



Malawi National Logistics Cluster Meeting

26 September 2019 | Mangochi, Malawi

Contacts

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Introduction

2019 Malawi Flood Response

In early March, a severe weather system formed off the eastern coast of Mozambique, bringing heavy rains and strong winds to Malawi's southern regions, before tracking back to the Mozambique channel. Here it intensified into Cyclone Idai, once again causing significant damage to Malawi's logistics infrastructure in the country's south. On 8 March, the Government of Malawi declared a State of Disaster and requested international assistance. The response was led by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), the country's national disaster management agency.

The Logistics Sector, co-led by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW) and the World Food Programme (WFP), was activated on 27 March, in support of the logistics operations and to assist the humanitarian community in their efforts to deliver lifesaving items to affected areas. The Logistics Sector response was based on a preliminary logistics gaps analysis and partners needs assessment and included the establishment of a coordination and information hub in Blantyre, as well as the facilitation of common logistics services (transport and storage).

In late-May, as local capacities increased and Idai operational needs scaled down, the Logistics Sector submitted a recommendation to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), UN Resident Coordinator, and relevant government ministries on the phase out and handover of the sector's operational activities to the Malawi National Logistics Cluster. The primary objective of the MoTPW-led cluster is to continue strengthening the humanitarian network through the augmentation of coordination and information sharing platforms, with an emphasis placed on initiating supply chain preparedness actions.

Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) Preparedness Project

In 2018 Malawi was selected as one of 24 country candidates for the GLC field-based logistics Preparedness Project. The 2016-2021 initiative aims to enable local governments, national and international NGOs, UN agencies, development partners and the private sector, to have a coordinated approach towards improving local supply chain resilience. A key output is the formation of a National Logistics Cluster Preparedness network, which brings stakeholders together before an emergency to identify potential solutions, draft a common action plan, and establish an operational team environment.

Following the 2019 floods response, and in collaboration with DoDMA, MoTPW and WFP, a GLC Field Preparedness Officer was deployed to Malawi in September for a period of six months, to support the transition phase from logistics operation to logistics preparedness. This officer will be supported by a dedicated National Preparedness Officer who will also work on the project for an initial 12-month period. Based on the bilateral meetings conducted with MoTPW, DoDMA, Red Cross, UN, and NGO partners, a National Logistics Cluster preparedness meeting was conducted on 26 September 2019 to nurture the coordination and cooperation fostered during the flooding response operation.



Objectives

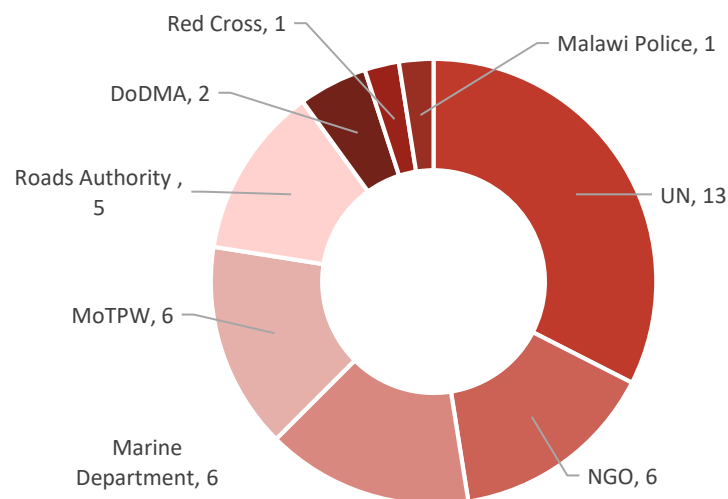
The Logistics Working Group meeting aimed to:

- Introduce the Preparedness Project;
- Discuss the objectives of the Malawi National Logistics Cluster and how it relates to the Preparedness Project;
- Map the existing logistics capacities and areas of operation of partner organisations;
- Introduce the upcoming Gap Analysis Workshop, which will inform the drafting of the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan.
- Gather inputs for the 2019-2020 National Contingency Plan.

Participants



39 participants



Participants were representatives of Malawi's humanitarian community including government ministries and agencies (DoDMA, MoTPW, Malawi Defense Force, Malawi Police, Marine Department, Roads Authority), the Malawi Red Cross, NGOs (ADRA, Eagles Relief Development Programme, Oxfam, Save the Children, Welthungerhilfe), and UN agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP).

Methodology

The National Logistics Cluster meeting was held in Mangochi, Malawi chaired by MoTPW as lead of the National Logistics Cluster. The meeting started with an opening speech from the undersecretaries of MoTPW and DoDMA, followed by the WFP Head of Supply Chain in Malawi.

The GLC Preparedness Project was introduced by Samuel Terefe, Field Support to the Preparedness project. This was followed by a group discussion on the National Logistics Cluster objectives, as outlined in the Malawi National Contingency Plan by GLC Field Preparedness Officer, Jose Antonio Carino. National Logistics Cluster partners agreed on possible logistics preparedness activities which could be undertaken as separate activity or collaboratively as a community of National Logistics Cluster partners.

Partners reviewed the recommended activities under the Preparedness Project's three pillars (Fact Finding, Analysis & Planning, and Action Implementation). A draft Minimum Preparedness Actions checklist was also reviewed by the participants who were grouped into similar working areas and asked to identify core points in their respective areas.

The upcoming national Gap Analysis workshop was also discussed, and as confirmed with the government counterparts, will be held in the first week of November 2019 in Salima or Nkopola. In the lead-up to the event, an online gaps analysis survey, developed with the support of the Global Logistics Cluster will be sent to National Logistics Cluster partners to support logistics capacity mapping and identify core gaps.

In addition, significant portions of the workshop were spent in reviewing the National Logistics Cluster's Contingency Plans from 2018-2019 in preparation for the National Contingency Plan for 2019-2020.

Key outcomes & Next steps

- An online Logistics Capacity Mapping Survey link will be sent by GLC to the attending agencies to gather data for a Malawi Logistics Capacity Map.
- MoTPW has blocked the first week of November (tentative 5-6 November) for the Gap Analysis Workshop. Attending agencies have agreed to block their calendars to attend the meeting.
- A strategic planning session will be scheduled among MoTPW, DoDMA, MDF, Marine Department, and WFP to prepare for the National Logistics Cluster's portion in the 2019-2020 National Contingency Plan.
- Field Preparedness Officer will consolidate all inputs from the meeting to prepare an initial draft of the Malawi Logistics Preparedness Action Plan, which shall inform relevant Government of Malawi documents and reports (DoDMA AAR for 2019 Flood Response, Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, etc).



Annex

Attendees	Agency
Christopher Herbert	DoDMA
Madalitso Mwale	DoDMA
Major Kissa Kadaluka	Malawi Defense Force
Andrew Banda	Malawi Police
Emma Ngosi	Marine Department
Anthony Kakona	Marine Department
Edwin Msumba	Marine Department
Kalilene Mwambelo	Marine Department
Peter Kaphagawani	Marine Department
Noel Gangata	Marine Department
Herbert Chingati	MoTPW
Constance Gonani	MoTPW
Jason Mwatsika	MoTPW
Enos Kapalamula	Roads Authority
Charles Mtawali	Roads Authority
Dominic Mwafulirwa	Roads Authority
Elnas Chimdima	Roads Authority
Willard Kaunde	Roads Authority
Maxwell Chimombo	ADRA
Paskale Chimbalanga	Eagles Relief Development Programme
Chifundo Mizedya	Oxfam
Irene Masheti	Oxfam
Romas Banda	Save The Children
Franco Chemula	Welthungerhilfe
Richard Zinyongo	Malawi Red Cross
Raphael Chimenya	UNHCR
Jussa Alfazema	UNICEF
Aeron Mbodzole	WFP
Dumisami Kaiya	WFP
Franck Aynes	WFP
Lasford Kumwenda	WFP
Mathias Funsanani	WFP
Orison Mapemba	WFP
Rui Goncalves	WFP
Sidney Bandula	WFP
Phindile Lupafya	WFP
Jose Antonio Carino	WFP/GLC
Samuel Terefe	WFP/GLC