

23 June 2020

Organizations in attendance

CHAI, DRC, FAO, Global Fund, ICAO, IAEA, ICRC, ICVA, IFAD, IMC, IMO, IRC, MSF, OCHA, SCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN DOS, WFP, WHO, World Bank

Action points

- UNICEF, WHO and WFP to provide an update on diagnostics transport costs.
- All to share comments on coordination/information sharing mechanisms by Friday for the Task Force Chairs to come up with a proposal.
- All to share information on demand, procurement and delivery with WHO through the shared templates, by Tuesday 30 June.
- WHO, DOS and UNICEF to discuss bilaterally on data integration and visualization.

Opening remarks and follow up on action points from the last meeting (Taskforce Co-Chair)

- Alex Marianelli introduced himself in his role of alternate Co-Chair of the Task Force and then run with members through the action points from the last meeting.

Action points from last meeting

- UNICEF, WHO and WFP to provide an update on diagnostics transport costs.
 - The issue is being discussed between UNICEF and WFP. There needs to be a common agreement of what the overall funding requirement is. Solidarity Fund could be considered to fill the funding gap. More information for the next Task Force meeting
 - Participants pointed out that the main issue with Diagnostics beyond pricing and transport cost is access, especially for the automated technologies. Discussions are taking place between the consortium and suppliers to access increased volumes as demand is higher than supply.
 - Participants also pointed out the need to plan and therefore the need to better understand prioritization of allocation/distribution of diagnostics
 - Consortium lead will share initial guiding principles that were set out for allocation. She pointed out that they have been focusing on national governments encouraging partners to have a conversation with respective host governments on distribution.
 - Participants also enquired on the availability of different kind of tests including antigen tests and rapid detection tests. Consortium is looking at availability and understand the need for further decentralization.
- All to provide feedback on the proposal for the creation of operational working groups.
 - The proposal comes from the idea of shielding the Task Force from granular operational discussions ensuring the forum remains strategic.

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- So far only comments received from DOS and IOM. While members voiced the desire for better communication there is hesitance in creating new layers and committees and that it is probably the time to look at the different mechanisms and decide which needs to be strengthened and how and which may be discontinued.
- Participants stressed that more information needs to go out into dashboards and other means and that there is a need for a client service desk. DOS offered their support on the latter.
- Lack of information seems to be predominantly on the supply side, but participants stressed that it would be useful to have all the information, end to end, in one place.
- Additional comments to be submitted by Friday and on the basis of that, Task Force Chair will bring forward a substantial proposal on the way forward.
- WHO circulated to the Task Force template for the members to fill in to consolidate data on what agencies are receiving as demand, are buying and what they are shipping. Currently only data available are from WHO, UNICEF and the Global Fund through the diagnostics and biomed consortia. WHO also stressed that 95% of the demand captured in the portal is from WHO and UNICEF, hence members are encouraged to share more information.

Updates

- WHO provided the epidemiology update highlighting the acceleration of the pandemic especially in South and Central America and Africa.

Demand planning and allocation

- WHO provided an overview on the current pipeline (WHO, UNICEF and Global Fund as of 17 June), including data on what has been secured, procured, demand received, and what is in the process of being shipped and what has been delivered.
- WHO also provided details on quantities per categories, with PPE being the largest volume and Biomed being the smallest, and on items.
- WHO stressed that going forward we need to become more demand driven and that we need to be able to look at those countries that have not formalised a demand to see whether this is because there is no need, other entities are buying for them, or there is no funding available for them to buy. This is important vis-à-vis the issue of equity of access.
- UNDOS also working on dashboards to contribute to visibility, some were shared already with members and has worked bilaterally on that with UNICEF and offered support in data visualization and already identified a focal point. WHO will reach out to discuss more detail.
- It was highlighted that while consortia are gathering data on supply and deliveries, while there is a need for demand aggregation.

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- WHO explained that while they want to keep the Portal country driven, they recognise that there are agencies without country footprint, there is the possibility to share demand outside of the portal as a request form

Consortia

PPE

- Review of submission window 1 complete, window 2 pending validation of one product conditionally awarded. Under these two windows 126 offers were received for 330 individual items. Awards have been made and LTAs established.
- Processing window 3 of the tender; received 175 offers. Discussed how to streamline the process within the Procurement Reference Group (PRG) to prioritize review of products. Offers by manufacturers will be prioritized along with offers for products for which LTAs have not been established yet, with the aim to have two LTAs in place for each product.
- UNICEF urged agency to provide demand forecasts until the end of the year to make informed decision on how many offers to pursue and for additional technical support to review the offers.
- In the meantime, as markets are improving in terms of prices and availability, UNICEF may be able to meet immediate demands through existing bilateral agreements.

Diagnostics

- WHO shared the overview on the purchases made through the consortium by WHO, UNICEF and Global Fund and the progress made in securing quantities by supplier. The consortium moved forward with deliveries to approximately 130 eligible countries.
- Demand is high and access issues remain and as the consortium is looking at securing volumes for the next period which will start from September, the outlook on the market and on equitable access is not positive, hence there is a need for the consortium to continue to function as such and secure those volumes.
- Evaluation on new products, such as antigen tests and antibody tests, is ongoing and the consortium is keeping an eye on how this is progressing and see how they can support in bringing them into the market.
- The consortium has developed FAQ that will be published on the website and calculators to support countries and labs.

Biomed

- The consortium provided an overview on the concentrators, ventilators and monitors validated and allocated. Agencies are working together to meet country demands, but there is need for better visibility.

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- There is discrepancy in requests. Any duplicate demands need to be invalidated and that requires time.
- The consortium received a pipeline for USD 1.4 billion and validated USD 260 million. There are no market bottleneck at this point, but there is need to understand country capacity and absorption capacity and therefore need to reach out to partners outside the consortium to gather that sort of data.

Common services

- On passengers, WFP reported 293 flights 3600 passengers moved to 40 destinations. 52% of the users are NGOs, 42% are UN and the rest are governments and diplomats. Booking have been doubling with now 1500 booking a week. Services are also expanding, especially in Latin America.
- The rebound of the commercial sector is not as quick as expected, there are some improvements, but very ad hoc, hence WFP expects to continue the services at least until the end of the summer.
- On cargo, WFP is seeing a stabilization on the transport side and a decrease in rates for certain lanes especially in China and deliveries are picking up; the weekend of 18 of June, 4000 m³ were moved out of China alone and at the moment 90% of cargo comes from China.
- Main service users are WHO and UNICEF, but 37 organizations have already used the service, 60% being NGOs.
- WFP has gone out with a message to seek for funding for common services; according to the current pipeline funding can cover only until the third/fourth week of July.

AOB

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