

## Highlights

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- On 8 October 2020, the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan Workshop was held in Vientiane by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) and supported by the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) and the World Food Programme (WFP). During the workshop 21 participants from 12 organisations shared ideas on how to support the implementation of the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan, which had been put together by the national stakeholders in August 2019, as well as identified priority areas of intervention to enhance logistics preparedness in the country.
- Due to flooding in the Southern part of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), national humanitarian partners were fully engaged in the flood response. Hence the finalisation of the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group's list of focal points and the endorsement of the amended National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan has been postponed. The Preparedness Officer continues to liaise closely with the national counterparts to see when the preparedness activities can be resumed.

## Background

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Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Laos was identified as one of 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 large-scale disaster event, and 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 assist in the organisation of a simulation-based logistics gap analysis workshop, and other capacity strengthening initiatives based on identified partner needs. In September 2019, a national Preparedness Officer was deployed to continue to project's activities.

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.

## Coordination

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- On 8 October 2020, 21 participants from 12 organisations including relevant ministries of the Government of Laos, United Nations agencies, and international non-governmental organisations attended the **National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan Workshop** held in Vientiane Capital. Led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MoLSW) and supported by the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project

<https://logcluster.org/preparedness/laopdr19>

(FBPP) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the workshop informed the participants of progress made in the Action Plan activities between 2019-2020 and prioritised activities for future implementation. It also discussed how the activities can be supported by different partners. Based on the recommendations from this workshop, MoLSW will lead the finalisation of the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan and present it to the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group members for their endorsement in early 2021.

- Due to the recent floods in the South of Lao PDR, MoLSW as the lead national disaster responder has been actively involved in the flood response. Hence the **process to formalise the LPWG membership** has been prolonged. So far CARE, Caritas, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Plan International, Save the Children, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have nominated their focal points. Other stakeholders including Asian Development Bank (ADB), Lao Red Cross, Military, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Public Security will need to be followed up by MoLSW. The Preparedness Officer continues to liaise with MoLSW for any updates.
- The review of the draft Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBD) Guideline by MoLSW has been postponed as MoLSW was fully engaged in the flood response and year-end government activities. The UBD Guidelines will be further adapted to the country’s context and be translated into SOPs for managing UBD. The Preparedness Officer continues to follow up with MoLSW focal points.

## Information management

- The quarterly update and infographic for July-September 2020 were published on the [Lao PDR Preparedness webpage](#).

### Contacts

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