

## Highlights

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- The Preparedness Officer continues to provide technical and coordination support for the upcoming Humanitarian Logistics Management training for the Philippines Red Cross (PRC) staff, co-organised by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and HELP Logistics. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office for Civil Defense (OCD) will also contribute to and participate in some training sessions. The training aims at enhancing humanitarian logistic management skills of non-logistics personnel as surge support capacity for emergency preparedness and response.
- The Preparedness Officer continues to engage in several Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings for the revision of the HCT COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan, the finalisation of the HCT Rapid Assessment Protocol and HCT Guidance on Emergency Preparedness & Response to Other Disaster Events in the context of COVID-19 and, more recently, the consideration for the proposed creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR). The Preparedness Officer's involvement helps in improving an understanding of the country's logistics preparedness capacities.

## Background

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Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Philippines was identified 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 element of this is the facilitation of 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 the event of a large-scale disaster event and should the Government of the Philippines request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

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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- Between July-September 2020, the Preparedness Officer continued to participate in planning meetings for the IFRC and HELP Logistics co-led humanitarian logistics management training for the PRC staff scheduled in October 2020. The training will combine online and face-to-face sessions with simulation exercises on importation of relief items and response scenarios. The objective is to strengthen humanitarian logistics

<https://logcluster.org/preparedness/ph121>

management capacities of the PRC's non-logistics staff as the surge support for national emergency preparedness and response. DSWD and OCD will also potentially facilitate and participate in this training.

- To enhance information sharing and exchange in support of humanitarian logistics preparedness, the Preparedness Officer continued to participate in several discussions with software developers/project managers and key national emergency responders on potential collaboration platforms such as Emergency Supply Pre-positioning Strategy (ESUPS) and the Logistics Cluster Platform (Log:ie). The first is focused on humanitarian stock inventory and optimisation, while the latter deals with availability and constraints of logistics infrastructure for emergency logistics preparedness and response. Both are still being developed by their respective developers.
- The Preparedness Officer contributed to the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings for the revision of the HCT COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan, the finalisation of the HCT Rapid Assessment Protocol and HCT Guidance on Emergency Preparedness & Response to Other Disaster Events in the context of COVID-19 and, more recently, the consideration for the proposed creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR). The Preparedness Officer's involvement added to a better understanding of the country's logistics preparedness capacities.
- 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 30 September, over 100 updates have been shared to partners.
- The Preparedness Officer continued to coordinate with the National Logistics Cluster and WFP on the transport support requests of OCD for their COVID-19 response, which helps in keeping the communication channels open between the organisations. 35 trucks delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical and food items to various destinations have been coordinated so far. However, as of September 2020, this support has been temporarily suspended due to funding constraints.
- The drafting of National Logistics Cluster Preparedness Working Group Terms of Reference (ToR) in consultation with key stakeholders has been temporarily suspended as partners have been actively engaged in the COVID-19 response. The Preparedness Officer continues to follow up with the partners on possibility to arrange virtual meetings.
- 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 prioritised 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 the last quarter of the year due to COVID-19 related limitations.



Meeting with humanitarian partners to explore information sharing platforms that might support humanitarian logistics preparedness.

## Information management

- The quarterly update and infographic for April-June 2020 were published on the [Philippines Preparedness webpage](#).

### Contacts

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