

Background

In March 2017, the Logistics Cluster (LC) deployed its first field-based supply chain Preparedness team in Haiti.

Preparedness is a key pillar of the Logistics Cluster's 2016 – 2018 Strategy. Working from the basic assumption that preparedness saves lives, money and time in emergency response, the strategy agreed upon by the Logistics Cluster global community seeks to strengthen national capacity in emergency response and preparedness for that response.

Goal – *Strengthen the immediate response capacity of national actors in disaster-prone countries and identify the best capacities for response*

Objective 1 – *Strengthen logistics capacities on national and cross-border levels*

Objective 2 – *Encourage active collaboration and ownership of tasks by the Logistics Cluster community involving various actors such as civil protection, public and private sectors and other clusters*

Alongside *national capacity strengthening* and *preparedness*, engaging with and expanding upon *partner networks* is a further key strategic objective of the LC's 2016-2018 Strategy. A key concept for the LC's Preparedness work is thus bringing together actors from all sectors, including humanitarian, development and private sector in support of national government-led preparedness and responses. This is to ensure that a holistic approach is taken to all preparedness activities, and to ensure that as much existing capacity and resources can be leveraged as possible.

As such, the LC Preparedness project in Haiti is being led by a LC Preparedness Officer and was supported by a staff secondment from the UPS Foundation, as part of the Logistics Emergency Teams (LET) from the private sector. The project was also initially supported by a parallel mission from UNOPS, representing the development sector, which focused on critical infrastructure preparedness and mapping.

The project in Haiti has so far focused on engaging with and expanding partner networks, and getting buy-in for the Preparedness Platform while testing and developing the system's interface. The Platform is designed to provide dynamic mapping and visualisation of key supply-related data, to support logistics gaps and risks analysis and response planning.

Workshop Objective

The workshop was held on 23 May at the Karibe Hotel in Port au Prince, organised jointly by the Logistics Cluster team and L'Alliance pour la Gestion des Risques et la Continuité des Activités (AGERCA). AGERCA are also working with the [Connecting Business Initiative](#) (CBI), a private sector-driven and UNDP/UNOCHA-supported initiative seeking to transform the way in which the private sector engages with humanitarian actors before, during and after emergencies.

The primary objective of the workshop was to build connections and collaboration between humanitarian actors and private sector actors in Haiti during emergencies and in emergency preparedness activities. It aimed to give a forum for respective procedures and priorities to be discussed and for areas for increased collaboration and coordination to be explored.

The work of the UPS Foundation seconded staff was key in setting up the workshop and ensuring its success. During their support mission in Haiti from March until May 2017, they developed numerous vital relationships with private sector actors such as the Chambers of Commerce.

PRIVATE SECTOR WORKSHOP

23 May 2017

Participants

Participants from the private sector included the Executive Director of AGERCA (Alliance pour la Gestion des Risques et la Continuité des Activités), the Executive Director of the Association of Haitian Industries (ADIH), the Executive Director of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, the Chief Executive Officer of the shipping firm Enmarcolda, the emergency response company Hero, and the food and oil manufacturing company Huilerie Haitienne. Additionally, Boucard Pest Control & Sanitation S.A, Digicel, DINASA S.A., Dlo Haiti, the Haitian Economic Forum, Industries Acra, Internegoce S.A, Le Nouvelliste, Papyrus S.A, SECOM, Sogebank (Société générale haïtienne de Banque), United Shipping and Logistics and Valerio Canez S.A. were present.

From the humanitarian and development sectors, participants included the Logistics Cluster, IOM, OCHA, Diakonie, and OXFAM. Furthermore, American Red Cross Haiti, ANNAP, Community Coalition for Haiti (CC.H), Catholic Health Organization (CHA), Camillian Task Force (CTF), International Cooperation Foundation (COOPI), FAO, FONKOZE, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Pan American Development Foundation, UNDP Haiti, Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) and Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Développement (UNASCAD) were present.

The government's Department of Civil Protection (DPC) also attended the event, to give the key perspective of the national authorities that the humanitarian community seeks to support in both response and preparedness. Furthermore, the Coordination Directorate of Activities of Non-Governmental Organizations (DCAONG), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE), the Ministry of Interior and Territorial Communities (MICT) as well as USAID and the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) were also present.

Workshop Summary

Participants from each sector gave presentations and contributed to the discussions. There follows a summary of the key themes and points of the discussions.

Information sharing and logistics capacity

A key part of the workshop was exploring existing private sector capacity in the country and how it could be adapted and used to support humanitarian and development activities.

It was agreed that the private sector has a huge network and standing knowledge across the country, and that this existing network should be reinforced and adapted to the needs of preparedness and emergency response activities. This would focus primarily on more preparedness and operational information sharing, as well as the humanitarian community making best use of existing logistics capacity. One key area for information sharing is geo-referenced logistics services and supplier data that can be shared by private sector logistics actors and integrated into the Logistics Cluster Preparedness Platform.

Humanitarian operations

In order to give a clear understanding of the workings of the humanitarian community to the private sector actors present, the Logistics Cluster presented the mechanism by which the cluster is activated, and the capacities and procedures of its Special Operations. UNOCHA also presented on humanitarian funding, and explained their interest in gathering more information about the current role of the private sector in response operations.

Business Continuity

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A key theme that developed for the private sector participants was the importance of business continuity during an emergency. Continuing their work, particularly in production, during an emergency, as vital to avoid job losses and loss of profitability. This was the main concern of the private sector actors, reinforced by the Ministry of the Interior.

Local Purchases

A further key theme to come from the discussions and presentations was the importance of establishing standing agreements pre-disaster to purchase relief items locally, as far as available, and to secure services locally available. The representative from Huilerie Haitienne highlighted this in relation to the relative flexibility of the private sector compared to the rigidity of UN and NGO procedures.

The Executive Directors of AGERCA, ADIH and the Haitian Chamber of Commerce further stressed these points, that local procurement before and during emergencies was a key factor in encouraging and maintaining economic development.

The Department of Civil Protection reinforced this, emphasising the point made by the private sector representatives that trying as far as possible to make purchases in the affected department was very important in stimulating the local economy and supporting recovery from disaster.

The representatives from IOM explained their own emergency procedures and needs in an emergency response. The IOM operational model relies on donations and local procurement is done when donations are not sufficient to meet beneficiary needs.

National preparedness

For the national authorities preparedness and mitigation of disaster are significant priorities. The national government will be putting great effort into activities that make the country better prepared before emergencies and able to respond more efficiently during them.

Outcomes

- The Ministry of the Interior will release an official communication, endorsed by the private sector actors present, on the importance of preparedness for humanitarian emergencies.
- ADIH and AGERCA members will share information related to services and suppliers across the country – this data can be integrated into the Logistics Cluster Preparedness Platform to further aid analysis and planning using the platform.
- The LC team will present the preparedness project again at the launch of the Hurricane Season event on 1 June. The presentation will highlight the collaboration between the cluster, the government and the private sector, as well as presenting the Preparedness Platform.

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From the event



Representatives from the private sector discuss emergency response and economic development.



Gerald Joseph, the Logistics focal point of the DPC, addresses the workshop.

LOGISTICS CLUSTER PREPAREDNESS HAITI



PRIVATE SECTOR WORKSHOP 23 May 2017



LC Preparedness Officer Kim Claveau (right) and Sarah Taluy, Executive Director of AGERCA (left).