LOGISTICS CLUSTER WORKSHOP

1-3 AUGUST 2018 | Antananarivo, Madagascar

www.logcluster.org/preparedness/madagascar
Introduction

The Madagascar National logistics workshop took place 1-3 August 2018 in Antananarivo, and was convened by the Global Logistics Cluster, together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and Madagascar’s National Disaster Management Office, the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (BNGRC).

The workshop’s focus was to address supply chain challenges specific to the Madagascar context, and support the augmentation of national humanitarian logistics coordination capacities. The three-day event brought together a range of different actors including the humanitarian community, government, private sector, and regional participants from Mozambique, the Comoros and Réunion. Together, participants worked on the development of a national logistics action plan which will guide Madagascar’s logistics preparedness activities, led by BNGRC and WFP.

The workshop built upon ongoing efforts undertaken by the BNGRC, WFP and the Logistics Cluster to strengthen national logistics capacities. While Madagascar has already successfully established strong emergency response capacities through the BNGRC and relevant ministries, a more solid cooperation between the different actors is needed in order to assure a more efficient emergency response.

Context

Madagascar was selected by the Global Logistics Cluster as one of the Preparedness Project’s six priority countries, which aims to support national capacity building and encourage coordination and collaboration amongst the humanitarian community. The initiative is centred upon supply chain mapping, identifying gaps, data analysis and risk mitigation, and forming a common approach to logistics preparedness.

Since May 2018, the Logistics Cluster has worked closely with the BNGRC in Madagascar to strengthen information management capabilities through operationalising the Logistics Cluster Preparedness Platform and establishing a coordinated approach towards logistics preparedness activities.

Objectives

The workshop’s primary objective was to identify Madagascar’s potential and existing operational gaps and bottlenecks that could hinder humanitarian response. This was largely achieved through the implementation of a simulation exercise. Throughout the exercise, facilitators worked closely with participants who play a key role during emergency response (such as airport authorities, port authorities and the private sector) focussing on how responders could improve response coordination mechanisms to overcome and mitigate the identified risks.

Participants also discussed the measures that need to be put in place prior to an emergency (e.g. MoUs, specific needs, etc.) to increase available logistics capacity.

www.logcluster.org/preparedness/madagascar
The following objectives were achieved:

- Participants gained familiarity with available capacities and constraints.
- Preparedness gaps and corresponding mitigation measures were identified.
- Short and long-term preparedness actions and roles as well as responsibilities of different actors were agreed upon.
- Implementation steps for the action plan have been identified.
- Regional contacts and logistics cooperation are strengthened and discussed.

**Participants**

58 participants

Participants were representative of Madagascar’s key humanitarian actors including government ministries, port and airport authorities, customs, Civil Protection Corps, Red Cross, national and international NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector. To ensure and support a regional approach to logistics preparedness amongst Indian Ocean nations, participants from Mozambique, the Comoros and Réunion were also invited to take part in the exercise.
Workshop structure

From the outset, facilitators ensured the workshop’s subjects and objectives were delivered through a common lens via presentations from both the BNGRC and Logistics Cluster. Subsequently, PIROI or the Indian Ocean Regional Intervention Platform (French Red Cross) presented the Logistics Manuel to ensure there was common understanding on the logistics language and technical terms utilised throughout the workshop. Presentations focused on logistics preparedness, prepositioning of emergency stocks and the humanitarian supply chain.

To highlight the essential link between logistics and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) activities during emergency operations, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) also presented its activities in the context of emergency preparedness in Madagascar.

Following the presentations, the simulation exercise began, allowing participants to assess supply chain impacts during a cyclone-based scenario, which struck the north-east of the country. Participants worked together to identify potential bottlenecks and gaps that may hinder an effective emergency response. Subsequently, participants discussed, defined and decided upon actions and action-items that needed to be implemented to overcome the identified bottlenecks, and to ensure an effective humanitarian operation in Madagascar’s complex and multidimensional context.
Results

In general, the workshop provided participants with an open and interactive forum to strengthen dialogue on emergency preparedness in Madagascar, and the region as a whole. The event invited all participants to identify potential gaps and understand the value of locally-driven logistics initiatives.

The workshop’s primary outcome was the development of a national action plan, outlining the essential supply chain functions (points of entry, transit, and distribution), the logistics bottlenecks that could currently hamper response efforts, and the solutions and measures that need to be undertaken moving forward.
Survey

The information presented during the workshop will facilitate planning for strengthened logistics supply chain measures, in the event of a disaster.

Given the various topics covered, the workshop was a rewarding experience.

The workshop allowed me to broaden my network of professional contacts.

- “The workshop was very important for Madagascar, which is still suffering from the impacts of natural disasters”
- “Very useful workshop to reinforce and build capacity in emergency management and logistics.”
- “The workshop was interesting and crucial for all actors involved.”
- “Rich exchange between participants.”

40 respondents

- 35% STRONGLY AGREE
- 23% AGREE
- 15% NO OPINION
- 10% DISAGREE
- 7% STRONGLY DISAGREE

Government 35%
Private Sector 23%
NGO 15%
INGO 10%
UN Agency 10%
Other 7%