
Highlights

- On 13 August 2019, a Logistics Cluster Preparedness Gap-Analysis workshop jointly organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) was held in Vientiane.
- Mobile Storage Unit Assembly Training of Trainer was run in Vientiane on 15-16 August with 24 participants from National and Provincial MLSW, Lao military, Lao Red Cross and WFP.
- A Northern Provincial training was run in Oudomxay on 10-11 September, that was led by 5 recipients of the August Training of Trainer in Vientiane.



Mobile Storage Unit Assembly Training of Trainer held in Vientiane.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Laos was selected by the Logistics Cluster community as a priority country for the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project ("the Project"). The Project aims primarily to support and empower national actors in strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. A key objective is to facilitate a coordinated approach towards improving local supply chain resilience and information exchange between the government, national actors and the private sector, to ensure all actors are well prepared for joint humanitarian logistics responses. In an emergency response, the Logistics Cluster capacities could come in support of national actors to facilitate a coordinated response with international NGOs, UN agencies, development partners in case the government is calling for international humanitarian assistance.

In June 2019, a Preparedness Expert was deployed to Laos to commence the process of mapping national logistics capacities and stakeholders. Based on this, she has worked with national responders to augment information sharing and exchange as well as assist in the organisation of a large-scale simulation-based logistics gap analysis workshop that took place in August 2019. This year Lao PDR experienced the largest flood response in 50 years with over 600,000 affected people across six Provinces, reaffirming the need for logistics preparedness actions.

Coordination

- Through participative group discussions at the Logistics Cluster Preparedness Gap-Analysis workshop, a number of key priority activities were identified to enhance logistics preparedness and response in the country. The findings can be found in the report from the workshop both in [English](#) and in [Lao](#). Participants agreed on the need to organise a desktop

simulation exercise to further evaluate priority tools, infrastructure and trainings. 39 participants across Government, NGOs, UN agencies and Red Cross attended the event.

- The MSU Assembly training aimed to strengthen working relations at the national and provincial levels between MLSW, the military and the Lao Red Cross. Stronger engagement with the military was among key Logistics Cluster' recommendations from the previous Attapeu flood response in 2018. The training supports the greater MSU prepositioning strategy where MSU's are stored in key locations in the capital city, north, central and south of Laos for rapid temporary relief item storage or shelter following disasters. WFP donated two more MSU's to MLSW in support of this prepositioning strategy.
- At the Northern provincial training, five participants from the August training delivered the training to 22 participants from the military, the MLSW, the Provincial Labour and Social Welfare (PLSW) of Oudomxay, Lao Red Cross and WFP.
- Central and Southern Provincial trainings are scheduled for 16-17 October and 30-31 October.
- WFP country office will support the upgrade of the MLSW warehouse in Vientiane to a relief item prepositioning hub following the lessons learned of previous years and in alignment with warehousing capacity building strategy. WFP will as well provide racking and handling equipment to the MSLW.



Logistics Cluster Preparedness workshop held in Vientiane.

Information management

- The [Lao PDR Logistics Preparedness webpage](#) was launched on the 26 September and seven documents and photos were uploaded.

Humanitarian Context

- On 29 August and 2 September 2019, Tropical Storm PODUL and Tropical Depression KAJIKI hit the central and southern areas of Laos resulting in flooding in six provinces. These events reinforced the need for the humanitarian community to continue working collaboratively on logistics preparedness initiatives to strengthen national emergency response capacity.

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