

Highlights

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF – later renamed as the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL)) launched an online Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) survey in October 2022 for the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) to provide inputs on the existing logistics capacity, challenges, needs, and priorities to determine the level of learning needs and serve as baseline for the sub-national level humanitarian supply chain and logistics management workshops.
- Led by MOAF, three regional Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Management (HSCLM) workshops were conducted in November and December 2022, with support from relevant national authorities and the World Food Programme (WFP), HELP Logistics, and the Global Logistics Cluster Field Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) to strengthen humanitarian supply chain capacities of the district-level stakeholders.
- As a result of the countrywide regional HSCLM workshops, Bhutan has established a closer link between the national and subnational networks on humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness, updated the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) of all 20 Dzongkhags (provinces), and drafted the logistics preparedness action plans at the district level.



The Regional HSCLM workshops were conducted countrywide in November and December 2022.



The HSCLM workshop members participated in the humanitarian supply chain and logistics boardgame.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2021, Bhutan was identified as one of the 24 country candidates for the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project. The project's primary aim is to support national actors as they strengthen their capacity to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises autonomously. A vital 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 a large-scale disaster event, should

the Royal Government of Bhutan request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

Given its geologically vulnerable location in the eastern Himalayas and because of climate change impacts, Bhutan is prone to natural disasters, with earthquakes being the biggest threat to reverse Bhutan's progress to date. Earthquake remains a significant threat within the Himalayan region. The 2015 earthquake in Nepal heightened awareness of disaster preparedness among the RGoB officials. Since Bhutan is landlocked, Logistics and supply chains have traditionally been challenging for government and business sectors. Recent studies have indicated that Logistics and Supply Chain constitute more than 70% of the response cost; thus, strengthening the Government's Logistics and Supply Chain capacity becomes paramount in the Disaster Risk Management Agenda of the RGoB.

From March to December 2021, a Preparedness Expert began mapping Bhutan's national logistics capacities and stakeholders. He worked with national counterparts, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF) in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) to augment information exchange, coordinated and assisted in the organisation of national logistics stakeholder mapping and contextual SWOT Analysis to define critical priorities and agenda to enhance the overall logistics preparedness in Bhutan. A follow-up workshop was held in October 2021 to continue the discussions on identified gaps and challenges in the humanitarian supply chain, logistics preparedness, and other capacity-strengthening initiatives based on identified stakeholder needs.

In 2022, key priorities were the advocacy for, and provision of technical support to implement, the NLPWG action plan by national stakeholders. The aim is to ensure the sustainability of Bhutan's humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness at national and sub-national levels.

Coordination

- On 16-26 October 2022, MOAF launched a Learning Needs Assessment online survey to collect inputs and update logistics data to determine the existing logistics preparedness capacity and assess the level of learning needs of the district-level stakeholders. The logistics data collection process was subsequently conducted in consultation with the participating district officials during the regional HSCLM workshops in November and December 2022.
- The HSCLM workshops were identified from the review of the national logistics preparedness implementation progress by the NLPWG Quarterly Meeting held in September 2022 to enhance further national ownership and leadership in the capacity-strengthening activities for the sub-national stakeholders. Several planning meetings were held in October with MOAF to prepare for a series of the regional workshops scheduled in the last quarter of 2022. The planning discussions were on identifying roles and profiles of the district-level stakeholders, finalisation of the workshop agenda and activity items, dates, budget, invitation letters to all 20 provinces, and coordination with facilitators from local district offices, Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA), Department of Procurement and Properties (DNP), the Royal University of Bhutan, WFP, and HELP Logistics. The overarching objectives of the workshops were to streamline the national and sub-national logistics information management and logistics

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

preparedness coordination as well as strengthen national capacity and readiness for effective and efficient joint humanitarian response.

- Three regional HSCLM workshops were conducted in Punakha (on 7-11 November 2022), Trashigang (on 14-18 November 2022), and Phuntsholing (on 5-9 December 2022), led by MOAF, with the support from relevant national authorities, WFP, FBPP, and HELP Logistics. 92 officers from 20 Dzongkhags representing the district Dzongkhag Livestock, Agriculture, Procurement, and District Disaster Management offices participated in the workshops to discuss key concepts of humanitarian supply chain and logistics management, operational approach, including coordination and information sharing during disasters. A simulated case study from the Mongar (Narang) earthquake in 2009 and the HSC&L board game provided by HELP Logistics were introduced to demonstrate practical logistics coordination and lessons learned during emergencies.
- Key deliverables and outcomes of the workshops include a nationwide humanitarian logistics network established, relevant logistics data and contact information at the Dzongkhag level updated, and the district-level logistics preparedness action plans drafted. The updated district-level LCA data and the draft district-level action plans have been compiled and circulated among the HSCLM workshop participants for final review and verification for the Dzongkhag disaster contingency planning. The next steps and key priorities for Bhutan's logistics preparedness activities in 2023 will include developing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Logistics Desk, endorsing the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG), and developing Bhutan's national logistics information sharing portal.

Information management

- The quarterly reports and infographic updates on the FBPP implementation for the period between July and September 2022 have been published on the [Bhutan Preparedness webpage](#).

Contacts

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