Highlights

- National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) Flooding and Landslide meeting after 28 August flooding and landslide held on 29 August 2022
- Import Clearance Working Group Meeting with the National Revenue Authority held on 30 August 2022
- National Logistics Pillar Meeting held on 29 September 2022

Figure 1. Humanitarian actors attending the 28 August flooding and landslide disaster management meeting at the NDMA Headquarter in Freetown

Figure 2. Import Clearance Working Group meeting the National Revenue Authority Deputy Commissioner General’s Office

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Background

The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) was established in November 2020 through the National Disaster Management Act 2020. The NDMA is the Government lead agency for the Field Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) working together with World Food Programme (WFP).

A warehouse of relief items donated from the 2017 mudslide response activities was transferred to NDMA for administration, along with items stored in three shipping containers at Joint Logistics Unit from the Susan’s Bay fire response in March 2021. With the priority being to support the community for the flood and storm season (June – October), the NDMA requested the FBPP to include logistics capacity strengthening activities in the early phase of the project, to enhance its ability to account, warehouse and supply the stockpiled donations to affected households.

Following the recruitment of regional coordinators, the NDMA has further recruited support personnel in the regional offices to carry out the operational activities within these regions. Replica structures to what is already existing at the headquarter in Freetown are being set up at regional level. The recruited regional coordinators are tasked with the responsibility of reaching to community stakeholders and forming partnerships that to tackle disaster related issues within these regions.
Coordination

The FBPP increased the effectiveness of humanitarian action across the humanitarian logistics functional area. It is within this scope of operations that the FBPP is bringing together INGOs and the UN agencies to work together through the National Logistics Pillar Meetings, working group meetings and the joint activities held during the quarter.

Information Management

The FBPP is supporting the NDMA to map all the logistics information including roads and assets to the geographical information system platform. This information is key to response activities especially in the districts where there is limited internet connectivity and less coordination with national counterparts. Additional partners have been added to the contact list and the WhatsApp group through engagement efforts to improve future coordination. Reporting products including meeting minutes, activity reporting, and quarterly updates were added to the project Webpage.

Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

As part of decentralizing activities to the districts, the FBPP is supporting the NDMA to organize capacity strengthening workshops in Bo and Makeni. The sessions will cover topics on coordination and warehouse management. These workshops will be in the same format as the workshop held in June with participants from first line responders including government and Red Cross. This will enhance background in humanitarian preparedness and response activities and improve organizational development and experience in coordination and advocacy.

Challenges & Next Steps

- Coordination of INGOs and UN agencies is ongoing and bilateral visits to strengthen partnerships will continue.
- NDMA is working on stockpiling the installed mobile storage units in Bo, Makeni and Kenema.
- Assessment of the NDMA Port Loko facility is planned to ascertain the extent of reported damage to the twelve (12) mobile storage units.
- Warehouse Management Workshops will be replicated in Bo and Makeni during the next quarter.
- Internet connectivity is a major challenge for the NDMA Regional Officers and this is affecting coordination through decreased engagement in pillar meetings and working group meetings.
- Project transition activities and meetings will be conducted during the next quarter.

Contacts

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