Highlights

- A series of planning meetings were conducted between April and June with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the lead agency of the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG), to discuss logistics preparedness priorities in 2022.

- A warehouse management training was organised on 11-13 May 2022 by MoLSW for district-level government officials from Bolikhamxay, Luangnamtha, Xayabury, Savannakhet, and Salavan provinces. The key objective was to strengthen capacity of district-level staff on warehouse management and emergency response distribution process.

- In May and June, MoLSW, with support from the World Food Programme (WFP) Laos and the Field Based Preparedness Project, prepared for provincial warehouse monitoring visits, including onsite refresher trainings for government officials in eight provinces with MoLSW warehouses. The missions aim at assessing how and to what extent the knowledge and skills learned from the previous warehouse management trainings have been put into practice and how this can be enhanced.

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 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 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.

In 2022, MoLSW will continue capacity strengthening activities for emergency logistics preparedness and response as outlined in the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan. As part of the project transition, the FBPP will advocate for and support, where and when required, the implementation of these activities.

**Coordination**

- On 1 April and 2 June, meetings were held with the MoLSW focal point to discuss logistics preparedness priorities in 2022. Key documents including a list of logistics preparedness priorities and a warehouse mapping form were shared with the Government for review and endorsement, along with the logistics preparedness action plan as a reference. The agreed priorities will help determine the development of in-country logistics related capacity strengthening activities in 2022.

- On 11-13 May 2022, MoLSW organised a warehouse management training for district-level government officials in five provinces: Bolikhamsay, Luangnamtha, Xayabury, Savannakhet, and Salavan. The three-day training aimed at enhancing the district-level staff’s capacity on standard practices and practical skills in warehouse management and disaster response distributions. Pre- and post-tests were conducted as part of the training, with only 44 percent of the participants passing the pre-test and 100 percent of the participants passing the post-test.

- Between May and June, MoLSW led coordination meetings and preparation for cross-country provincial warehouse monitoring mission, which will include onsite refresher training for the government officials. Dates have been identified for July and August 2022 to monitor the Government’s warehouses in eight provinces: Xayabouly, Luangprabang, Oudomxay, Bolikhamsay, Savannakhet, Champasack, Attapeu, and Sekong Provinces. The mission will evaluate the extent to

[https://logcluster.org/preparedness/laopdr19](https://logcluster.org/preparedness/laopdr19)
which and how the knowledge and practical skills learned from previous warehouse management trainings have been put into practice, and how this can be enhanced further. It is anticipated that at least 32 government staff at provincial level will participate in the refresher training.

Information management

- The six-month report for the period between October 2021 and March 2022 has been published on the Lao PDR Preparedness webpage.

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