

Highlights

- The Preparedness Officer continued advocating for and supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) in the implementation of the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan. A logistics implementation plan has been developed with MoLSW and the World Food Programme (WFP) in accordance with the NLPAP and WFP 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

- Following the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW)'s official request for the World Food Programme (WFP) to support the implementation of the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan, WFP has developed a Disaster Risk Reduction programme, funded by the USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), to support the Government of Laos' humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness capacity strengthening. In this quarter, the Preparedness Officer has continued **working with MoLSW focal point to update the logistics implementation plan based on the Action Plan and the DRR programme**. One of the major updates is to add the development of a National Emergency Preparedness/Logistics strategy in the implementation plan. The logistics implementation plan has received verbal agreement from the management of the Social Welfare Department to go ahead.

- The Preparedness Officer continued supporting MoLSW in preparing the concept note and budget for **district-level warehouse management training to take place in various provinces** in the coming months.
- Due to a series of extended lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings and activities related to the Preparedness Project have been progressing only slowly in this period.

Information management

- The quarterly update and infographic for January-March 2021 were published on the [Lao PDR Preparedness webpage](#).

Contacts

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