

Highlights

- On 16-17 and 30-31 October 2019, central and southern provincial Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) assembly trainings were run in Khammuane and Champasack respectively. The trainings round out a nation-wide capacity strengthening programme, funded by the Global Logistics Cluster Project, to train provincial responders in MSU assembly.
- A Warehouse Management training was run in Vientiane on 19-20 November. 28 participants from national and provincial branches of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW), as well as Lao Red Cross attended.
- On 14 November, an After Action Review focused on logistics and coordination during the recent flooding response in the four most affected provinces, was held in Pakse by MLSW. During the event, key priority activities were identified, which will be integrated as part of the drafting of a National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan.



Warehouse Management training held in Vientiane.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Laos was selected as one of 24 country candidates for the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project ("the Project"). The primary aim of the Project is to support and empower national actors to strengthen 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 also come in support of national actors to facilitate a coordinated response 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 simulation-based logistics gap analysis workshop, and other capacity strengthening initiatives based on identified partner needs.

In 2019, Laos 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

- An MSU assembly training was run in Khammuane for central provinces on 16-17 October, led by five recipients of the August Training of Trainers held in Vientiane. 15 participants representing the provincial MLSW, military, Lao Red Cross and WFP attended. The training is part of the government's wider MSU prepositioning strategy, which aims to ensure MSUs are stored in key locations in the capital city, north, central and south of Laos for rapid temporary storage or shelter following disasters. WFP donated two additional MSUs to MLSW in support of this prepositioning strategy.
- An MSU assembly training was also run in Champasack in the southern provinces on 30-31 October, led by six recipients of the August Training of Trainers in Vientiane. 18 participants representing provincial branches of MLSW, military, Lao Red Cross and WFP attended the training. The Champasack training was the final of three provincial trainings aimed at building capacity of local responders to assemble MSUs during emergency response.
- The After Action Review of recent floods that occurred in six provinces, was held in Pakse on 14 November with 52 participants including representatives from several ministries as well as officials from the affected provinces and affected district. This meeting aimed to complete the Logistics Preparedness Action Plan and identify the government's priority activities.
- A Warehouse Management training was run on 19-20 November for 28 participants from the national and provincial branches of MLSW and Lao Red Cross. The training aimed to enhance national and provincial government staff capacity on warehousing and stock movement tracking in accordance with internal procedures. Forms were tailored to meet local requirements and will subsequently be placed in each government warehouse across the country. A report on the training is available on the website in [English](#) and [Lao](#).



Global Logistics Cluster Preparedness workshop held in Rome.

- The Preparedness team in Lao PDR and Vilayphong Sisomvang, the Director General of the Social Welfare Department in MLSW, participated in the second Global Logistics Cluster Preparedness workshop held on 25-27 November in Italy. This event gathered 35 participants and sought to foster synergies between key stakeholders, review lessons learned and good practices, and pave a way forward for logistics preparedness activities.
- The Logistics Cluster team and MLSW are working closely on finalising the Lao PDR Logistics Preparedness Action Plan for the upcoming months. Work is also ongoing with partners towards the creation of a Logistics Preparedness Working Group, comprised of key actors including government, humanitarian organisations and private sector, to support the government's preparedness activities.

Information management

- The [Lao PDR Logistics Preparedness webpage](#) was launched on the 26 September. Four documents as well as a selection of photos have been uploaded.
- The quarterly update and infographic for July-September were published on the [Lao PDR webpage](#).

Contacts

Toulor Xiamai

Global Logistics Cluster – Field Preparedness Officer

toulor.xiamai@wfp.org

Vilayphong Sisomvang

Director General of Social Welfare Department of MLSW

name.surname@wfp.org