

27 October 2020

Organizations in attendance

CHAI, DRC, FAO, ICRC, IFRC, IMC, IMO, IRC, MSF, OCHA, UNDOS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO

Opening

- As the second wave of COVID-19 infection cases spike globally and stringent measures are put in place by governments in Europe, there is an anticipation of arising challenges on the movement of people and cargo.
- WFP informed participants that even though there is no change in the deadline for ticketing and cargo readiness, of 31 October and 30 November respectively, WFP stands ready to resume services would the need arise.
- The Co-chair noted that the Task Force meetings discussions have been shifting from an operational angle to more project review and therefore proposed to reassess the frequency of the meeting. Participants were encouraged to share their preferences via email.

Update on the independent review of the CSCS

- WHO provided a short update on the independent review of the CSCS; the survey is scheduled to be shared with around 200 people including partners, vendors and members of the Task Force over the week. Preparations are also underway to finalize the interview schedule and the list of interviewees.
- The Secretariat for the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, established by WHO Director-General in response to a World Health Assembly resolution, is closely following up on the independent review of the CSCS. The panel intends to use lessons learned and outputs from the review to inform its work on preparedness and response moving forward.
- At the request of two members, The Yellow House (TYH) will hold discussion within the JSC to understand what elements of the financial and human resources aspects of the response can be assessed and made part of the independent review.

Updates (WHO, UNICEF, WFP, Consortia Leads)

Supplies

- Over the last week WHO has seen a large increase of requests in the Supply Portal mainly driven by the phasing down of the free-to-user cargo services. The increase is also due to the upcoming year-end closure of books and spending of committed resources.
- WHO highlighted that it would continue and maintain its internal operation's capacity until the end of March 2021 to be able to respond to both internal and partners' needs.
- At the same time WHO has increased its engagement with the ACT- Accelerator in all three pillars; vaccine, therapeutics and diagnostic.

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WFP Common services

Passenger

- To date, over 24,000 passengers have been transported to 68 destinations, serving 386 partners. Figures have not changed much over the week indicating a slow decline as commercial services become available.
- Top five users thus far include WHO, MSF, UNICEF, ICRC and UNHCR. So far, WFP has discontinued services to 50 destinations and is serving only in 18 destinations. WFP will closely monitor the situation as it evolves.

Cargo

- 86,314 m³ of COVID-19 related cargo has been dispatched, 67,156 m³ of that was dispatched via free-to-user services to 159 countries on behalf of 42 partners.
- Increased booking requests have been recorded as the closeout date for the ESM ticketing platform deadlines nears.
- WFP also mentioned that even though there no change in the deadline for ticketing and cargo readiness of 31 October and 30 November respectively, a minimum capacity will be maintained to ensure that a quick scale up if there need arises.
- Over the coming week, with the ESM ticketing platform closing, WFP will have a clear indication of the operational and resource needs against its current funding. This consequently will allow it to plan for beyond November.

Consortia

Diagnostics

- The two antigen-based RDTs are available through the WHO Supply Portal and can be requested accordingly.
- WHO is observing a lower demand form the negotiated 120 million units. Currently, it is only processing 5 million units and is therefore working closely with member states to understand the reasons beyond the low demand, which could be a result of more tests coming online and a subsequent price reduction, and/or investments being directed to other aspects of the epidemiology.

Clinical Care

- Over the last two weeks, an additional USD 6.5 million requests have come in mainly from EMRO and EURO regions, this is indicative of the surge in cases in these regions.
- To date, three PSA plants are under development in Somalia, South Sudan and Chad, technical support is provided in Sierra Leone and one PSA plant has been completed in Ghana.

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- Challenges persist for different products in production, supply and distribution of biomed items. For ventilators it was noted that there is ample supply, but there is a need to assess quality assurance and technical specifications rigorously. For oxygen concentrators, instead, there are market impediments, as the assessed needs don't meet funded demand even with the increased production. The consortia continue to work with suppliers, NGOs and governments in order to solve these matters.

PPE

- The Joint UN tender for PPE items for COVID-19 pandemic response has ended. The tendering received around 586 to 600 offers of which only 55 were accepted through a rigorous vetting process.
- Thanks to the collaborative effort of 12 UN organizations and NGO, that started in March, 15 LTAs covering 34 product lines have been established.
- The PPE consortia will continue collaboration around monitoring the utilization of the LTA, tracking POs and LTA extensions and assessing supplier performance.
- UNICEF updated the Task Force members that are currently prepositioning PPEs in Copenhagen, Dubai, Panama and Shanghai transported by WFP through ocean shipment.

AOB

- UNICEF is organizing an industry consultation on Friday, 30 October to discuss and present the requirements needed for the COVID-19 vaccine distribution with freight forwarders, IATA, Logistics Cluster partners and the wider supply chain community. The results of the consultation will be shared with the COVAX facility.
- UNICEF is working closely with IATA to plan for the airlifting the vaccines, while also planning the shipment of syringes and safety boxes through ocean transport for prepositioning in countries.
- The next Task Force meeting will be held on 12 November.