are now available for negotiation with the supplier.

Diagnostics

- Deliveries through the consortium have now reached 2.5 million tests to 40+ countries and another 1 million are ready for shipment. 1.7 million sample kits are being delivered and 1 million are in transit to 63 countries.
- UNICEF added that 2.1 million tests for 54 countries were procured by them.
- A calculator is online to help countries procure third party commodities and equipment necessary for tests.
- The supply chain catalogue has been updated to include some additional manual tests that are now available.
- Additionally, the emergency list has now expanded to include 15 different tests.
- The consortium is entering phase two of procurement - September to December – and as markets present less constraints and more volume are available; partners and countries are encouraged to put in their full demands and needs into the Supply Portal.

Clinical care

- The majority of supply markets are currently able to meet demand. However, patient monitors for ICU (current demand 2,890 units) are experiencing delays in distribution to WFP warehouses due to supplier constraints.
- Approximately USD 20 million in ventilators will be procured the week of 20 July (current demand 3,600 units).
- Extensive work is being done and progress made on data consolidation to ensure greater transparency and data dissemination. Still a lot of opportunity for improvement.
- The consortium has also been working on establishing specs and standards that guided them through the various manufacturers.

AOB

- The next Task Force meeting will be held in two weeks.