



Mobile Storage Unit Assembly Training 21-22 October | Harare, Zimbabwe

Contacts

Patricia Thornhill

Logistics Preparedness Expert

patricia.thornhill@wfp.org

Penniless Chikumba

Logistics Preparedness Officer

penniless.chikumba@wfp.org



Introduction/Background

Zimbabwe experiences multiple natural hazards, including cyclones, droughts, floods, and heavy rains. Droughts affect rural and urban food security and water supplies on an annual basis, with increased reliance on food distributions during lean seasons. Recurring floods during the rainy season damage roads and infrastructures, particularly in remote districts.

There is a shortage of appropriate warehouse space available in Zimbabwe. The World Food Programme (WFP) has procured 25 Mobile Storage Units (MSU) which it loans out to support Government and humanitarian partners for emergency warehousing in affected areas. MSUs played a crucial role for the Cyclone Idai response in 2019, and 2019-20 Lean Season Assistance. The needs for the 2020-21 lean season are predicted to be even bigger.

WFP and humanitarian partners currently rely on the use of a commercial service provider to assemble and dismantle MSUs, as they do not have the capacity to do it themselves. This is a significant capacity gap that is both costly (\$450 each to assemble, and \$200 each to dismantle) and a risk, as evident with the COVID-19 movement restrictions. If the service provider is not able to access the affected area due to movement restrictions, floods, or road washouts; vital emergency storage cannot be provided.

On the La Niña year, higher than normal rainfalls are predicted and the needs for temporary storage during the lean season are expected to be higher than last year. Thus, there is an urgent need for humanitarians to be able to assemble and dismantle MSUs in the areas of operation. COVID-19 risk mitigation measures needed to be implemented and number of participants for training kept low. Therefore, it was recommended that a Training of Trainers (ToT), targeted at key WFP and humanitarian partners who hold MSUs, be conducted. Once trained, WFP staff can then continue to assist to build the local capacity of other partners and government on MSU assembly, as part of their logistics emergency response coordination mandate.

Training Objectives

The training was a key activity for the Global Logistics Cluster sponsored Zimbabwe's Logistics Preparedness project which started in February 2020. The project facilitates a coordinated approach towards improving local supply chain resilience in Zimbabwe through a Government, UN, NGO and private sector partnership.

The Department of Civil Protection invited WFP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Zimbabwe Red Cross, World Vision, Mwenezi Development Training Centre (MDTC) and Lead to participate in a two-day Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) Assembly Training of Trainers on 21 - 22 October 2020 at the WFP Willowvale warehouse. The participants were nominated by their agencies to attend the physical hands on training to enhance Zimbabwe's emergency warehouse capacity and preparedness. Participants learnt to lead a team to assemble and



dismantle an MSU. The participants physically did all activities themselves in order to reinforce their understanding of the process.

The purpose of the training was to have a pool of logisticians and engineers who have the knowledge on how to lead teams to assemble MSUs, who can train others within their organisations, and be called on in times of emergency to install them rapidly. MSUs are an important asset for disaster response and be used for emergency storage, shelter, hospitals and isolation facilities.

The training schedule was adhered to and COVID-19 precautions observed. Masks were always worn, and sanitisation was done regularly.

Training structure

The training was led by a private company, Tarenide Pvt Ltd. They were contracted due to their experience in undertaking similar work for WFP in Zimbabwe. The training program was developed in consultation between Tarenide and WFP.

Trainers:

Lead trainer:

- Tariro Mabika (Tarenide Pvt Ltd)

Assistant trainers:

- Tafadzwa Nyameda (Tarenide Pvt Ltd)
- Patricia Thornhill, Logistics Preparedness Expert

Training Participants

Participants were selected based on Provincial coverage in risk areas, operational availability and capacity to lead and train others in MSU assembly.

- 1 Department of Civil Protection (DoCP) staff;
- 1 IOM staff;
- 5 NGO staff;
- 8 WFP Field office staff.

(Detailed list of participants in Appendix 1)

Training materials provided

- 10 x 24m MSU;
- MSU assembly manual;
- Hard hats for protection.



Methodology

Day 1; Session 1

Day 1 began with an opening by Patricia Thornhill. The session also included Orientation of MSU pieces and theory of assembly. Trainer Tariro utilised the manual to show the MSU pieces to participants and explained their use and considerations to be taken for assembly.

An assessment of land for assembly was conducted and participants were able to appreciate the importance of ground preparation, and orientation for truck access for loading and unloading. Key safety and security considerations, site expansion, and good warehouse management practices were also discussed using a consultative question and answer approach to the group.

Day 1; Session 2

The MSU assembly began with the laying out of the frame. A demonstration was initially undertaken by the Assistant Trainer, and participants then completed each section with guidance.

During the session assembly technical know-how was combined with key practical tips for leading teams. The necessary safety precautions were highlighted by the Trainer. A training debrief was conducted with each participant to summarize the lessons learnt and a group photo was taken after completion of the MSU assembly.

Day 2; Session 1



The MSU dismantling training began with a discussion on layout of warehouse stocks and warehouse management technics including offloading and loading of vehicles, management of commodities during adverse weather conditions and management of drainage in consideration of aspects such as ground slopes, soil types, rainfall levels and ground cover.

The group was engaged in providing experiences on issues they faced during rainy season with MSU storage and how they overcame problems. This was an interesting and valuable information sharing learning session, which formed the basis of a local MSU technical partnership.



Key practical considerations to dismantle a warehouse were discussed and participants were appraised of the need to clean and dry the MSUs. The importance of keeping pieces together and so ready for next assembly was emphasized. The vital safety considerations were highlighted throughout the training on dismantling the MSU. The MSU dis-assembly tips for leading teams were shared with participants.

Dismantling and cleaning



Day 2; Session 2

The session began with training debriefs. Each participant was able to articulate what they had learnt.

Training certificates were presented which were signed by the Director of the Department of Civil Protection, Mr Nathan Nkomo, the Country Director for the World Food Programme, Ms. Francesca Erdelmann and Ms. Patricia Thornhill, from the National Logistics Sector, Patricia Thornhill presented the certificates on the last session of the training.

Evaluation

- All participants engaged well with the course material; working well together, displaying enthusiasm, strength and teamwork and participating in all sessions across the two days.
- Day 1 went well, and the training finished on time at 16:00. Day 2 was completed on time shortly after 1pm.
- All the participants agreed more practice would be required for them to retain the knowledge and pass-on the skills to colleagues. They said this would ideally need to be done quickly while the training is still fresh.



- All the participants expressed the wish to participate in leading assembly to re-enforce the knowledge but would need the support of the training expert particularly from a safety perspective. This is an important outcome to ensure knowledge transfer, as well as building leadership capacity across the humanitarian logistics sector.
- All the participants agreed to be included in a MSU Trainer coordination and communication group to share information and opportunities for MSU assembly in their area to re-enforce the learning.
- All the participants agreed to be added to the Zimbabwe National Logistics Sector to share logistics information and be informed of future warehousing capacity building needs and training inputs.

Next steps

MSU assembly will be required for the lean season and flood operations. It is recommended that the project utilises the operational needs to assist and re-enforce the ToT participants and test their ability to lead an assembly, with the support of the training provider and labour hire. The first activity is scheduled for Mutare in November.

The Preparedness Project will coordinate with WFP Supply Chain on MSU assembly needs across the provinces and try and coordinate involvement of all ToT members in group leading of real time MSU assembly operations. The project will support the travel costs for external provincial members to participate and the support trainer.

The Department of Civil Protection (DoCP) will be engaged on how to include local government in MSU assembly and dismantling in the provinces to increase the training knowledge.



Appendix 1 - Participants

	Name	Org / Location	Contact number	Email	Position
1	Nyarai Aliji	DoCP, Harare	0772572698	naliji09@gmail.com	Provincial Administration Officer, Department of Civil Protection,
2	Elisha Hasani	WFP Harare FO	0772981202	elisha.hasani@wfp.org	Field Monitoring Assistant
3	Madzudzo Makombera	WFP Harare FO	0779725932	madzudzo.makombera@wfp.org	Storekeeper
4	Chris Jeke	Lead, Hurungwe/Mzarabani	0778771305	jeke.chris@gmail.com;chris_jeke@leadtrust.co.zw	Monitoring Officer
5	Morgan Ndhlera	IOM, Harare	0773480507	mndhlera@iom.int	Logistics Assistant
6	Astro Tshuma	WFP Masvingo	0772970966	astro.tshuma@wfp.org	Engineer
7	Bonwell Makumbe	WFP Masvingo	0772816003	bonwell.makumbe@wfp.org	Storekeeper
8	Brighton Nyelani	MDTC Mwenezi and Chiredzi	0775015891	bnyelani@gmail.com; mwendev1@gmail.com	Warehouse supervisor
9	Modesta Chinyama	WFP Mutare	0772454658	modesta.chinyama@wfp.org	Logistics Assistant
10	Bezel Garedondo	WFP Mutare	0716388810	bezel.garedondo@wfp.or	Engineer
11	Stanley Marangwanda	WVI Buhera	0773843650	stanleymarangwanda12@gmail.com	Warehouse supervisor
12	Rufaro Gwasira	WVI Chipinge	0773236591	rufarog@gmail.com	Warehouse supervisor
13	Charles Ncube	WFP Bulawayo	0773100457	charles.ncube@wfp.org	Engineer
14	Darlington Muzari	WFP Bulawayo	0772688010	darlington.muzari@wfp.org	Storekeeper
15	Ellen Mbono	WVI Nkayi	0772109131	mbonoellen@gmail.com	Warehouse supervisor
16	Tariro Mabika	Tarenide Pvt Ltd	0772808378	tarenidepbc@gmail.com	Trainer
17	Tafadzwa Nyameda	Tarenide Pvt Ltd	0772889152	tarenidepbc@gmail.com	Trainer
18	Patricia Thornhill	GLC-WFP	0774502136	patricia.thornhill@wfp.org	Logistics Preparedness Expert
19	Penniless Chikumba	WFP Harare CO	0772469869	penniless.chikumba@wfp.org	Logistics Preparedness Officer