

25 November 2020

Organizations in attendance

CARE, DRC, IMC, IOM, UNDOS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO, UNHCR

Opening

- The chair opened the meeting by updating the members of the Task Force on the current progress of the common service deliveries.
- Participants were reminded that the first deadline for the cargo services ended on 31 October, while the second deadline (cargo readiness) was to follow on the 30 November.
- The chair also highlighted that WFP had conducted an independent assessment on the passenger and cargo service provision over the past month. The results indicate a satisfaction rate for 93% for passenger services and 73% for cargo services. These results were shared with the CSCS independent assessment team to inform their assessment.

Updates (WHO, UNICEF, WFP, Consortia Leads)

Supplies

- WHO recognized and appreciated the collaborative efforts from the consortia members and the remarkable progress made since the start of the pandemic response.
- With a resurgence of cases in COVID-19 infection around the world, WHO highlighted that it had the confidence and better positioned in leveraging appropriate resources; as a result of months of good preparation and lessons learned.
- Currently, for Biomed items, procurement including items in the pipeline stands at USD 80 million. Most of the cost under the consortia is attributed to the oxygen concentrators.
- Additionally, the Biomed consortia noted that a collaborative effort with UNICEF is underway in the development of PSA plants across different regions.
- For Diagnostic items procurement stands at over 40 million products across all categories. This is valued at USD 290 million. The procurement process is shifting from manual to automated tests and is currently on RDT tests.
- So far, USD 80 million worth of PPE items has been procured covering most of the product lines.

Consortia

Diagnostics

- To date, the consortium has been able to procure around 50 million diagnostic tests across different product categories. A significant portion has already been delivered.

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- Recent efforts to bring new tests online has been successful. Currently, 2 million RDTs have been delivered and another 12 million are being processed.
- For automated tests, volume and geographical expansion constraints continue as the tests are made available only to the AFRO region.
- There has been an increased procurement for the two RDT antigen tests. Currently, 10 million units are scheduled for delivery by end of 2020.
- As vaccines come into perspective over the coming months and year, the consortia indicated that it would be evaluating the demand and supply of diagnostic tests. In the short-term testing will continue and the work of the consortium will be evaluated based on different factors for the longer-term strategy.

PPE

- All LTAs for PPEs have now been completed. The next steps in the process are to extend the agreements until 2021.
- UNICEF indicated that it has been consolidating PPE with some vaccine shipments, as they foresee an increased demand during the vaccination phase.

Clinical Care

- To date over 130 countries have been reached with equipment through the Biomed consortium thanks to a coordinated effort amongst partners.
- There has been a steady increase in the demand for Biomed items and the consortium is currently focusing on increasing the technical capacity of the member states in using Biomed items.
- It was noted that the current lead-time has decreased as manufacturing capacity increases.

WFP Common services

Cargo

- A milestone was reached by the common services cargo delivery, as WFP has now dispatched over 100,000 m³ of cargo, of which 86,500 m³ were under the free-to-user services. Deliveries were on behalf of 66 organizations, to 171 countries.
- Volumes transported through ocean freight saw a significant increase for November and October, driven by UNICEF prepositioning efforts.
- WFP noted that given current pipeline volume of 15,000 m³ and in view of the seasonality increase in freight rates (air and ocean) and decrease in available assets; it is likely that deliveries will spillover into early 2021.

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- As the cargo readiness deadline is approaching, WFP reminded organizations to provide cargo readiness dates by 30 November.
- WFP will be maintaining a skeleton structure in strategic hubs moving into 2021. This will allow rebuilding response capacity when/if needed by partners.

Passenger services

- To date, the passenger services have served almost 400 partners and transported over 25,500 passengers.
- In November, the passenger service only operated in 11 destinations in South East Asia, Latin America and Caribbean's, and Africa; where there is no reliable and safe commercial connection.
- The frequency of flights has also been reduced to bi-monthly schedules, but services are expected to continue into early 2021 based on needs.

Update on the independent review of the CSCS

- The chair of the Joint Strategic Committee (JSC) gave an update on the ongoing independent assessment being conducted by the yellow house.
- The chair mentioned that the JSC has been working closely with the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR) to align the assessment outputs as inputs to the IPPPR.
- The desk review of the assessment is currently ongoing and is expected to be finalized by the end of the month.
- The survey was issued to 397 individuals across all stakeholder groups; UN, NGOs, governments, vendors and others and over 170 responses have been received.
- A total of 47 individual interviews were scheduled and are currently ongoing. The aim is to obtain a minimum of 30 interviews.
- Furthermore, the assessment will be looking into the review of different data platforms used for the response.
- The draft analysis will be circulated with the JSC members for review by the end of next week; comments from the review will be discussed in the next Task Force meeting.
- The final report is aimed for 18 December.

AOB

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on 15 December.