Highlights

- Led by the Lao PDR’s Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW), with support of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Global Logistics Cluster’s Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP), a series of the warehouse monitoring visits and onsite warehouse management refresher trainings were conducted in July and August for provincial-level government staff in northern, central and southern provinces of Lao PDR to ensure good warehouse management practices across MoLSW facilities.

- In September, MoLSW provided a warehouse management training to NLPWG members including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Home Affairs, UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations of Laos. The training aimed at enhancing capacity of the NLPWG members to manage their own warehouses and relief items.

- The Preparedness Officer represented the FBPP in a joint planning meeting between MoLSW and WFP on an 18-month programme cooperation with the Government of Laos, including consultation on national humanitarian logistics preparedness priorities. Follow-up meetings will be undertaken to discuss in more details the logistics preparedness activities and next steps.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Laos 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 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

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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 assisted 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

- Between July and August, MoLSW carried out a series of warehouse monitoring and onsite warehouse management refresher trainings for provincial-level staff of the Social Welfare Department in northern provinces, including Sayaboury, Luangprabang and Oudomxay, and in central and southern provinces, including Champasack, Attapeu, Sekong, Savannkhet and Bolikhamsay. The activities sought to ensure that the knowledge and skills gained from previous warehouse management trainings remain relevant and practiced in daily operations.

- On 9 September 2022, the Preparedness Officer took part in a joint planning meeting between MoLSW and WFP to discuss an 18-month programme cooperation with the Government of Laos. Two key logistics preparedness activities were identified by MoLSW to further look into, including i) warehouse management training to more districts across the country, and ii) development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for importation and custom clearance of relief items. More detailed consultations will be undertaken with the national counterpart in October.

- On 14-15 September 2022, MoLSW provided a warehouse management training to the NLPWG members including the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), the Ministry of Home Affair, UN agencies, and international non-governmental organisations in Laos. The training aimed
at strengthening the capacity of the NLPWG members in managing their own warehouses, comprising such skills as identification of suitable location for long-term storage of food and non-food items, calculation of warehouse capacity and volume of items, safety and pest control, and filling warehouse management related documents such as goods received note, stack card, stock card, goods release note, etc.

**Information management**

- The quarterly report and infographic for the period between April and June 2022 have been published on the [Lao PDR Preparedness webpage](https://logcluster.org/preparedness/laopdr19).

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