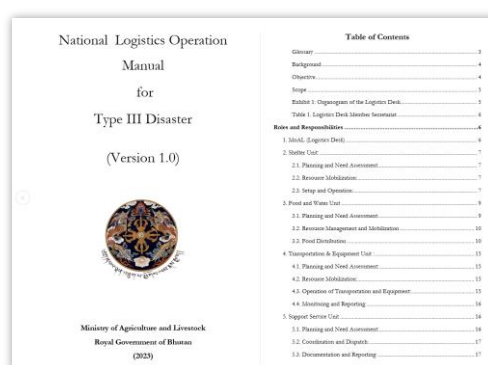


Highlights

- Together with the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) as Bhutan's Logistics Desk and the chair of NLPWG, led the development and finalisation of the draft National Logistics Operation Standard Operating Procedures/Manual. The draft Manual was submitted to the Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM) to coordinate with and present to the Office of the Prime Minister for approval.
- Between September and October, planning meetings were held with MOAL and NLPWG members for the conduct of a National Disaster Management and Humanitarian Supply Chain Preparedness Awareness workshop to determine necessary arrangements and mitigate the risks due to upcoming national election plan. The workshop will engage decision-makers at national and district levels to establish a common understanding of disaster management and humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness. This will further enhance the coordinated logistics operations during emergencies and shocks.



Bhutan's National Logistics Operation Manual developed, version 1.0 as of 1 August 2023, disseminated among NLPWG members for review.

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 aims to support national actors as they strengthen their capacity to autonomously prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. A vital element of this is facilitating 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 stakeholders led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MOAF) (later in late 2022 changed to 'the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL)') in coordination with the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) – later changed to 'the Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM),' to augment information exchange, coordinate and assist in the organisation of national logistics stakeholder mapping and contextual SWOT analysis to define critical priorities and agenda to enhance 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 activities, and other capacity-strengthening initiatives based on identified stakeholder needs.

In 2022, key priorities were advocacy for and provision of technical support to implement the NLPWG action plan by national stakeholders. The aim was to ensure the sustainability of Bhutan's humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness at national and sub-national levels. In the final quarter of 2022, MOAF launched a Learning Needs Assessment survey to determine the existing logistics preparedness capacity and assess the level of learning needs of district-level stakeholders. The LNA results led to three regional Humanitarian Supply Chain and Logistics Management (HSCLM) workshops organised in November and December 2022 to enhance HSC&L skills and understanding of district-level stakeholders and update key logistics data, including contact information at the Dzongkhag (provincial) level and draft district-level logistics preparedness action plans.

Coordination

- Between July and August 2023, the draft National Logistics Operation Manual has been circulated among the NLPWG members, including line ministries and frontline agencies such as the Desuung (National Service) organisation, the Police Communication System, and the Royal Bhutan Army, for review and feedback. On 1 August 2023, the draft Manual was finalised by the Honourable Secretary of MOAL.
- In September, the final draft Manual was submitted to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Department of Local Governance and Disaster Management (DLGDM), Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration and escalation to the Office of the Prime Minister for endorsement at the

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national level. Once endorsed, it can be printed and distributed among all the agencies for use in time of emergency.

- Regular check-in calls and meetings have been held between the Preparedness Officer and MOAL Logistics Coordinator in September and October to plan and prepare for a National Disaster Management and Humanitarian Supply Chain Preparedness Awareness workshop. Concept note, draft agenda, and identification of participants and their availabilities were discussed in these meetings. Besides, risk mitigation was addressed in case the workshop needs to be postponed from the last quarter of 2023 to early 2024 due to upcoming national election.
- The workshop aims to sensitise and increase awareness of the executive-level officials and decision-makers, including Secretaries, Director Generals, Directors, District Governors, and Deputy Governors, and District Focal Points, on the humanitarian supply chain and logistics (HSC&L) preparedness through the presentation of the NLPWG activity updates, including the five-year National HSC&L Preparedness Action Plan, National Logistics Operation Manual, etc. The ultimate goal of the workshop is to advocate for the national-level endorsement of the NLPWG and the five-year Action Plan to take forward the stakeholders' commitments and operationalisation of the Plan.
- During 28-29 September 2023, the Preparedness Officer participated in the WFP-led Regional Supply Chain Country Capacity Strengthening Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, and offered key learnings from the Field-Based Preparedness Project (FBPP) in Bhutan as a practical example of [Institutional Capacity Strengthening](#) approach to localisation of logistics preparedness. The use of ICS methodology and toolkits and their applicability to other Supply Chain areas of engagement were also exchanged among the participants.



Preparedness Officer presenting Bhutan's country case in Supply Chain capacity strengthening engagement through the FBPP during the regional Supply Chain Country Capacity Strengthening workshop

Information management

- The quarterly reports and infographic updates on the FBPP implementation between April and June 2023 have been published on the [Bhutan Preparedness webpage](#).

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

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