
Preparedness Roadmap for Emergency Logistics (PRELog)



Logistics Cluster Field Preparedness Project, Iraq, as of June 2020

Background

During the military operations which took place from 2014 to 2017, the infrastructure of more than a third of Iraq was affected, mainly in the northern and western regions of the country. In addition to the impact of the military operations, floods caused by Iraq's heavy seasonal rains intensified the crisis. The combination of these two factors resulted in the internal displacement of over 3.2 million people and caused severe damage to the country infrastructure, such as bridges, roads, healthcare, education, etc. The Logistics Cluster was consequently activated to assist humanitarian communities and to play a critical role in providing logistics services by supporting the relief and recovery efforts.

2018 was a year of transition for the Iraqi crisis, with an increasing number of returnees to pacified areas and a slow-down in the humanitarian activities. In 2019, the Logistics Cluster was deactivated and replaced with the Sectoral Working Group which maintained regular meetings and shared updates with active stakeholders. By the end of 2019, the security situation improved in the country. The Sectoral Working Group was deactivated and the Logistics Preparedness Project (the Preparedness Project) launched in its wake. The aim of the Preparedness Project is to bring the humanitarian community together in a cooperative approach to build a resilient national supply chain and a collaborative logistical response.

The Preparedness Project was initiated in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to be later carried out in Federal Iraq (FI). The project was initiated after six high-level preliminary meetings with the authorities in KRI, INGOs and NGOs. The result of these meetings was to introduce the steps and objectives of the Preparedness Project and to facilitate its implementation. The initiation of the Preparedness Project was greatly supported by the Joint Crisis and Coordination Centre (JCC), an entity of the Ministry of Interior in KRI which manages the humanitarian coordination and emergency response.

The aim of the field-based Preparedness Project is to enable local governments and humanitarian actors to have a coordinated approach towards improving local supply chain resilience, and to ensure humanitarian actors have a joint logistics response. The Preparedness Project seeks to create networks and groups to bring the stakeholders of an emergency together. By doing so, the Preparedness project's aim is to identify bottlenecks and solutions and to plan for an effective response.

The Preparedness Project main activities are planned to be conducted separately in two main regions of Iraq: KRI and FI. Subsequently, the final consolidated roadmap of activities will be developed, during the last quarter of the year (2020.) Project sponsors have been designated based on the preliminary assessment, the meetings, the introductory presentations of the Preparedness Project's objectives, and the feedback from the authorities. These sponsors will lead the Preparedness Project's activities in KRI and FI. Detailed future activities per location are highlighted in the Next Step section.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

Based on qualitative experience, survey assessment, observations of the humanitarian community, and under the leadership of the [National Disaster Management Office], humanitarian actors present in-country have identified the following constraints, bottlenecks and lack of logistics resources:

- Delays obtaining customs duty exemption letters, which impact humanitarian cargoes arrival.
- Confusions on the administrative procedures.
- Delays in inter-governate movements of humanitarian cargoes between KRI and FI.

Preparedness Roadmap for Emergency Logistics (PRELog)



Logistics Cluster Field Preparedness Project, Iraq, as of June 2020

- Requirement of multiple access letters - issued with a short validity - to move cargoes between KRI and FI.
- A need for reliable and up-to-date roster of registered transport service providers and available warehouse storage spaces.
- Inadequate coordination and sharing of resources among organizations resulting in lack of optimizing humanitarian community efforts to respond to emergencies.
- A need to foster capacity building and development in supply chain among national actors.

Objectives

The objective of the Global Logistics Cluster field-based preparedness project in Iraq is to support and augment government-led initiatives through [National Disaster Management Office], bringing together national and international NGOs, UN agencies, development partners and the private sector, to have a coordinated approach towards strengthened local supply chain resilience and ensure actors are well prepared for a joint humanitarian logistics response.

Based on the identified needs, gaps and bottlenecks in-country the main objectives will be:

- Strengthening coordination and communication between authorities and humanitarian community to create a cooperative environment that is based on mutual collaboration to facilitate processes and procedures.
- Empowering national actors' knowledge and strengthening government and humanitarian partners preparedness capacities.
- Establishing National Working Group from designating focal points constituted of personnel from humanitarian actors with supply chain background to be responsible of conducting regular meetings to exchange information, increase coordination, and develop joint response mechanism during disaster.
- Advocating the government to invest in logistics preparedness initiative and activities by providing support and facilitation.
- Developing National Action Plans under government's sponsorship aim to encourage joint response and preparedness activities through emphasizing on coordination among humanitarian actors to develop mutual agreements, common contingency plan, SOPs and procedures.

Planned Activities

Under the lead of JCC in KRI and JCMC in FI, and with technical support provided by the Global Logistics Cluster Preparedness Project team, the following activities will be undertaken over the coming 12 months in an effort to strengthen national response structures and capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies:

Based on initial analysis of gaps and bottlenecks and capacity mapping and assessment of national supply chain performance, the below activities are developed as part of the preparedness project. Under the ownership of Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) in KRI and Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) in the FI region, and technical supervision and support by Global Logistics Cluster, the following activities per thematic areas are the main activities anticipated to be carried out during the course of the project in order to achieve the aforementioned objectives:

Preparedness Roadmap for Emergency Logistics (PRELog)



Logistics Cluster Field Preparedness Project, Iraq, as of June 2020

1. Coordination

The following activities will be undertaken to enhance logistics coordination mechanisms and response systems for more effective and efficient operational planning and response:

- Work with authorities to ease customs and access procedures and shorten the time required to obtain these letters.
- Encourage discussions and coordination between KRI and FI to unify procedures and instructions.
- Organize regular meetings via Logistics Working Group and other channels to discuss multidimensional logistics issues and develop common agreements, SOPs and Concept of Operations whenever required.
- Conduct assessment of national supply chain performance and evaluate the capability of the local markets/service providers to response to humanitarian demands during emergencies

2. Information Management

The following activities will be undertaken to support in strengthening national response capacity of the humanitarian community through the effective production and provision of timely and relevant information:

- Develop a centralized and integrated online platform to exchange information, updates and knowledge.
- Augment exchange of information between authorities and humanitarian actors.
- Establish Logistics Working Group to regularly meet and share updates, and enforce strong flow of information among humanitarian community

3. Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

The following activities will be undertaken to ensure country-level humanitarian stakeholders are supported in their national and regional efforts to strengthen logistics capacity and infrastructure before crises:

- Advocate the federal government to augment the capacity of aviation and international airports in the country.
- Encourage the government to expand investment in the transportation infrastructure and develop a list of reliable suppliers to response to humanitarian transportation needs during emergency response.
- Discuss and motivate the authorities to increase storage capacity of various products (medical, food, sensitive material, etc.) at the entry points (airport, borders, and port.)
- Conduct supply chain and logistics preparedness awareness sessions to authorities and humanitarian community.

Next Step

Under the lead of JCC in KRI and JCMC in FI, and with technical support provided by the Global Logistics Cluster Preparedness Project team, in addition to the above activities, the following next steps will be undertaken as part of Preparedness Project activities. Beforehand, surveys were developed to be disseminated to humanitarian actors present in the country to collect information on the current logistics gaps and bottlenecks. The results of the surveys and data collection and analysis will serve as a roadmap to guide the implementation of subsequent activities below:

- Arrange meetings with I/NGOs, UN agencies, and humanitarian actors' representatives to introduce and increase awareness of logistics preparedness project objectives and activities and to identify opportunities for collaboration and combining efforts of similar nature.
- Conduct Logistics Gaps Analysis Workshops in KRI and FI to stand on the gaps and bottlenecks and come up with practical solutions and recommendations.
- Develop Action Plans per region (KRI and FI) and have them endorsed by the project sponsors.

Preparedness Roadmap for Emergency Logistics (PRELog)



Logistics Cluster Field Preparedness Project, Iraq, as of June 2020

- Establish Logistics Working Group that will take the responsibility of implementing activities in the endorsed / sponsored Action Plans.
- Conduct meetings and workshops to bring authorities and project leaders in KRI and FI together to have a consolidated roadmap and to discuss interrelated issues / activities and recommended solutions.