Highlights

- The Preparedness Officer provided continuous support to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Ministry of Social Services and Development (BARMM-MSSD) in planning humanitarian logistics capacity development activities for its regional staff members.

- In October, the Preparedness Officer co-facilitated the Humanitarian Supply Chain Management Training for BARMM in Cotabato City with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) National Office and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). During the training, a scoping mission for BARMM MSSD was also conducted to facilitate planning of BARMM MSSD logistics capacity strengthening activities further.

- In December, the Preparedness Officer participated in a bilateral planning meeting led by BARMM-MSSD to discuss potential joint project/activities for 2022 including the possibility of creating BARMM Logistics Technical Working Group to strengthen BARMM Logistics Capacity.

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

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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 needs from partners.

In 2020-2021, the Philippines experienced several disasters, including the Taal Volcano eruption since 2020 and the Typhoon Odette in 2021, reaffirming the need for coordinated logistics preparedness actions.

**Coordination**

- On 25 – 29 October, DSWD, OCD and the Preparedness Officer jointly facilitated the Humanitarian Supply Chain Management Training for BARMM in Cotabato City targeting MSSR regional offices and other selected BARMM agencies involved in the disaster response. The Preparedness Officer also conducted a scoping mission for BARMM MSSD during the training, leading to a series of the logistics capacity strengthening activities planned with the BARMM MSSD.

- In December, the Preparedness Officer organised a bilateral planning meeting with BARMM MSSD leadership to explore potential joint project/activities in 2022 including creation of the BARMM Logistics Technical Working Group to strengthen BARMM logistics capacities.

- In December, the Preparedness Officer participated in a consultative bilateral meeting with the Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) to explore potential collaboration in 2022. PDRF will draft a concept note on joint government and private sector activities to pilot the recent Philippines International Humanitarian Assistance Cluster (PIHAC) guidelines in addressing a large-scale disaster, with a focus of the international humanitarian cargo via seaport.

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all of the Preparedness Project activities planned with the government agencies such as with the DSWD and OCD are either put on-hold or slow in progress. The government agencies continue to prioritise the COVID-19 response activities including completion of the vaccine roll-out in the COVID-19 prone areas of the country.

**Information management**

- In December, the OCD leadership have suggested to use the existing website of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the existing Viber groups as dedicated humanitarian logistics preparedness information platforms. This will be further discussed in the next regular National Logistics Cluster meeting.

- The Quarterly and Infographics updates for July - September 2021 have been published and are now available on the [Philippines Preparedness webpage](https://logcluster.org/preparedness/phl21).
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