

Highlights

- Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL) of Bhutan participated in the Logistics Cluster's Preparedness Design Workshop held in Rome, Italy, between 24-26 January 2023, to share the country's experiences in humanitarian logistics preparedness capacity strengthening. As part of the Workshop's networking session, an initial discussion was held with the [IMPACCT working group \(IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together!\)](#) to discuss potential support and collaboration on enhancing the country's humanitarian cargo importation and customs clearance process.
- In January, the Ministry of Finance endorsed disaster preparedness activities, including the prioritised logistics preparedness activities in 2023. The endorsement from the Government amplified the Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP)'s institutional capacity-strengthening approach in ensuring national ownership, leadership, and longer-term commitment towards the more sustainable logistics preparedness activities led by the national counterparts.
- Between January and March, the Preparedness Officer coordinated with MoAL and the Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM), the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) leads in preparing for the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) development workshop for the national logistics desk. The SOPs will guide the strategic actions of relevant stakeholders in emergency logistics coordination and response.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2021, Bhutan was identified as one of the 24 country candidates for the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project. The project aims to support national actors as they strengthen their capacity to autonomously prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. A vital element of this is facilitating a coordinated approach towards improving the resilience of local humanitarian supply chains and supporting effective information exchange between the government, national actors, and the private sector to ensure all actors are well prepared for joint humanitarian logistics responses. In a large-scale disaster event, should the Royal Government of Bhutan request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

Given its geologically vulnerable location in the eastern Himalayas and because of climate change impacts, Bhutan is prone to natural disasters, with earthquakes being the biggest threat to reverse Bhutan's progress to date. Earthquake remains a significant threat within the Himalayan region. The 2015 earthquake in Nepal heightened awareness of disaster preparedness among the RGoB officials. Since Bhutan is landlocked, Logistics and supply chains have traditionally been challenging for government and business sectors. Recent studies have indicated that Logistics and Supply Chain constitute more than 70% of the response cost; thus, strengthening the Government's Logistics and Supply Chain capacity becomes paramount in the Disaster Risk Management Agenda of the RGoB.

From March to December 2021, a Preparedness Expert began mapping Bhutan’s national logistics capacities and stakeholders. He worked with national stakeholders led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF) (later in late 2022 changed to ‘the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL)’ in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) – later changed to ‘the Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM),’ to augment information exchange, coordinate and assist in the organisation of national logistics stakeholder mapping and contextual SWOT analysis to define critical priorities and agenda to enhance overall logistics preparedness in Bhutan. A follow-up workshop was held in October 2021 to continue the discussions on identified gaps and challenges in the humanitarian supply chain, logistics preparedness activities, and other capacity-strengthening initiatives based on identified stakeholder needs.

In 2022, key priorities were advocacy for and provision of technical support to implement the NLPWG action plan by national stakeholders. The aim was to ensure the sustainability of Bhutan's humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness at national and sub-national levels. In the final quarter of 2022, MOAF launched a Learning Needs Assessment survey to determine the existing logistics preparedness capacity and assess the level of learning needs of district-level stakeholders. The LNA results led to three regional Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Management (HSCLM) workshops organised in November and December 2022 to enhance HSC&L skills and understanding of district-level stakeholders and update key logistics data, including contact information at the Dzongkhag (provincial) level and draft district-level logistics preparedness action plans.

Coordination

- Between 24-26 January 2023, a representative of MOAL attended the Logistics Cluster’s Preparedness Design Workshop held in Rome, Italy. Over 63 participants gathered in the workshop, with 36% female participants. This global logistics preparedness platform gathered relevant actors from national and international organisations, governments, academic think tanks, and the private sector. Five representatives from the governments of Bhutan, Guatemala, Kenya, Vanuatu, and Zimbabwe participated in the workshop to share the country’s experiences in enhancing locally-led humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness and contribute to the Logistics Cluster’s Preparedness Roadmap.



MOAL Representative of Bhutan in the Global Logistics Cluster’s Preparedness Design Workshop, Rome, Italy, on 24-26 January 2023

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



*Global Logistics Cluster's Preparedness Design Workshop
Rome, Italy, on 24-26 January 2023*

- During a networking session at the Logistics Cluster's Preparedness Design Workshop, MOAL representative had an initial conversation with the IMPACCT working group to explore potential support and collaboration in developing SOPs for the humanitarian cargo importation and customs clearance process. Recommendations include strengthening the national mechanisms such as mapping humanitarian aid importation processes and organising a consultative workshop among all line ministries and humanitarian partners in-country involved in the importation of relief items.
- In January, Preparedness Officer met with the Ministry of Finance to discuss national disaster preparedness activities. The 2023 priority activities, supported by the FBPP, were part of the discussion for endorsement from the Government. The 2023 prioritised logistics preparedness activities include developing the SOPs for the National Logistics Desk, endorsing the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), developing national logistics information sharing portal and organising a workshop to raise awareness on national disaster management and humanitarian supply chain preparedness. The proposed 2023 activities have been endorsed by the Government, ensuring its national ownership, leadership, longer-term commitment, and contributions from the NLPWG members.
- As part of the countrywide Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Management (HSCLM) workshop (in November 2022) outcomes, developing SOPs for the Logistics Desk was recommended as one of the logistics preparedness priorities in 2023. The SOPs development workshop was originally planned for the first quarter of 2023. Between January and March, WFP and FBPP continued supporting MOAL in planning meetings to finalise stakeholder mapping, the workshop's Terms of Reference (TOR), and the list of participants. The workshop was, however, postponed until after the general election in Bhutan in late April to ensure the full participation of the NLPWG members.

Information management

- A video on ‘**Journey Towards Logistics Preparedness in Bhutan**’ was produced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest (now the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock) and released in January 2023, capturing the logistics preparedness efforts in Bhutan, including the third National Logistics Preparedness Working Group Workshop, which was held in Thimphu, Bhutan in the third quarter of 2022. Below are links to the Logistics Cluster social media platforms where the video was advocated:



- **YouTube:** [Link to Video](#)
- **Twitter:** [Click Link](#)
- **LinkedIn:** [Click Link](#)
- **Facebook:** [Click Link](#)

- The quarterly reports and infographic updates on the FBPP implementation between October and December 2022 have been published on the [Bhutan Preparedness webpage](#).

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