

## Highlights

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- On 3 June, the Preparedness Officer contributed to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)-led Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) After Action Review of Typhoon Vongfong (also known as Ambo)'s emergency response, resulting in the drafting of Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Guidance on Emergency Preparedness & Response to Other Disaster Events in the context of COVID-19.
- The Preparedness Officer continues to provide technical and coordination support for the upcoming International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and HELP Logistics co-organized Humanitarian Logistics Management training for the Philippines Red Cross staff. Participation of other National Logistics Cluster Preparedness (NLCP) Working Group members is also prospective.

## Background

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Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Philippines 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 October 2019, a Field Preparedness Officer was recruited to commence the process of mapping national logistics capacities and stakeholders. Based on this, he is currently working with national responders to augment information sharing and exchange as well as assisting in the organisation of capacity strengthening initiatives based on identified partner needs. In 2019, Philippines experienced several disasters, including typhoons and the Taal Volcano eruption, reaffirming the need for coordinated logistics preparedness actions.

## Coordination

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- On 3 June, the Preparedness Officer participated in the ICCG After Action Review of Typhoon Vongfong (Ambo)'s emergency operations. The outputs were the draft HCT Rapid Assessment Protocol and HCT Guidance on Emergency Preparedness & Response to Other Disaster Events in the context of COVID-19 which will be circulated by OCHA once finalized. The Preparedness Officer's involvement contributed to a better understanding of the country's logistics preparedness capacities.
- On 26 June, the Preparedness Officer contributed to the first planning meeting for the IFRC and HELP Logistics co-organized humanitarian logistics management training for the Philippines Red Cross staff scheduled in September 2020. The training will combine online and face-to-face sessions with simulation exercises on importation of relief items and response scenarios. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) will potentially facilitate and participate in this training.

- During the ongoing COVID-19 response, the Preparedness Officer has continued to support WFP, as the HCT Logistics Sectoral Working Group lead, in sharing logistics information including customs clearance procedures, transport restrictions, commercial flight operations, seaport access, etc., and coordinating with government agencies. As of 29 June, 60 updates have been shared via emails.
- The Preparedness Officer also facilitated OCD's requests for WFP transport support to their COVID-19 response.
- The drafting of National Logistics Cluster Preparedness Working Group Terms of Reference in consultation with key stakeholders has been suspended as most partners have been actively engaged in the COVID-19 response. The Preparedness Officer is working with the partners to arrange virtual meeting and discussion.
- The final review of the National Logistics Cluster Operational Manual by the National Logistics Cluster members, spearheaded by OCD, in preparation for approval by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) meeting in June 2020 has been delayed as resources have been prioritized for the COVID-19 response.
- The National Logistics Cluster Summit, initially planned in July 2020, to roll out the Operational Manual and to conduct table-top simulation workshop to identify key logistics gaps and bottlenecks is also likely to be postponed to later in the year due to COVID-19 related limitations.



Transport service of food and non-food items for COVID-19 response was facilitated as per the requests of partners.

## Information management

- The [Philippines Logistics Preparedness webpage](#) was launched on 20 May 2020. All materials related to the Project are made available including meeting minutes, pictures, quarterly updates, maps, meetings dates and venue, and will be continuously updated. Four documents as well as a selection of photos have been uploaded so far.
- The quarterly update and infographic for January-March 2020 were published on the Philippines webpage.

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