Introduction

The Global Logistics Cluster strategy agreed among humanitarian partners early 2016 put a great emphasis on working with stakeholders in high risk countries and regions to strengthen local capacities. The first goal of the strategy is to strengthen logistics preparedness of national actors, starting with 6 pilot countries. Haiti was chosen as one of the priority countries in April. It was chosen as it is a disaster-prone country with a low-level of National supply chain response capacity. Hurricane Matthew hitting in October has highlighted the vulnerability of Haiti yet again. Although the response to the devastation is still ongoing, this is also the time to plan for future response building on the ongoing work with the Government and humanitarian partners. We are now in a much better position to understand exactly what type of supply chain preparedness for response and operational readiness the Logistics Cluster can do in Haiti as well as other project countries to have maximum impact and steadily increase National level supply chain resiliency and response capacity.

What the GLC aims to put in place

- **Preparedness Coordination** – initiating, enabling and maintaining Logistics Sector Working Groups at the field level, representative of Humanitarian partners, Development partners, Government partners and Private Sector partners;
- Conduct a pre-emergency joint-Preparedness exercise with focus on actions to be taken one week prior to an emergency and up to one week after an emergency, using the Logistics Cluster Minimum and Advanced Preparedness Actions guidance;
- Based on the Preparedness exercise and prevailing scenarios, conduct, compile and monitor a joint Preparedness Plan and Response Plan – utilising 3 intensity & impact thresholds, e.g. 100,000 - 500,000 people affected in 3 key areas / 500,000 – 1m affected in 5 key areas etc.;
- Where appropriate and possible, conduct a Government capacities and capabilities analysis to find where capacity building could be conducted and build these networks;
- Conduct multi-partner including Government (Directorate for Civil Protection) trainings and Response Plan simulation exercises in order to enhance coordination, collaboration and operational capacity for emergency response. The aim is to improve local and national capacities to manage supply-chain aspects of emergency operations and; to forge relationships and test & familiarise stakeholders with each other’s interconnected processes;
- **Information Readiness and Data Preparedness**: develop the GLC Preparedness Platform to identify organisations and capacities best placed to respond to gaps with local stakeholders/build scenarios and response plans/rapid analysis for decision making;
- Develop and launch the GLC Preparedness Webpage to support and disseminate Preparedness related information and encourage partnerships;
- **Monitor, evaluate and learn** from this approach to GLC Preparedness for future core-service application.
Future Expected Outcomes

The GLC community strongly believe that if activities mentioned were already in place in Haiti, prior to the advent of Hurricane Matthew, the subsequent response would have been more effective (quicker) and efficient (cheaper) due to the following:

- **Preparedness Coordination**: An existing field-level coordination forum active, with partners jointly mitigating scenario based gaps and risks, prior to disaster onset;
- **Preparedness Information Management**: Widely known information on immediately available logistics capacities, skills and relationships fostered within Log Cluster partners at the field-level. Such information helps define where field-level response capacity becomes exhausted and where the response system should pivot towards regional and international capacities.
- **Pre-defined Response Arrangements**: Widely known and simulated response scenarios facilitate individual partner, Cluster/Sector and Inter-Cluster/Sector supply chain planning and arrangements – this lowers both operational costs and time to respond as supply chain decisions and logistics arrangements are pre-empted;
- **Improved Response System Efficacy & Transparency**: Ground level realities being rapidly known by global level decision makers and major supply chain risk mitigation prioritisation of an ongoing nature.

Way forward

The above outcomes are, funding permitted, to be led by having dedicated Logistics Preparedness Officer based in Haiti. The same will apply for the other five preparedness countries. In addition tools from the Global Logistics Cluster will be developed and Information Management (IM) support needed in order to be able to use lessons learned from one country to the next; support the country led initiatives with guidance and avoid each country having to build their own information platform.

The WFP Special Operation for Logistics in Haiti has budgeted for a logistics preparedness and capacity development position for an initial 2 months. Funds are still outstanding for the development of GLC tools and IM to support activities. In addition we aim to start activities in three of the other 6 pilot countries as soon as possible and would need a dedicated staff in each country to drive the process.

We are confident of outcomes, outputs and response system improvements as briefly outlined above, however funding for core staff and activities and Preparedness Platform & Webpage (dynamic capacity mapping, supply chain scenario & response plan building tool, shared by partners and visible to the community) are constraining project progress and slowing the speed required to improve immediate response capacities at local levels. The projects building blocks/soft-structure are shown on the next page.