Highlights

- The National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) quarterly meeting, led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW), was organised on 3 November 2021. The purposes were to update the Logistics Action Plan activities and overall work plan for the coming period as well as open for NLPWG members to share updates on their logistics activities and discuss logistics coordination and challenges.

- Three district-level warehouse management trainings were conducted by MoLSW from December 2021 to February 2022 with support and coordination from the Preparedness Officer, in Salavane, Savannakhet, and Sayaboury provinces. The key objective was to enhance emergency preparedness response through strengthening the capacity of the district-level staff, in 44 disaster-prone districts from nine provinces across the country, on warehouse management.

- In March, consultation between the Government focal point from the Department of Social Welfare, MoLSW and FBPP took place to plan and follow up on the logistic preparedness priorities in 2022.

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

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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 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.

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. In addition, as a result of workshops conducted between 2019-2020, a draft National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan was also put forward for further endorsement by humanitarian partners.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, follow-up meetings and discussions still continued in 2021 on the formalisation of the NLPWG membership focal points, the finalisation of the Logistics Preparedness Action Plan for endorsement by the NLPWG members, and other relevant FBPP activities such as planning for district-level Warehouse Trainings with MoLSW.

**Coordination**

- FBPP supported MoLSW in organising the NLPWG quarterly meeting on 3 November 2021. The meeting aimed to update partners on the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan activities and overall work plan for future implementation, while also serving as a platform for NLPWG members to share their logistics activities and challenges. The meeting, which was chaired by the Deputy Director of DSW, saw 16 participants from 7 organisations including government officials from MoLSW, representatives from WFP, WHO, World Vision International, Plan International, CARE and Lao Red Cross. There were 47 actions across warehouse capacity, relief items management, coordination and information management have been identified in the Action Plan. Of which, eight actions have been completed such as several trainings on warehouse management, MSU prepositioning and assembly, mapping of relief items, creation of logistics preparedness working group etc., eleven actions are in progress, and 28 are to start.

- Between December 2021-February 2022, three district-level warehouse management trainings were conducted by MoLSW. The trainings’ objectives were to i) enhance skills and knowledge of district-level staff on the basic practices in warehouse management and disaster response distributions, with practical skills development, and ii) to strengthen the logistics preparedness capacity of 44 disaster prone districts from nine provinces across the country. Over the course of three training sessions, there

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Six-Month Report, October 2021- March 2022

Lao PDR Preparedness

were a total of 59 participants. Pre- and post-tests were conducted as part of the trainings with 44 % of the participants passed the pre-test, and 100% passed the post-test.

- Coordination meeting and preparation with MoLSW to continue discussions on logistics preparedness priorities in 2022. The priorities were planned to further share with the Government for review and endorsement. Agreed actions and selected priorities will help determine and set ground for the logistics related capacity strengthening activity development in 2022.

Information management

- The quarterly update and infographic for July - September 2021 were published on the Lao PDR Preparedness webpage.

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