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Months of heavy, unrelenting rain yielded historic flooding for Peru during the spring of 2017.
Credit: WFP Peru
Logistics Emergency Teams Welcome DP World During 2017 World Economic Forum

The Logistics Emergency Teams (LET) welcomed DP World as its newest member in January at the World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

DP World, based in Dubai, is a leader in global trade, operating 78 marine and inland terminals in 40 countries across six continents. As part of the LET, it will provide logistics services and assist in the shipment and storage of humanitarian supplies. Select employees in targeted disaster-prone countries will also train alongside the Logistics Cluster to help them coordinate response efforts when disaster strikes. DP World will build on its existing disaster response framework, to contribute to the LET’s mission of integrating private-sector resources and logistics expertise into humanitarian relief efforts. DP World has contributed to previous disaster response efforts through fundraising and gifts, including the 2013 typhoon in the Philippines and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

The LET is now comprised of four of the world’s largest global logistics and transportation companies: Agility, UPS, Maersk, and DP World, with logistics arm Damco. Together, these four companies join forces to provide pro bono support for the humanitarian sector, assisting in preparedness and emergency response to large-scale natural disasters.

The partnership between the Logistics Emergency Teams and the Global Logistics Cluster integrates public and private sector skills and knowledge for maximum impact. The collaboration has previously provided disaster relief for 20-plus emergencies, including support for Hurricane Matthew in 2016, the Nepal Earthquakes in 2015, Typhoon Haiyan, and the Japan earthquake in 2016.
Meet the 2017 LET Graduates

From May 16-18, 33 logistics managers from the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) member companies – Agility, UPS, DP World, Damco, and Maersk – travelled to Dubai from 17 countries to attend the 2017 LET Training. Attendees learned how, as part of the LET, they could support the humanitarian community by providing technical expertise, human resources and in-kind services during emergency responses in their own countries. These 33 newly trained managers – in addition to the 130 previous graduates – will help merge the private sector’s finely tuned and long-standing logistics expertise with humanitarian needs in the developing world.

The training was facilitated by members of the Global Logistics Cluster and representatives of the member companies. Participants were introduced to the mandate and scope of the LET and the Logistics Cluster and were familiarized with the supporting coordination mechanisms. An intensive disaster response scenario simulation gave participants a hands-on understanding of how a humanitarian emergency relief might play out, and what their roles and responsibilities might be.

This training helps ensure that these logistics managers will be able to deliver vital humanitarian assistance during an emergency with efficiency and flexibility in combination with their local logistics knowledge.

Watch the LET in action in Partnering for Disaster Relief

Together, the member organizations of LET map out the gaps and bottlenecks they’ll face together during an emergency response, and determine the best way to overcome them. The result is efficient, effective efforts to relieve global crises. Learn more about the collaboration and partnership that make these emergency responses possible in the LET’s new video, featured on the LET webpage (hosted by Logistics Cluster): www.logcluster.org/logistics-emergency-teams
LET responds to historic flooding in Peru

Responding to the disaster, the LET collectively coordinated with Peru’s Ministry of Production and Ministry of Defense to transport 600 metric tons of donated capacity, including food, water, and emergency medical supplies.

DP World provided coordination and leadership, working with the government and carriers to make donated ocean freight and port services available. DP World also donated plastic wrapping to prepare the donated materials for shipment and provided storage space used prior to shipping.

DP World and UPS donated 315 pallets to ensure that aid material could be transported as quickly as possible to the affected areas and secured pro-bono shipping services. UPS also provided daily trucks for transportation support to the Ministry of Production.

Agility moved more than 500 tons of humanitarian aid material to/from the MOP consolidation warehouse, material collection points, and military air fields. Additionally, it transported pallets to the Ministry of Production consolidation warehouse in Lima.

The LET played a key role in providing immediate assistance to Peruvians facing the aftermath of the flood. While recovery in the most affected provinces is ongoing, immediate and effective response by the LET helped to equip families in need with essential food, medicine, and hygiene materials, and to jumpstart the nation’s long-term recovery process.

Areas of Peru most affected by severe flooding in 2017.
Source: United Nations

Months of heavy, unrelenting rain yielded historic flooding for Peru during the spring of 2017. Severe landslides and flooding pushed the Government of Peru to declare a state of emergency in 12 regions, and request assistance from the World Food Programme, which in turn activated the Logistics Emergency Teams (LET) to assist local authorities in distributing food, water treatment kits, and other humanitarian resources.

The response effort needed to be quick and effective: more than 1.14 million people were directly affected by this natural disaster, including more than 180,000 that lost their livelihoods and were left without access to food and water. Floods resulted in rampant food insecurity and severely impacted infrastructure, with many roadways blocked and more than 100 bridges collapsed.
Logistics Cluster Improves Preparedness in Haiti

A Caribbean nation placed precariously on fault lines, Haiti is particularly susceptible to natural disasters. This vulnerability was reiterated in the fall of 2016 when Hurricane Matthew struck the country’s southwestern peninsula. The storm’s impact was devastating: more than 500 people were killed, and 1.4 million people lost their homes or were left without access to food and potable water. Communication and infrastructure networks were destroyed, rendering many areas in need of humanitarian aid temporarily unreachable.

In March 2017, the Global Logistics Cluster deployed Logistics Officer Kim Claveau to Port Au Prince to roll out a preparedness project in Haiti. Kim, assisted by Dale Herzog (The UPS Foundation), has been working with the World Food Programme (WFP) Country Office to develop a multi-sector approach to preparedness, building relationships with private companies, non-profits, governmental agencies, and the development sector to help implement emergency preparedness measures, which will increase resilience and reduce the impact of future natural disasters in Haiti.

Kim and Dale worked with both the Haitian and American Chambers of Commerce, AGERCA, and a privately held Haitian hospital to expand and strengthen the humanitarian and private sector networks. They also coordinated with UNOPS to map out problems and potential improvements for the country’s infrastructure resilience. With the Haiti Department of Civil Protection and the Ministry of the Interior, as well as 20 non-governmental organizations working in Haiti, they are developing the Haiti dataset that will feed into the Logistics Cluster preparedness platform for Haiti, and establishing a network of partners that will work together toward efficient and effective response the next time disaster strikes.

As the project progresses in Haiti, the Logistics Cluster is working to replicate this model in other countries with similar vulnerabilities. In May 2017, the Logistics Cluster and the LET began exploring the possibility of initiating an emergency preparedness program in Madagascar. Approximately one quarter of Madagascar’s population – or five million people – lives in zones vulnerable to tropical storms, floods, and droughts. Shifting focus from disaster relief to disaster preparedness could help Madagascar address emergencies with increased efficiency and effectiveness and lessen the impacts of natural disasters.
Maersk: Update on Preparedness Mapping Project

Fast and effective disaster relief efforts require organized and premeditated logistical responses. Since October 2016, Maersk has been mapping and testing ocean shipping routes to six of the world’s most susceptible countries to natural disasters: Bangladesh, Haiti, Indonesia, Madagascar, Myanmar, and Nigeria. Optimizing these routes will allow Maersk to take action when disaster strikes, feeding into the Logistics Cluster preparedness projects being implemented in these in these six pilot countries.

In the past year, Maersk successfully mapped out multiple shipping routes for all six countries, determining that Bangladesh, Haiti, Indonesia, and Myanmar were accessible within a one-week time frame, and that ocean shipments could reach Madagascar and Nigeria within two weeks.

In addition to shipping routes, preferred sourcing ports were identified to allow faster activation once disaster strikes – identified ports will be able to act faster and make informed decisions when they are asked to source and route relief items to countries in need of humanitarian assistance.

The next step in the mapping project is to map out potential obstacles and their solutions. Maersk teams are working to determine what kinds of problems each of the six pilot countries might encounter with shipments, potential solutions, and the financial and logistical consequences. With shipping routes and problem-solving methods determined in advance, Maersk will be prepared for potential LET activation in some of the world’s countries most vulnerable to disaster.