

## Highlights

- Following the Warehouse Management Training held in November in Vientiane, the Preparedness Officer worked closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) on the documents to be placed in each government warehouse across the country, including waybill books, good receipt notes and standard operating procedures.
- On 25 February, MLSW and the Preparedness Officer co-led a meeting with 11 partners to present the Logistics Preparedness Action Plan and the Logistics Preparedness Working Group Terms of Reference.



Warehouse Management training held in Vientiane.

## Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) 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 Lao PDR 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, 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

- Over January the Preparedness Officer shared the Logistics Preparedness Action Plan translated in Lao with the 18 partners who participated to the Gap Analysis Workshop held in August 2019. All partners agreed with the prioritized activities.
- On 25 February, the MLSW hosted a meeting with 11 partners to present the Logistics Preparedness Action Plan as well as the Logistics Preparedness Working Group (LPWG) Terms of Reference. The LPWG will comprise government, humanitarian organisations and the private sector, and to support the government's preparedness activities. Partners have been requested to nominate LPWG focal points.
- A one-day workshop to assign each partners' responsibilities for activity in the Action Plan was due to be held in March. Due to COVID-19 related lockdowns in Lao PDR, this has been postponed to later in the year.
- Following the November 2019 Warehouse Management training – held in Vientiane and attended by 28 participants from the national and provincial branches of MLSW and Lao PDR Red Cross – the Preparedness Officer worked closely with MLSW on the documents to be placed in each government warehouse across the country. These documents include waybill books, good receipt notes and standard operating procedures that will be available to government warehouse managers. However, COVID-19 lockdowns have resulted in document printing being suspended for the moment.
- The planned Warehouse Management 'Training of Trainers' in Vientiane co-organized with MLSW and funded by the Global Logistics Cluster Preparedness Project, has been delayed due to COVID-19 lockdowns. The training will be run for national and provincial branches of MLSW employees and will aim 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.

## Information management

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

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