

## Highlights

- COVID-19 response in April 2020: support to the facilitation of free air transport (Mission Aviation Fellowship) for sending Health Ministry Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) around the country, and also support of the Centre National Opérationnel et Stratégique de Surveillance Epidémiologique (CNOSS) for collecting medical samples from remote provinces. This support was facilitated by the Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes (BNGRC) and the Aviation Civile de Madagascar (ACM).
- Joint advocacy with Johannesburg Regional Bureau (RBJ) of the World Food Programme for receiving Civil Aviation Authorities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs approvals to operate in Madagascar. A first authorisation has been allowed by the government authorities and a first flight attempt is expected early July 2020.
- Support to develop Logistics Information Management (IM) tools in collaboration with the Health Ministry/ Direction de la Pharmacie, des Laboratoires et de la Médecine Traditionnelle (DPLMT) and with operational partners in Health Sector, to centralise COVID-19 PPE, medications, supplies and equipment status.
- Implementation of Emergency Preparedness Activities under a newly funded project (UPS foundation).

## Background

2018 marked the launch of the Global Logistics Cluster Emergency Preparedness Project in Madagascar, which aims to strengthen national-level humanitarian logistics coordination and Information Management systems.

In August 2018, a Working Group structure was implemented as part of a National Logistics Preparedness Workshop with support from WFP, the Global Logistics Cluster and the BNGRC. This National Workshop brought together government entities, NGOs, UN agencies, the Red Cross, private sector actors as well as regional actors, and ultimately led to the sign-off to the National Logistics Preparedness Action Plan. Based on this, Regional Working Groups have also been established in five identified high-risk regions, vulnerable to recurrent natural hazards such as cyclones, floods and drought.

In 2019, following the same emergency preparedness logic, the Logistics Sectorial Group (GSL), led by WFP and supported by the BNGRC and the Global Logistics Cluster, focused on implementing the Action Plan, leading efforts to strengthen the inter-agency cooperation and promoting an information-sharing system for Madagascar's humanitarian community.

A global meeting of the Logistics Sectorial Group was held on 26 February 2020 at WFP Country Office under the BNGRC and WFP team lead, to discuss lessons learned during the most recent interventions. Several key points were discussed, highlighting the need to develop and agree on the Logistics Sectorial Group Terms of Reference, reinforcing its identity by creating a dedicated logo and promoting communication tools such as WhatsApp to reinforce the cohesion, communication, and information sharing among the Logistics Sectorial Group members.

Despite of the COVID-19 situation, communication and information sharing was maintained through mails and virtual meetings (Zoom) among the Logistics Sectorial Group to ensure that essential needs are addressed. A dedicated platform was developed for humanitarian communities (International Labour Organization, Unité de Coordination des Projets, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations International Children's Fund, WFP, World Health Organization) to

centralise COVID-19 procurement and enable government authorities to be informed of arrival forecasts of COVID-19 emergency items, in order to eventually benefit from possible customs facilitation in collaboration with the BNGRC and customs authorities.

The emergency preparedness team ensures that all relevant logistics information is up to date and shared on a [dedicated website of the GSL](#). This approach aims to maintain dynamism among the logistics partners network and continuing preparedness activities despite of the COVID-19 situation.

## Coordination

- Two GSL virtual meetings were organised (one in early April, the other at the end of May) to receive updates on the COVID-19 situation, constraints and inform about all government initiatives and restrictions on movements. These meetings were the opportunity for partners to share their COVID-19 plan of action, highlight any gaps for support (information management, service provision, coordination, custom clearance support). The dedicated WFP Cargo and Passenger Services under the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) were also presented via the Emergency Service Marketplace (ESM).

## Information management

- As part of the COVID-19 response, a [dedicated GSL website](#) was developed (in French and English). This website was designed as a tool to centralise all relevant COVID-19 information (government decrees, movement restrictions and relevant protocols, customs processes, etc.), as well as the main information management tools for any other logistics related information. This website is now the official Logistics Working Group information entry point and will be taking over the [Global Logistics Cluster Preparedness page](#) for any new information on any Emergency Preparedness Activities/projects in Madagascar.
- The UPS foundation project will enhance the BNGRC information management and knowledge sharing, as well as setting up a pre-positioning pilot project through the use of long term food storage packaging (Cocoon from GrainPro). The overall project will support 12 months Office 365 licenses for all BNGRC employees and host of a knowledge center through Cloud services, in collaboration with WFP's Emergency and Telecommunications Cluster department (also engaged with the BNGRC through the National ETC Working Group).

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