

Highlights

- Following the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan Workshop in October 2020, the National Preparedness Officer continued liaising with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) to finalise national logistics preparedness action plan & working group terms of reference (TOR), which were then endorsed by partners in March 2021. The nomination of focal points by partners of the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) has also been completed, and a contact list of NLPWG was thus created to maintain the coordination and information sharing among the partners.
- The Preparedness Officer closely coordinated with the World Food Programme (WFP) Laos on its ongoing support to the Government of Laos and the NLPWG's humanitarian supply chain and logistics capacity strengthening based on the endorsed National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan and the WFP's disaster risk reduction programme.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Laos was identified as one of 24 country candidates for the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project. The primary aim of the Project is to support and empower national actors to strengthen their capacity to autonomously prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. A key element of this is the facilitation of 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 the event of a large-scale disaster event, should the Government of Laos request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

From June to November 2019, a Preparedness Expert was deployed to Laos to commence the process of mapping national logistics capacities and stakeholders. She worked with national responders to augment information sharing and exchange as well as assist in the organisation of a simulation-based logistics gap analysis workshop, and other capacity strengthening initiatives based on identified partner needs. In September 2019, a national Preparedness Officer was deployed to continue project's activities including series of trainings and trainings of trainers on the topics identified by partners during 2019-2020. As a result of workshops conducted during 2019-2020, a draft National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan was also put forward for further endorsement by humanitarian partners.

In 2019, Laos experienced its largest flood response in 50 years, with over 600,000 affected people across six Provinces, reaffirming the need for coordinated logistics preparedness actions across multiple national actors.

Coordination

- After the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan Workshop in Vientiane in October 2020, the Preparedness Officer continued supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) in the finalisation and dissemination of the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan and the National Logistics Preparedness

<https://logcluster.org/preparedness/laopdr19>

Working Group (NLPWG)'s Terms of Reference (TOR) to NLPWG partners. Both documents were subsequently endorsed by the partners in March 2021, paving the way for further humanitarian logistics preparedness capacity enhancement in country.

To ensure regular communication and coordination between the NLPWG members, focal points of different partner organisations have been nominated, and a contact list of NLPWG was subsequently created.

- On 10 February 2021, the World Food Programme (WFP) Laos was requested by MoLSW to continue supporting the Government on the implementation the logistics preparedness action plan, targeting both national- and local-level actors. As a consequence, the Preparedness Officer supported WFP in developing an operational plan and will continuously facilitate and coordinate with the government counterparts, WFP and other NLPWG partners on the operationalisation of this plan. Planned activities for 2021 include standardising logistics preparedness capacity building at national and provincial levels, mapping pre-positioned stocks of relief items and developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for management of donated items, facilitating the conduct of workshops to discuss procedures for the importation of relief items, information sharing and management through website update and NLPWG regular meetings, and warehouse management capacity strengthening at district levels.

Information management

- The quarterly update and infographic for October-December 2020 were published on the [Lao PDR Preparedness webpage](#).

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