Highlights

- The Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) continuously supported and advocated for the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)’s coordinating role in emergency preparedness and response. In July, NCDM held its first regular quarterly coordination meeting with Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF) and other humanitarian actors to establish and strengthen regular coordination and information sharing in anticipation of the upcoming flood season.

- In September, the second Provincial Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshop was conducted in the Eastern region of Cambodia with 28 participants from provincial administrations and the Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDM). The workshop aimed at enhancing understanding on humanitarian logistics preparedness and its relevance to the development and operationalisation of provincial contingency plans.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Cambodia 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 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 and should the Government of Cambodia request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

https://logcluster.org/preparedness/cambodia
In March 2020, a Preparedness Expert was deployed to Cambodia to commence the process of mapping national logistics capacities and identifying existing national disaster management structures and frameworks. She has worked with national responders to augment information sharing and exchange and provided technical support and guidance towards establishing a coordinated and localised approach to humanitarian logistics preparedness activities.

Cambodia is exposed to yearly recurrent floods that place rural population and their agriculture-based livelihoods in significant risk. In October 2020, Cambodia experienced severe flooding as a result of multiple tropical storms in the South China Sea, affecting 800,000 persons over 19 provinces. With key infrastructure damaged and multiple donations received, the importance of the National Committee for Disaster Management’s coordinating role, to secure rescue and delivery of relief items in the government assistance efforts to the provinces affected, was manifested.

Cambodia is further exposed to extreme weather events triggered by El-Niño causing severe drought. The hottest year recorded in 2016 triggered drought that was described by Prime Minister Hun Sen as the “worst natural disaster occurring in Cambodia in 100 years”.

**Coordination**

- The EPR Officer has supported through WFP as co-chair and secretariat of the HRF the **advocacy for regular coordination meetings between NCDM, HRF, and JAG (Joint Action Group for Disaster Risk Reduction)**. In July, NCDM held its first regular quarterly coordination meeting with HRF, Cambodian Red Cross (CRC), JAG and Cambodia Humanitarian Forum (CHF)/Preparedness Partnership Cambodia (PPC). The meeting was focused on establishing and strengthening regular coordination and information sharing on stakeholders’ activities and work plans for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency preparedness and response (EPR) for the upcoming flood season.

- Between 27-28 September, the second Provincial Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshop was held in Koh Kong province by NCDM with support from WFP and the Project. The workshop was attended by 28 participants representing provincial government agencies and PCDMs in seven Eastern provinces, NGOs and UN agencies. Through this workshop, the participants were able to enhance their understanding of humanitarian logistics preparedness and its relevance to the development and operationalisation of provincial contingency plans. An initial humanitarian logistics preparedness action plan was collectively identified by the participants, and a Provincial Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Network was also established to support the coordination and roll-out of the action plan.

- Discussion on the potential formation of a dedicated logistics preparedness working group within HRF was revived in August following the demand raised during and after the 2020 flood response. However, due to the lack of logistics/supply chain expertise within HRF secretariat and among its members, the setup for a stand-alone logistics working group was declined by HRF co-chairs. Logistics-related elements will be reconsidered for integration into the broader HRF framework after the HRF review that is being proceeded by UNRCO and OCHA.
To prepare for the upcoming flood season, the EPR Officer continued providing support to NCDM technical group in reviewing the national and sub-national contingency plans in all 25 provinces.

**Information management**

- The quarterly update and infographic for April - June 2021 were published on the [Cambodia Preparedness webpage](https://logcluster.org/preparedness/cambodia).

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