

PROBLEM STATEMENT

As a preparedness measure, many governments, UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, INGOs, private sector corporations and regional organizations pre-position emergency supplies at the national, regional and global levels in preparation for humanitarian responses. While members of the humanitarian community coordinate emergency response activities after a disaster strikes, they often do not communicate or work together to develop pre-positioning strategies in the preparedness phase.

A lack of coordination on emergency supply pre-positioning can lead to potential gaps and overlaps in emergency preparedness. For instance, if too little of a needed item is stockpiled by humanitarian actors in a country or region, affected populations could needlessly suffer. On the other hand, a surplus of an emergency item can create waste and spoilage, resulting in a sub-optimal use of donor funds.

To appropriately support affected populations and use donor funds wisely, it is recommended for the humanitarian community to coordinate emergency supply pre-positioning strategies as part of its emergency preparedness measures.

OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

To facilitate emergency preparedness, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience has created the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) framework, which aims to “optimize the speed and volume of critical assistance delivered immediately after the onset of a humanitarian emergency.”ⁱ The ERP should be utilized by Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs), including UN agencies, International Organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs, to guide emergency preparedness.

Two components of the ERP framework are the Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs), which are “a set of core preparedness activities that need to be undertaken to achieve positive outcomes in the initial emergency response phase”ⁱⁱ and the Advanced Preparedness Actions (APAs), which “are risk-specific” and “build on the MPAs already in place.”ⁱⁱⁱ Identifying and developing Supply Chain strategies is part of the Operational Capacity and Arrangements to Deliver Relief and Protection MPAs/APAs. Per the framework, the HCT should “compile a comprehensive stock list of

sector/partners stocks of priority relief items” (including locations) in-country and identify “international strategic stockpiles.”^{iv} If internationally pre-positioned stocks are being brought from outside the country, the HCTs should also identify the timeline for arrival of stocks and customs and importation procedures should be understood and in place.

The development of a global emergency supply pre-positioning strategy for the humanitarian community may lead to:

- The reduction or elimination of gaps and overlaps in emergency preparedness;
- A more adequate emergency response utilizing appropriate types and quantities of emergency supplies;
- A better use of donor funds;
- A more timely and appropriate response to affected populations; and
- A better use of the [Global Mapping of Emergency Stockpiles system](#) to support global emergency supply pre-positioning strategies.

NEXT STEPS:

- Initial meeting on 03 February 2016 at the [Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week 2016](#) in Geneva
- Identify interested humanitarian organizations and Member States to participate in an [Emergency Supply Pre-positioning Strategies \(ESUPS\) Working Group](#)
- Development of TOR for the new ESUPS Working Group (see draft attached)

ⁱ Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) July 2015 Draft for Field Testing, <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-transformative-agenda/documents-public/emergency-response-preparedness-erp-draft-field-testing>, 5.

The ERP framework is composed of three parts—Risk Analysis and Monitoring; Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs); and Advanced Preparedness Actions (APAs) and Contingency Planning. APAs include directives for Risk Monitoring; Coordination and Management Arrangements; Assessment/Information Management/Response Monitoring; and Operational Capacity and Arrangements to Deliver Relief and Protection.

ⁱⁱ Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP), 23.

ⁱⁱⁱ Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP), 29.

^{iv} Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP), 48.