Highlights

- Between April and June, the Preparedness Officer conducted series of planning meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF), the lead agency of the Logistics Desk with the support of the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), to prepare for a third National Humanitarian Supply Chain & Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) workshop scheduled in July 2022.

- The Preparedness Officer supported MOAF and DDM to draft a Terms of Reference (TOR) for a third National Logistics Preparedness Working Group workshop planned for July 2022. The workshop will provide a forum for identification of needs to further develop the National Logistics Preparedness Information Portal and for discussion on the action plan implementation and the Supply Chain Capacity Building package.

- The Bhutan Preparedness Webpage was launched on the Logistics Cluster webpage in June to serve as a provisional platform for sharing information and relevant resources on national logistics preparedness activities in Bhutan.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2021 Bhutan was identified as one of the 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 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.

In 2022, key priorities are the advocacy for, and provision of technical support to, the implementation of the NLPWG action plan by national stakeholders. The aim is to ensure sustainability of humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness in Bhutan at both national and sub-national levels.

**Coordination**

- Between April and June, several consultations were held with MOAF and DDM to prioritise key activities for 2022 and to prepare for the third National Humanitarian Supply Chain & Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) workshop, tentatively scheduled in July 2022. The discussions were on finalisation of the workshop’s draft TOR, agreement on agenda and workshop activities. The overarching objectives are to improve and streamline national and sub-national logistics coordination and information management, and strengthen capacity and readiness for effective and efficient joint humanitarian response.

- The Preparedness Officer supported MOAF, in coordination with DDM, to draft a TOR for the third National Logistics Preparedness Working Group workshop scheduled on 20-21 July 2022. The workshop will consist of learning needs assessment to determine core areas for capacity strengthening interventions among the working group members as well as the identification and validation of relevant contents, technical specifications, etc., for development of the future National Logistics Preparedness Information Portal. Further, the workshop will discuss progress of the action plan implementation among the working group members and conduct prioritisation exercise for medium- and long-term activities.

https://logcluster.org/preparedness/bhutan
Information management

- The Bhutan Preparedness webpage, with support of the FBPP, was launched on the Logistics Cluster website in June 2022 to serve as a provisional platform for information sharing and relevant resources on national logistics preparedness activities. The 2021 report and infographic on the FBPP implementation in Bhutan have been published on the webpage.

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