

Highlights

- The Preparedness Officer supported the WFP Philippines on renewal of the memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) which will now include logistics preparedness capacity building of national emergency responders. The Preparedness Officer also provided his input to a draft National Logistics Cluster Operational Manual shared by the Office of Civil Defense in February 2021.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Philippines was identified as one of 24 country candidates for the Global Logistics Cluster's 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 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 and should the Government of the Philippines request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

In October 2019, a Field Preparedness Officer was recruited 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 2020, the Philippines experienced several disasters, including typhoons and the Taal Volcano eruption, reaffirming the need for coordinated logistics preparedness actions.

Coordination

- The National Preparedness Officer supported the World Food Programme (WFP) Philippines in renewing its Cooperation Framework Agreement with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), the umbrella organisation of the private sector for disaster risk reduction and management. The renewed agreement will now include joint disaster preparedness and response activities involving the various clusters both Parties represent as well as exchange of information, trainings, and experience. It is expected that this agreement will be of great benefit to the logistics preparedness capacity strengthening of national emergency responders.
- The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) re-distributed the National Logistics Cluster's draft Operational Manual to cluster partners in February 2021 prior to its being presented to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) for approval and subsequent implementation. The Preparedness Officer received and provided comments to the manual. The manual is part of the logistics preparedness and response guidance documents for the National Logistic Cluster.

- Humanitarian Logistics Management training has been planned in partnership with the International Federation for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), HELP Logistics, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and OCD. Due to a series of typhoons that hit the country in November 2020 and the government restrictions on face-to-face meetings as a result of the steady rise in COVID-19 cases, new training dates have now been proposed for 10-21 May, and the training approach has been revised to an online modality. The training will now be spread over two weeks of half-day sessions. The Preparedness Officer will participate as facilitator for several logistics aspects, including the conduct of simulation exercise.
- The Preparedness Officer participated in NDRRMC's Disaster Preparedness Pillar meetings in February and March 2021 representing the Logistics Sector and contributing from humanitarian logistics preparedness perspective. The Disaster Preparedness Action Guide in time of Pandemic and the proposed National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training Institute organisational structure and staffing pattern were also presented and discussed in these meetings.
- Due to a soaring number of COVID-19 cases and subsequent community quarantine status being imposed by the Government, meetings and activities planned with partners, including the quarterly National Logistics Cluster meeting initially proposed in December 2020 remain postponed until further notice.

Information management

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

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