OVERVIEW

In response to the 2011-2012 Joint Evaluation of the Global Logistics Cluster, the Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell (GLCSC) adopted a project to improve the Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCA) over the course of 2013. The evaluation had concluded that, “Preparedness [information] products – customs and logistics capacity assessments – were appreciated, but viewed as being incomplete and not updated.” To address these concerns from partners a working group was formed at the Logistics Cluster’s Global Meeting in January 2013 and includes participants from ECHO, Solidarités, ACF, CARE, World Vision, WFP, and the GLCSC. While the group was tasked with reviewing content and suggesting revisions, the GLCSC also undertook an evaluation of the processes and tools that support LCA publication.

OBJECTIVES

- Address concerns related to completeness of information and ensure that the LCA is re-focused on logistics information of relevance to Logistics Cluster partners external to WFP.
- Improve the timeliness of updating and publishing LCA information via a web-accessible database.

SCOPE OF THE LCA PROJECT

The LCA review currently underway takes into account, and will address issues from the following areas: LCA content; LCA publishing/approval processes; and, the functioning of the Digital LCA (D-LCA) tool. After a preliminary review of the LCA content, the existing D-LCA tool, and consultations with the global partners, regional logistics officers, and previous LCA evaluators, the following specific needs were identified:

- Creation of a new LCA template; to ensure the content is focused on relevant logistics information.
- Improvements to the D-LCA tool to: simplify the entry of new data; allow for updates to individual sections; provide greater transparency in the review/approval of new information; and increase usability.
- Review and update the LCA process within WFP by clarifying roles/responsibilities, and re-evaluating the priority list for specific countries by region.

NEW D-LCA SOFTWARE FEATURES

A new web application for hosting the LCA information has been identified and agreed to. This new platform, "Confluence", will be hosted, administered, and maintained together with the Logistics Cluster website. Moving to Confluence offers a number of improvements to the current system:

- Regional Logistics Officers (RLOs) can directly compare changes in the data entered before approving the publication.
- Once RLOs approve an LCA, it will become immediately available.
- Information can be managed based on the user’s authority.
- File attachments to the LCA can be easily included.
- The “Confluence” software is already available with a current WFP licence.
- Date stamping of individual report sections is possible, allowing for multiple assessors to report on and update specific information.
- LCAs can now be updated using tablets and mobile devices.

For further information please refer to the Logistics Cluster Web page:
http://www.logcluster.org/projects
STATUS

LCA Template/Working Group – the new LCA template has been agreed upon with the members of the working group. This new template also provides the basis for the movement of the data from the old D-LCA platform to the new, wiki-based system currently being implemented (see details below). A separate licence has been granted to the World Food Programme for the use of the Confluence platform to support the hosting and global access of the LCAs.

- Comments / updates on template collected and consolidated - Completed
- Final template and guidelines sent out to RLOs for review and comments - Completed
- New format and guidelines released globally - Completed

D-LCA Tool – Work began within the GLCSC at the end of July to begin the task of transferring the current LCA information onto the new system. In addition to the movement of current LCA data into the new platform, the Logistics Cluster has started working with the GIS team to incorporate dynamic maps that will directly reference up to date information from the WFP GIS database; users will have the option to select and view different transport layers including: airports, roads, waterways.

- Establishment of a Confluence license with required plugins on logcluster.org server - Completed
- Start of data transfer from existing LCAs and CIG to the new system/format - Begun August 2013
- RLO Training / Guidelines on release process - September 13 (at next RLO meeting)
- New LCA system online for public access - NLT 31 October 2013

LCA Process - In addition to the modifications to the template, the Regional Logistics Officers (RLO) have undertaken an exercise to identify the LCA priority level of the countries in their region. The result of this exercise has been the creation of an updated monitoring report which provides a more accurate view of the status of the LCAs and identified the priority countries requiring attention:

- Critical – the country is crucial to either current emergency humanitarian operations or possible future operations. Resources should be immediately identified to conduct the LCA or update it as required.
- Required – this country should have an LCA as it supports humanitarian operations. When resources are available, it should be updated.
- Not Required – no LCA is necessary for this country

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