
Highlights

- A National Logistics Cluster meeting was held on 31 July 2019 with participants from nine organisations.
- The preparedness officer advised the World Food Programme’s (WFP) Bangladesh country office on data-collection for the LCA. An updated version will be ready by the end of 2019.
- On 27-29 August 2019, humanitarian actors participated in a table-top simulation exercise as part of the Emergency Logistics Gap-Analysis workshop. The workshop, held in Dhaka, was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), WFP and the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC).



Logistics Cluster simulation-based Emergency Logistics Gap-Analysis workshop held in Dhaka.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2017 Bangladesh was selected by the Logistics Cluster community as a priority country for the Global Logistics Cluster’s Field-Based Preparedness Project (“the Project”). The Project aims primarily to support and empower national actors in strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. A key objective is to facilitate a coordinated approach towards improving local supply chain resilience and information exchange between the government, national stakeholders and the private sector, to ensure all actors are well prepared for joint humanitarian logistics responses. In an emergency response, the Logistics Cluster capacities could come in support of national actors to facilitate a coordinated response with international NGOs, UN agencies, development partners in case the government is calling for international humanitarian assistance. In March 2019, a Preparedness Expert was deployed to Bangladesh to commence the process of mapping national logistics capacities and stakeholders. Based on this, he then worked with national responders to augment information sharing and exchange and assisted in organising the Gap-analysis workshop.

Coordination

- Through participative group discussions at the Gap-analysis workshop, a number of logistics gaps and bottlenecks were identified to enhance logistics preparedness and response in the country. Participants jointly defined recommendations to be developed in a Roadmap and an Action Plan to inform the MoDMR and the National Logistics Cluster on the implementation and harmonisation of preparedness activities in the country. 72 participants from 50 entities across Government, NGOs, UN agencies and the private sector attended the event.
- The Global Logistics Cluster has offered to make available a dedicated national Logistics Preparedness Officer to support the humanitarian logistics community in Bangladesh. In close collaboration with the MoDMR and WFP, the officer would support a Technical Working Group to guide the implementation of the Action Plan that were developed during the workshop.

Information management

- As identified during the Gap-analysis workshop, there is a need for accessible information management systems to inform the humanitarian community and other stakeholders on the country's available logistics resources, facilities and infrastructure. Two systems are currently under development: the Government of Bangladesh dashboard and the Logistics Cluster Preparedness and Response Platform that are tested to become operational and available in the coming 12 months.

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