

## Highlights

- On 14 January, the Preparedness Project was introduced to 13 partners during the Logistics sectoral Working Group meeting led by the World Food Programme (WFP).
- On 21-23 January, the Preparedness Officer participated in Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) led assessments of the affected areas of Taal Volcano eruption, including the visit of DSWD logistics hubs.
- On 28 February, the first Office of Civil Defence (OCD) led national Logistics Cluster Meeting was held with six members of the National Logistics Cluster who officially created the National Logistics Cluster Preparedness Working Group.



## Background

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 (GLC) 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 deployed to Philippines 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 logistics preparedness actions.

## Coordination

- On 14 January, the Preparedness Project was introduced to 13 partners who participated to the Logistics sectoral Working Group meeting led by WFP. Indeed, three sectoral working groups (logistics, health and communications) have been formed by Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) members to advise and support the nationally-led clusters of the same name. Partners also discussed the response equipment available in-country, the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) platform, and the kind of support that could be provided through both the HCT Logistics Cluster and the national Logistics Cluster.
- The Preparedness Officer has been socializing the Project to the OCD, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Disaster Response Management Bureau and the Centre for Disaster Preparedness Foundation (CDP) to discuss potential ways of collaboration. OCD showed interest for the GLC Preparedness Project and has been collaborating and supporting the Preparedness Officer efforts since the project rollout in-country.
- On 21-23 January, the Preparedness Officer participated in OCHA-led assessments of the affected areas of Taal Volcano eruption, including the visit of DSWD temporary field logistics hubs where food was prepositioned for the Taal Volcano eruption emergency response. The Preparedness Officer's involvement contributed to a better understanding of the country's preparedness capacities.
- On 28 February, the first national Logistics Cluster Coordination Meeting took place with six members of the National Logistics Cluster who agreed that regular coordination meetings would be held on a quarterly basis, as usually this cell is only meeting regularly in the context of a disaster response activation. Participants agreed on the creation of the National Logistics Cluster Preparedness Working Group. OCD, as the National Logistics Cluster lead, has been collecting inputs from partners who worked closely on the terms of reference draft, that has been delayed due to COVID-19 response.
- The Preparedness Officer contributed to the review of the Logistics Cluster Operational Manual to be implemented later this year. OCD will spearhead the development of the Logistics Cluster Operational Manual and present the final version to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) for approval and adoption after its review by the National Logistics Cluster members. The Operational Manual will be officially rolled out at the National Logistics Cluster Summit planned in July.
- On 10 March, the Preparedness Officer participated in the OCHA-led Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) Planning Workshop for COVID-19 Response Plan in support to the National COVID-19 Contingency Plan shared by the Government. The HCT Logistics Cluster members contributed to the discussion as well.
- The Preparedness Officer has been supporting the WFP response to COVID-19 by coordinating with government agencies. So far, WFP shared 22 updates with the support of the Preparedness Officer with the HCT Logistics Cluster members related to the latest government guidelines and policies issued by the Government Task Force about sea, air, customs regulations, road access and any other logistics information. Among others, information about [port emergency measures for imported cargo](#) and [guidelines from the Bureau of Customs about accreditation pass for stakeholders](#) was shared timely with partners at the early stage of the emergency.



Debriefing of OCHA-led assessments of the affected areas of Taal Volcano eruption.



WFP MSU assembly at DSWD South temporary field Logistics hub located in Santo Tomas, Batangas for Taal Volcano Eruption emergency response.

## Information management

- The Philippines Logistics Preparedness webpage will be launched shortly and all materials related to the Project will be available, including meeting minutes, pictures, quarterly updates, maps, meetings dates and venue.

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