

Highlights

- The planning of the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) quarterly meeting led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) is under progress. The purposes of the meeting are to update the Logistics Action Plan activities and overall work plan for next implementation as well as open for NLPWG members to provide updates on their logistics activities. On 21 September 2021, a meeting was held between MoLSW and the Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) to discuss the draft agenda.
- The Preparedness Officer supported MoLSW in the planning of district-level warehouse management trainings. In August, the Preparedness Officer attended the training held and led by MoLSW in Bolikhamxay province. Other trainings planned for Luangnamtha, Saravanh, Savannakhet and Xayabury in September have been postponed until further notice due to Covid-19 situation.

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

- FBPP supported MoLSW in their ongoing preparation for NLPWG quarterly meeting, tentatively scheduled for 27 October 2021. The meeting aims to update partners on the National Logistics Action Plan activities and overall work plan for next implementation, while providing a platform for NLPWG members to share

information on their logistics activities. On 21 September 2021, FBPP discussed with MoLSW the draft meeting agenda.

- The Lao version of the draft Unsolicited Bilateral Donation (UBD) Guideline is still awaiting feedback from the Social Welfare Department. Due to a change in the department's senior management position, there has been limited progress on the draft. The Preparedness Officer has advocated for this topic to be included in the WFP's Disaster Risk Reduction Programme support to MoLSW.
- The Preparedness Officer supported MoLSW in the planning of district-level Warehouse Management Trainings. In August, the Preparedness Officer attended the training held and led by MoLSW in Bolikhamxay province. Due to a strict lockdown following the surge in Covid-19 cases, MoLSW has decided to postpone the district-level warehouse management trainings in Xayabury, Savannakhet, Saravanh, and Luangnamtha initially scheduled for September until further notice. In September, the template of warehouse data collection was also shared with MoLSW for their further review.

Information management

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

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