Highlights

- The National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) Inception Workshop, led by the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF) with support of the Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP), was organised in August 2021. The key objectives of the workshop were to establish the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group and conduct national logistics stakeholder mapping and contextual analysis to understand the country’s logistics capacity and agencies involved in the emergency preparedness and response.

- Led by MOAF and DDM, the second NLPWG workshop was followed in October 2021 to conduct a preparedness capacity gaps analysis in humanitarian supply chain and logistics in Bhutan, establish a joint action plan with pre-identified roles, ownership, and agencies’ involvement across various proposed actions based on the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the NLPWG.

- In October 2021, the jointly developed National Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Working Group 5-Year Action Plan has been endorsed to improve logistics information management, coordination, and strengthen capacity and readiness for effective and efficient humanitarian response. In the same month, with support of the FBPP, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) officials also participated in a Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) exercise, led by the WFP Country office, to learn how baseline logistics data has been conducted and collected.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2021 Bhutan 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 national actors as they strengthen their capacity to autonomously prepare for and respond

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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 Royal Government of Bhutan request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

In view of its geologically vulnerable location in the eastern Himalayas, and because of climate change impacts, Bhutan is prone to natural disasters with earthquakes being the biggest threat to reverse Bhutan’s progress to date. Earthquake remains a major threat within the Himalayan region. The 2015 earthquake in Nepal has led to heightened awareness on disaster preparedness among the RGoB officials. Considering that Bhutan is a landlocked country, Logistics and Supply Chain have been traditionally a challenge for both government and business sector. Recent studies have indicated that Logistics and Supply Chain constitutes more than 70% of the response cost, thus strengthening the Logistics and Supply Chain capacity of the government becomes of paramount importance in the Disaster Risk Management Agenda of the RGoB.

From March to December 2021, a Preparedness Expert commenced the process of mapping Bhutan national logistics capacities and stakeholders. He worked with national counterparts, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF) in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) to augment information exchange, coordinated and assisted in the organisation of national logistics stakeholder mapping and contextual SWOT Analysis to define key priorities and agenda to enhance the overall logistics preparedness in Bhutan. A follow-up workshop was held in October 2021 to continue the discussions on identified gaps and challenges in humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness, and other capacity strengthening initiatives based on identified stakeholder needs.

**Coordination**

- **Between 3-4 August 2021, DDM and MOAF conducted the NLPWG Inception Workshop, with support from the FBPP. The workshop aimed at introducing the approaches and government policies in disaster management, informing on recent global development in logistics preparedness and its relevance to the context of Bhutan, and fostering collaboration and information sharing among NLPWG members. 25 participants actively engaged in discussions around humanitarian supply chain and logistics system readiness and logistics capacity needs mapping. The workshop was concluded by the finalisation and endorsement of the NLPWG’s Terms of Reference and its Capacity Outcome Statement for logistics preparedness activities in Bhutan.**

- **The second NLPWG workshop was followed on 18-19 October 2021 to engage more members of the NLPWG beyond the existing government agencies in conducting preparedness capacity gaps analysis in humanitarian supply chain and logistics and jointly developing the National Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Action Plan. 28 participants from UN agencies, Bhutan Red Cross, international and national NGOs, and local Civil Society Organisations who provide technical assistance to the various government agencies in Disaster Management, were actively involved in the discussions.**

- **As a result of logistics capacity analyses from the inception workshop in August 2021 and the second NLPWG workshop in October 2021, the National Humanitarian Supply Chain & Logistics Preparedness Working Group 5-Year Action Plan has been jointly developed and endorsed to advocate for and guide logistics preparedness.**

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activities. The Action Plan identifies solutions to address the logistics capacity gaps, with specific roles and timeframes for relevant agencies and stakeholders to improve logistics information management, coordination, and strengthen capacity and readiness for effective and efficient humanitarian response.

- With support of the FBPP and coordination with WFP country office, the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) officials participated in a WFP-led Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) update, to strengthen capacity in the conduct of baseline data collection in logistics preparedness and response, and how to use similar format to design the LCA at a sub-regional level. This LCA exercise was not only practical, but also useful and relevant to the national logistics preparedness 5-year Action Plan in Bhutan.

**Information management**

- The [Bhutan Preparedness webpage](https://logcluster.org/preparedness/bhutan) was launched in June 2022. All key Field-Based Preparedness Project documents and related updates have been published to the page.

**Contacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temmy Tanubrata</td>
<td>Supply Chain Consultant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:temmy.tanubrata@wfp.org">temmy.tanubrata@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tashi Lhundup</td>
<td>Supply Chain Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tashi.lhundup@wfp.org">tashi.lhundup@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tsheten</td>
<td>Head of Disaster Management Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tsheten@moaf.gov.bt">tsheten@moaf.gov.bt</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project email</td>
<td>Field Based Preparedness Project</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hq.glc.preparedness@wfp.org">hq.glc.preparedness@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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