Highlights

- Several meetings to discuss logistics support and preparedness activities were conducted with national stakeholders including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) National Office, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), the Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), HELP Logistics, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the Ministry of Social Services and Development (BARRM MSSD).

- In March, the Preparedness Officer presented an adjusted Field-Based Preparedness Project workplan to OCD to align key achievable preparedness activities with the National Logistics Cluster’s workplan in 2022.

- From January to March 2022, the Preparedness Officer has provided continuous logistics coordination and support to the National Logistics Cluster and WFP Country Office in the Philippines to keep the communication line open for any relevant Field-Based Preparedness Project plans and discussions and to strengthen partnerships with relevant national stakeholders.

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 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.

In March 2022, an active Taal Volcano started to emerge with an alert level 3, according to the Department of Science and Technology, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). The Preparedness Officer is closely monitoring the situation for any logistics emergency preparedness support to the Government.
Coordination

- In February, the Preparedness officer participated in reviewing the National Logistics Cluster Operational Plan and recommending potential preparedness activities under the logistics capacity strengthening objective to align with the National Operation Plan in its upcoming second phase. As a result of the review, the Preparedness officer proposed to establish an adjusted Field-Based Preparedness Project work plan to align with the implementation of the National Logistics Cluster Operational Manual and to be agreed upon by the national counterparts.

- On 31 March, the Preparedness Officer presented an adjusted project workplan to DSWD and OCD. The key objective was to ensure that the momentum and commitment of the Field-Based Preparedness Project activities stay relevant to the national priorities including the National Logistics Cluster workplan in 2022 and are achievable by the national stakeholders. A follow-up discussion will be arranged with DSWD and OCD in April 2022.

- While the overall logistics operations for the Typhoon Odette in the Philippines have gradually shifted from the response to a recovery phase, an active Taal Volcano started to erupt again in March. The Preparedness Officer has been working in support to the national counterparts to closely monitor the situation for any potential logistics preparedness and response support. As a result, most of the Preparedness Project activities planned with the government agencies are still put on-hold or slow in progress.

Information management

- In March, as suggested by OCD the adjusted project workplan outlined the potential integration of the GLC Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) database for the Philippines into the existing National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) website. The website currently serves as the official national disaster information sharing platform. More details are to be further explored with OCD.

- The quarterly report and infographics updates of FBPP activities between October-December 2021 have been published and are now available on the Philippines Preparedness webpage.

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