



Highlights

- In August, the preparedness team participated in an internal WFP training on the Relief Items Tracking Application (RITA) conducted from 23 to 27 August.
- On behalf of WFP Health, the preparedness partners participated to the online United Nations 76th General Assembly “Preparing for the next pandemic: Lessons on strengthening health systems and supply chains” event, sponsored by Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited and held on 14 September.
- In order to further support the Ministry of Health in its COVID-19 pandemic mitigation efforts, the WFP preparedness team signed in September a contract with Tentpeg Engineering Solutions and Chariton Contractors for the construction of container labs in Karonga, Chitipa, Mulanje, and Mchinji border posts.
- Through the National Logistics Cluster, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, presided over the site handover ceremony to the Ministry of Health following the container lab site construction at the Dedza Point of Entry.
- In July, through the National Logistics Cluster, WFP supported the Government COVID-19 response with the transportation of oxygen cylinders to various health centres across the country.



Background

Malawi is a landlocked country in southern Africa where rural populations are highly affected by climate change with episodes of drought and severe flooding increasing in frequency, intensity, and unpredictability.

In March 2019, the country’s southern region was exposed to heavy rainfall before and following the Category 3 Cyclone Idai, causing extensive damage to its logistics infrastructure. The subsequent emergency response resulted in the activation of the Logistics Sector on 27 March 2019, led by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW) and supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian stakeholders in Malawi. The Logistics Sector response, based on a preliminary logistics gaps analysis and partner needs assessments, sought to support the humanitarian community in its efforts to deliver lifesaving items to the affected area.

When the Logistics Sector operations came to a close in May 2019, the Global Logistics Cluster introduced the Field-Based Preparedness Project to the National Logistics Cluster which subsequently endorsed it. The project’s aims to foster coordination of the various humanitarian stakeholders and government-led transport, logistics, and telecommunications operations to better prepare Malawi for future disasters by identifying and addressing logistics gaps ahead of time.

<https://logcluster.org/preparedness/mwi19>



Information Management

Through the National Logistics Cluster, WFP supported with the chairing of the National Logistics Cluster meetings and sharing information on latest updates on COVID 19 and the Lean Season Response

Challenges

- Due to COVID-19, multiple humanitarian partners are heavily engaged in the response, thereby impacting the targets set in the Preparedness Action Plan.
- There is usually limited participation in the Preparedness meetings due to the remote working modalities.

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