PREPARING THE HUMANITARIAN SUPPLY CHAIN

More information:

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Introduction
Preparedness forms a key pillar of the Logistics Cluster’s overarching strategy. Studies show supply chain can account for up to 80 per cent of humanitarian response costs\(^1\), hence, an efficient and robust supply chain structure is fundamental to every operation.

The initiative seeks to strengthen coordination and information sharing across the entire humanitarian community including national disaster management offices, government line ministries, transport, Red Cross/Crescent, NGOs, UN agencies, and private sector. Logistics Cluster preparedness activities are currently focused on 15 countries\(^2\), chosen by partners and based upon risk indices, logistics performance and capacity indicators. Indonesia, Bangladesh, Haiti, Madagascar, Iraq and South Sudan have been initiated, with the aim to expand to 24 countries by mid-2021.

Why Preparedness
Investing in preparedness saves time, lives and money during emergency response and reduces the need for international mobilisation. However, it is not a singular action or activity. To be integrated effectively into emergency response cycles, preparedness requires time, commitment and long-term collaboration across global, regional and national actors.

As part of its strategy and mandate given by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the Logistics Cluster seeks to utilise its experience, expertise and wide network of partners to strengthen national supply chain resilience, and promote a shared methodology towards logistics preparedness globally. Where WFP and/or partner organisations have a presence in-country, the Logistics Cluster leverages on this experience for activity and strategic alignment, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of preparedness actions and advocacy efforts at national level.

Locally led, driven and implemented
Localisation is fundamental. Through the pursuit of collaborative multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships, the primary aim of Logistics Cluster preparedness is to stimulate locally-driven solutions that influence longer term actions such as policy, standard operating procedures and nation-wide capacity strengthening initiatives.

The project’s Programmatic Framework was developed with global stakeholders and is designed to ensure each country’s unique context is taken into consideration. The framework aims to strengthen collaboration among actors, ultimately enhancing coordination and promoting a common approach towards national policy development; expanding information sharing mechanisms and access to logistics data; and strengthening infrastructure and capacity through joint advocacy efforts.

With the support of a dedicated in-country Preparedness Expert, each activity is concentrated on developing an operational environment built on teamwork, aligning organisational objectives and working together to identify country-specific gaps. This collaboration leads to a tailored, nationally-endorsed, government-led action plan, outlining tangible outcomes, roles and project timelines.

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\(^1\) Supply Chain Expenditure and Preparedness Investment Opportunities in the Humanitarian Context
\(^2\) Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Iraq, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Sudan
Programmatic Framework

The following table represents the Logistics Cluster Preparedness Programmatic Framework and proposed staffing resources for country implementation. The categories were defined through extensive consultations to ensure activity alignment and the rollout of a common methodology.

The staffing plan is based on pilot project recommendations whereby a Preparedness Expert is recruited for the initial activity period, working together with a National Officer towards a harmonious and holistic logistics preparedness plan. The National Officer then supports government-led action implementation, advocacy and longer-term initiatives in collaboration with in-country partners.

FACT FINDING
- The fact-finding pillar aims to map national logistics and response capacity, key actors, existing plans and initiatives.
- This involves desk review, mapping activities and roll out of information sharing channels.

ANALYSIS & PLANNING
- The analysis and planning pillar seeks to identify gaps and bottlenecks through simulation-based activities.
- The pillar concludes with the sign-off, harmonisation and endorsement of a national action plan.

ACTION IMPLEMENTATION
- Action Implementation seeks to address identified gaps and bottlenecks, and implement activities identified through the national action plan. The pillar also includes ongoing capacity strengthening initiatives and advocacy efforts for strengthened preparedness at national and local level.
- The pillar requires stakeholders and supply chain preparedness actors to define a set of key activities (Minimum Preparedness Actions, Advanced Preparedness Actions) for short and long-term rollout.
The Preparedness Platform

A core feature of the project is the development of the digital data tool, the Preparedness Platform. The innovative system is designed to integrate and analyse hundreds of data sources within one location, harnessing this potential to become a global game-changer for humanitarian logistics.

Leveraging on the Logistics Cluster’s expertise in information management, and with the aim to fully embed the system within national disaster management structures, the platform would assist in overcoming a key constraint in the humanitarian response cycle - providing a common information gateway for validated and integrated real-time data at global, national and community level.

Project linkages

CREATING STREAMLINED LINKS ACROSS THE HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS COMMUNITY FOR STRENGTHENED PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY CYCLES.

Alignment, support & collaboration on existing activities, capacity mapping and contingency planning.

Alignment with Global Logistics Cluster Strategy and IASC approach to EPR; establish common preparedness methodology.

Alignment with WFP Country Strategic Plan and existing initiatives; harmonisation of KPIs.