LET Overview

The Logistics Emergency Team (LET) is comprised of four of the largest global logistics and transportation companies: UPS, A.P. Moller – Maersk (Maersk), Agility and DP World, which work together to support the Logistics Cluster, which is led by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The LET partnership was facilitated by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2005, in order to allow and to promote humanitarian-private sector partnerships.

Further details on the Logistics Emergency Team are available on the dedicated webpage in the Logistics Cluster website.

LET in the Global Logistics Cluster Strategy 2022-2026

The Logistics Cluster is part of the humanitarian cluster system and provides coordination, information management, and—where necessary—access to common logistics services that ensure efficient humanitarian response in emergencies. The Logistics Cluster enables global, regional and local actors to meet humanitarian needs.

In 2022, the Logistics Cluster cooperated with and supported more than 400 humanitarian partners and stakeholders, including national and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, foundations, civil society organizations, and government agencies across 32 country-level operations.

A new high-level strategy for the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) until 2026 was launched at the beginning of 2022, in the COVID-19 pandemic context that forced the world to confront supply chain fragility. Indeed, containment measures and national lockdowns experienced between 2020 and 2022 created unprecedented disruption across global supply systems, shortage of essential goods, transport bottlenecks and skyrocketing freight costs.

The strategy is built on the same vision and mission that has sustained the Logistics Cluster operations and partnership with the LET for the last eighteen years, aiming to develop and solidify the Logistics Cluster network of partners and other stakeholders and enhance the inclusivity of existing mechanisms, especially at a local level.

LET companies supply pro bono assets and services, deploying logistics experts to join the Logistics Cluster's staff for disaster response operations. The team also improves emergency preparedness by conducting Logistics Capacity Assessments, sharing expertise through trainings, and by updating tools for logisticians working in high-risk countries.

The ultimate aim is that common challenges and opportunities in humanitarian logistics are identified and collectively addressed or leveraged, including through advocacy on behalf of partners when possible and relevant.
The GLC 2022-2026 strategy covers four areas that align with the work of the Logistics Emergency Team:

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<th>Partnership Base</th>
<th>Standards &amp; Policy</th>
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<td>The long-standing private sector partners of the GLC, with one of the most successful World Economic Forum convened public-private partnerships.</td>
<td>Support to the development of tools that support standards, policy and operations.</td>
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<th>Strengthening Response Capacity</th>
<th>Operational Support</th>
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<td>Support to the capacity building work of the Cluster both in individual training and in the institutional capacity strengthening and preparedness work.</td>
<td>The key private sector partners of the GLC, on standby to support operational response when and where needed.</td>
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Maersk’s fleet of 700 ships and integrated landside logistics network provides the global scale and capacity needed by the Logistics Emergency Team for humanitarian aid response worldwide.
Ukraine relief response support in 2022

- The Logistics Emergency Team was activated in early March 2022 to support the Logistics Cluster in Ukraine, which is responsible for coordination for hundreds of humanitarian actors trying to get supplies into Ukraine from Poland and other surrounding countries.

- Among the ripple effects of the conflict in Ukraine, there has been a global inflation of commodity prices, which has come on top of the effects of the Covid-19 global health crisis.

During the first months of the crisis, LET partners and the Logistics Cluster collaborated closely to stand up humanitarian supply chains through multiple border countries in order to speed the transport and delivery of humanitarian relief for Ukraine.

LET partners also provided warehouse space and staging areas for land transport trucks to Logistics Cluster partners.

UPS Europe established a Customs Help Desk, assisted with translating Ukrainian government requirements and shipping paperwork and provided logistical support to those needed to get items to the countries.

DP World also established a rail link out of Ukraine to DP World Constanta port in Romania to alleviate pressure on lorry drivers leaving the country including five trains a week, in both directions, each carrying 50 containers the trains taking a maximum of 36 hours travelling between Dornesti and Constanta.

The LET coordinated with many agencies operating on the ground, providing customs clearance, warehousing, and coordination of transportation movements. The role of the LET has been key for standing up a humanitarian supply chain along the Poland-Ukraine border.

UPS provided over US$ 2 million in transportation support of relief materials needed to aid Ukrainian refugees across European countries.
Disaster Preparedness

- Since 2020, the LET has provided pro bono support to develop a humanitarian air capacity planning and support dashboard and operational planning tool named “Emergency Dashboard Utility for Airfreight Resource & Delivery Options” (EDUARDO).

- EDUARDO enables humanitarian response planners to identify available air cargo space for humanitarian operations. It combines multiple data sources (data source creation, external, data processing, and dashboard interface) to reduce the time it takes to plan the logistics behind an emergency response. It improves partners visibility of available air transit capacities and constraints in key origin and destination airports.

- In 2022, the Logistics Cluster updated EDUARDO’s operating system to better integrate with the other tools being used by their members. Additionally, the tool was updated to include European countries to help respond to the Ukraine crisis.

- The tool will evolve as more partners sign on to contribute transportation data and information. EDUARDO Humanitarian supply chain planners will be able to use the tool to simultaneously search flight schedules and apply different filters such as date/time, aircraft body/width, carriers and origin/destination countries to quickly identify available air transport capacity that can then be used to target searches for cargo availability for relief shipments.

- During the annual Global Logistics Cluster meeting held in June 2022, the data scientists who developed EDUARDO led a session bringing together professionals from the humanitarian, logistics and public sectors to discuss the role of data philanthropy, including systems and tools such as data lakes, EDUARDO and GLC logistics information exchange (log:ie).

- Additional sessions were dedicated to digitization, data sharing and data security. Panellists discussed how data philanthropy can align with the UN Data forum – Data Pulse on leveraging open-source data to address the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Next steps in the disaster preparedness sector include advancing and collaborating with other software, such as Global Supply Systems Dashboard (GSSD) under development by the World Economic Forum and the Ocean transport version of EDUARDO called ODEN, created by Maersk.

Mary Jelliti (GLC Deputy Coordinator), David Wu (UPS, Data scientist), and Rob Townley (Maersk, LET Chairman) speak to cluster members about the EDUARDO Dashboard.
The WREC Project seeks to reduce the adverse environmental consequences of humanitarian logistics through awareness on the sector’s environmental impact, practical guidance and expertise to measure and reduce its environmental impacts from waste and transport. WREC stands for Waste Management and Measuring, Reverse Logistics, Environmentally Sustainable Procurement and Transport, and Circular Economy.

The project is coordinated by the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) and supported by a coalition of humanitarian organizations, with inputs from all Logistics Cluster partners, other humanitarian clusters, the private sector and academic partners.

As part of this project, the Logistics Emergency Team was able to connect the GLC with their Human Resources and Environmental, Social, and Governance departments to provide insights to support WREC development.

The annual LET computerized disaster training for member organizations did not take place in 2022, but two Logistic Response training (LRT) events have been held, including mock disaster field role-playing.
- LET members participated in the training simulation that replicated real-life emergency scenarios to better understand their corporate work and how it those at the disaster relief scene daily.

- The UPS Foundation supported the GLC with funding to augment the virtual reality training environment and upgrade the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) digital platform. This support was aligned with priorities identified by the LET.

- The virtual reality training environment is intended to allow responders to experience new contexts and practice critical job skills in a realistic but controlled environment. For example, the existing airport visit module role plays the experience of a logistician visiting an airport post-disaster, assessing its capacity, and exploring other technical aspects. Only some logisticians have the opportunity to experience this first-hand, before working in an emergency situation. Therefore, virtual reality allows them to practice the skills and understand the crucial points to investigate and note so they are ready when needed.

- The Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCA) platform is a critical tool for humanitarian logisticians, visited on average 20,000 times per month, with peaks in the early stages of an emergency response. In 2022, it was revamped to make the information updating process easier and to improve the user experience. It is now close to completion.

- The Logistics Operational Guide, a compendium of basic guidelines and standards for logistics practitioners, has also been revamped and supplemented with new resources in 2022 and is now fully live. It is a key tool for building capacity and updating practitioners' skills worldwide.

DP World uses its vital know-how and best practice in shipping and port operations, helping to connect organizations, communities and individuals with the resources they need during emergencies.
In addition to the support provided by the LET through the Logistics Cluster, in 2021 the LET partners modified the LET operations triggering criteria to enable the LET member companies to multilaterally and bilaterally engage with humanitarian organizations as well as other private sector companies via assistance requests received the Forum. The partners agreed that in addition to Cluster requests, the Forum could also request that the LET partners respond to requests from private sector donors to provide pro-bono services to enable the delivery of donated items to humanitarian organizations. These changes to operational triggering, along with traditional, Cluster led-triggering, enabled members of the LET to contribute to the humanitarian and health response during the pandemic with a wide range of bilateral and multilateral engagements and participation in a number of multi-stakeholders, public-private initiatives.

- Via the Forum, LET partners were able to engage with Unicef, the leading UN agency for COVAX distribution, to help Unicef and its partners to plan and execute cold chain, vaccine and medical supply chains. As the top logistics providers around the world, during and after the pandemic, the LET members played an important role in helping humanitarian organizations understand the infrastructure and operational requirements to scale up a cold-chain vaccine distribution, especially in low- and middle-income countries where the biggest gaps currently exist.

- Among the key outcomes of the World Economic Forum in January 2022 is the endorsement by global logistics leaders of an expanded Charter for Humanitarian Supply Chain Resilience. Recognizing the impact of multi-stakeholder collaborative action, and the value of broad industry engagement in support of global humanitarian response, members of the supply chain, transport, and logistics industries have expressed their support for resilience and capacity building of humanitarian supply chains, prioritizing all essential goods and leveraging physical infrastructure, transport assets, regional warehousing, and human expertise to ensure continued access to essential supplies for vulnerable populations. The Charter pledges to:

  * Engage with governments, customs authorities, and humanitarian organizations to enter private-public partnerships, as appropriate, that ensure fast, prioritized, and safe global movement of humanitarian supplies to accelerate inclusive humanitarian aid response for vulnerable communities;

  * Participate in operational asset and competency sharing, as appropriate, and where requested by UN Agencies and NGOs, to resolve bottlenecks and fill potential gaps in humanitarian supply chains; and

  * Support humanitarian organizations with prioritization and solutions for the international and in-country distribution of humanitarian aid and related supplies. Provide support to requests for information, response, and resources, including expertise, assets and emergency calls for action.