PHOTO

Logistics Cluster in Nepal
-- Logistics Cluster

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On Saturday 25 April 2015, an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale was recorded in Nepal, 80 km to the North-West of Kathmandu. In addition to thousands of smaller earthquakes, a second major earthquake measuring 7.3 magnitude was recorded 76 km northeast of Kathmandu on Tuesday 12 May 2015.

According to the Government of Nepal, close to 9,000 fatalities resulted from the earthquake, over 600,000 houses were destroyed and more than 284,000 were damaged. Out of Nepal’s 39 affected districts, 14 were declared severely affected and prioritised in the Flash Appeal (Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Okhaldhunga, Makwanpur, Sindhuli, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur).

As a result, the Government of Nepal declared a state of emergency in the country and called upon the international humanitarian community for support. The Logistics Cluster was activated on 27 April to ensure an effective and efficient response to the emergency and overcome the logistical challenges faced by the humanitarian community in their efforts to deliver life-saving relief items across affected areas in Nepal.

The Logistics Cluster, by coordinating with UN agencies, International and National NGOs and the private sector, supported the Government-led response providing logistics coordination and information management and facilitating access to common services. In particular, the Logistics Cluster facilitated air transport services provided by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) across the country, handled cargo from the pre-established Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) to warehouse facilities made available for relief items, and supported WFP in implementing the Remote Access Operation (RAO), a logistics effort tailored to Nepal’s landscape which allowed access to otherwise inaccessible locations.

The Logistics Cluster facilitated the transportation of different priority items throughout the operation; the following is a list of the transported cargo types divided by sector: Shelter, Food, Health, WASH, Education, Nutrition, Construction, Protection, Agriculture, Logistics and Operational Support.
The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), a common service managed and provided by the World Food Programme, operated from 29 April to 31 December 2015, serving 155 landing sites, transporting 2,700 metric tons of humanitarian cargo and 3,632 passengers with a fleet of five Mi8 cargo helicopters and two AS350 smaller helicopters for assessment missions and evacuations.

UNHAS helicopters provided access to isolated and hard-to-reach locations and delivered supplies to remote communities on behalf of 140 organisations including NGOs, UN agencies, donors and international organizations. UNHAS helicopters provided passenger access, medical evacuation capacity, cargo transport, and flights for assessment, monitoring and evaluation missions requiring time on ground at destination.

UNHAS Mission ended on 31st December, 2015

5 Mi8 cargo helicopters

2 AS350 smaller helicopters for assessment missions and evacuations

140 Organisations supported

2,704 MT of cargo

4,848 sorties

3,636 passengers

187 destinations
Throughout the one-year response, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the movement of over 10,000 trucks to reach the country’s 14 most-affected districts: Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindupalchok, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Okhaldunga, Makwanpur, Sinduli, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, and areas adjacent to these districts. Road transport services with origin and destination inside the districts identified as priority by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) were facilitated free of charge, while support in the provision of transport outside the priority regions was provided by WFP on a full cost recovery basis, subject to fuel availability.

REMOTE ACCESS OPERATIONS

The Remote Access Operations (RAO) was a logistics effort tailored specifically for the landscape of Nepal, since the most remote communities were not reachable by vehicle and required alternative modes of transport. Through a network of porters and mules which delivered food, shelter and other humanitarian supplies, RAO facilitated the delivery of over 2,300 mt of humanitarian cargo, of which 1,381 mt of food and 921 mt of NFIs.

The pay provided to the local porters and rehabilitation workers totalled around US $1.4 million and provided a much-needed lifeline, as their livelihood was severely affected by the slump in tourism. Additionally, RAO rehabilitated 214 trails (888 km) and provided 130,000 people with access to markets.

Covering 5 districts
Gorkha, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Dhading and Rasuwa

888 km 25,881
214 trails rehabilitated porters engaged in delivery mechanism

1,381 921
MT of food MT of non-food items

FUEL SUPPLY

The Logistics Cluster facilitated the provision of fuel to eligible organisations for the movement of humanitarian relief supplies for earthquake responses. Over 50,000 litres of diesel were distributed from the Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) and the field hubs of Chautara, Charikot and Deurali to 67 organisations to allow for uninterrupted humanitarian operations throughout the crisis.
The Logistics Cluster has coordinated efforts with logistics partners to rapidly install humanitarian platforms across the country: staging areas and logistics hubs were established at strategic locations where the road infrastructure allowed access to larger trucks, and which could support local air operations to hard-to-access locations and provide additional storage capacity to the Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA). The Logistics Cluster was able to coordinate access to a total storage capacity of 9,040 m² through the platforms established.

The setting-up of the HSA, as part of the Logistics Response Plan drafted in 2013 and inaugurated only one month before the earthquake struck, quickly gained momentum in ensuring immediate logistics emergency response after the disaster, especially because of its proximity to the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA).

The HSA pre-developed cluster response plan was instrumental in the first phases of the operation, helping to avoid congestion in the cargo offloading apron at the International Airport. The Humanitarian Staging Area had seven Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) for a storage capacity of 2,320 m² available for short-term storage of humanitarian cargo.
Since the beginning of the operation, the Logistics Cluster established regular coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs of Nepal (MoHA), and a representative was made available in Kathmandu to advise the humanitarian community on customs procedures. The strong collaboration with representatives of the MoHA played a major role in ensuring the smooth functioning of logistics operations. The Logistics Cluster leveraged this successful liaison to prevent and avoid operational bottlenecks and to pre-plan proactive and coordinated efforts to respond to future potential disasters.

In order to promote the sharing of logistics information and facilitate a unified response effort on behalf of the humanitarian community, Information Management (IM) activities were undertaken by the Logistics Cluster. Regular Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings were held with organisations for the purpose of briefing on, updating, and revising operational plans as needed, information sharing and analysis of existing and emerging logistics gaps & bottlenecks.

Over 500 participants from around 160 organisations attended coordination meetings in Kathmandu and in the satellite cells in Deurali, Chautara, Charikot and Dhading Besi. Information was disseminated on a daily basis both through the mailing list of organisations on the ground and via the Logistics Cluster website: http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal. Altogether, throughout the operation period, 351 Information Management (IM) products were produced and published, and 6,862 new users have visited the website, producing 30,125 page views.