Highlights

- COVID-19 Lockdown restrictions finally eased allowing face to face meetings and trainings with precautions.
- Emergency warehouse assessment mapping for flood season in Masvingo and Mashonaland East provinces in October using the Warehouse assessment guidelines and warehouse flood map developed by the ZNLS.
- Training of Trainer Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) assembly training conducted in Harare 21-22 October 2020 with relevant Government, UN and partners, and led by private sector.
- Follow-up real time MSU assembly training in Mutare.
- Successful Gaps, Needs and Action Planning workshop on 29-30 October 2020 including 45 participants from National and local government, donors, UN, partners and private sector.
- Health Logistics Rapid Assessment guidelines were provided to the Ministry of Health and Natpharm to gain final inputs and endorsed for use to guide the COVID-19 vaccine logistics preparedness for the country.
- Coordination has begun to plan and implement the test of the Physical Access Constraints (PAC) system, to assist report and map real time road access constraints in Zimbabwe for flood season. This was a critical need identified from Cyclone Idai lessons learnt.
- Joint Assessment of the DoCP relief item warehouse in Harare and development of the DoCP warehouse management and stock tracking system. Warehouse management training is being developed specifically for the Government of Zimbabwe based on the warehouse assessment outcomes gaps and needs.

Background

The Project started in February 2020 and is co-led by DoCP and the World Food Programme (WFP). It aims to enable a coordinated and proactive approach towards improving local supply chain resilience in Zimbabwe.

A Logistics Preparedness Expert was deployed to Zimbabwe late January 2020 to set up the project foundations of a National Logistics humanitarian Sector for the government, the national stakeholders and the private sector. Under the lead of DoCP, a gap analysis and action planning workshop was scheduled for early April however COVID-19 restrictions meant this was not feasible from a risk perspective until restrictions were eased by the Government of Zimbabwe in September 2020.

The Zimbabwe National Logistics Sector continued to meet virtually each month and progress minor activities, however for this quarter, face to face meetings and trainings were permitted to be conducted with strict COVID-19 protocols. To build on the good work of the sector during lockdown the workshop was designed to be more outcome focussed and changed to a Gaps, Needs and Action Planning workshop.

Coordination

The easing of lockdown restrictions meant the project was able to support the Government of Zimbabwe to socialise the Logistics Preparedness project to local government and implement priority activities in the field. It also enabled the project to understand the internal coordination structures for emergency response at the provincial and district level.

https://logcluster.org/preparedness/zwe20
• Seven Provinces have now been engaged directly through the project activities.
  o Harare
  o Mashonaland East
  o Mashonaland West
  o Masvingo
  o Manicaland
  o Matabeleland North
  o Matabeleland South

• DoCP piloted emergency warehouse assessment of government property in two key areas where warehousing was identified as needed through the warehouse flood map produced by the project. The warehouse assessment guidelines developed through the sector were used by national and local government to develop their capacity as well as produce the needed outcomes. The Provincial development Coordinators, District Development coordinators and existing Civil Protection Unit committees involving local government, partners and private sector were engaged and a number of government buildings and spaces were identified that could be used in times of emergency.

• The Gaps, Needs and Action plan workshop brought together key Line ministries, local government, UN, humanitarian partners, donors and private sector to capitalise on existing work developed through the established Technical Working Groups and identify other priority gaps and needs. More importantly it socialised the existence of the project and its benefits. As a result coordination meetings were held with UNOPS and ECHO post workshop to exchange project objectives and share information in an endeavour that there may be mutual benefit or opportunity to advocate for resources in future activities.

• Technical working groups continued to work to address specific identified supply chain gaps and needs and enhance logistics preparedness and response capacity in the relevant themes.

• Bilateral meetings were held with the corresponding Preparedness Experts in Malawi and Mozambique to share information and strategies of relevance to both countries. The DoCP and WFP also attended the Global Field Based Preparedness project to provide inputs and ideas.

• Coordination with relevant line Ministries began in preparation for the roll out of the test of the Physical Access Constraints (PAC) system, to assist report and map road access constraints for flood season. with the caveat that the Department of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) are included on the planning and have their concerns met. Subsequently, a meeting was held with the government’s Department of ICT to introduce the system and to ensure any government concerns with data capture, verification and privacy/security were considered. This meeting was held on 15 December 2020 and no objection was raised on the testing phase of the system.

Information Management

As a result of the socialisation of the project through the workshop and the demonstration of the ZNLS SharePoint site, membership of the logistics information site has now increased to 111 members.
Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

Advocacy and capacity strengthening efforts were undertaken to ensure country-level humanitarian and government stakeholders are supported, these include:

- WFP and humanitarian partners relied on the use of commercial service providers to assemble and dismantle Mobile storage Units (MSUs), as they did not have the capacity to do it themselves. MSUs are used for emergency storage and shelter in preparedness for flood and lean season. This was a significant capacity and costly gap. To cover this gap, the Project facilitated a two-day Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) assembly and dismantling training of trainers (ToT) in Harare in October 2020 and a follow up training in November 2020 in Mutare. Participants included the government’s Department of Civil Protection, provincial and district local government, WFP, IOM, WV, UNHCR, TDH Italy, two local NGOs (Lead trust and MDTC) staff plus nine warehouse general workers.

- Warehouse Assessment guidelines were developed, and local government capacity building is ongoing to enable them to do assessments in all provinces. Initial assessments were done in Masvingo and Mashonaland East province to train government staff to do the assessments and to test the tools.

- Rapid health logistics assessment tool for the importation, storage and distribution of medicines was developed and disseminated for use by Government and partners. This was presented to Pillar 8 for consideration for use for the COVID-19 vaccine planning. Further inputs were provided and the tool endorsed for the logistics assessment to support the vaccine roll out.

- Stock management tools were developed in consultation DoCP for their specific use in the warehouse. The project is advocating funding with WFP to assist with minor renovations on the DoCP warehouse to enhance its current relief item storage. Warehouse management training will be developed and implemented in the warehouse so the practical learning component will also result in the clean-up and set up of the warehouse management and stock tracking system.

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