



Regional Logistics Preparedness and Response Technical Roundtable Summary

Lilongwe, Malawi

16 – 18 January 2024

1. BACKGROUND

The Government of Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) Malawi, supported through the Global Logistics Cluster's Field based Preparedness Project (FBPP), convened a Regional Logistics Preparedness and Response Technical Roundtable in Lilongwe, Malawi from 16 – 18 January 2024.

51 participants from six Southern African countries (Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), whose work is at the centre of field-level emergency preparedness and response (EPR) in the Southern Africa region, attended the roundtable. The key topics that were discussed include coordination, contingency planning, customs and importation, prepositioning, environmental sustainability, advocacy, resource mobilisation, digital tools and technologies, capacity development and partnerships for efficient and effective humanitarian logistics preparedness and response.

2. OBJECTIVES

The regional logistics preparedness and response technical roundtable was convened with the following objectives:

- Fostering regional cooperation and sharing lessons learned and best practices in preparedness.
- Enhancing capacity and efficiency through updated contingency planning and coordination at all levels.
- Assessing the role of stakeholders to determine potential entry points for preparedness initiatives and collaboration at national and field level.
- Creating linkages between preparedness and response with anticipatory action, early recovery, and resilience efforts.
- Discussing engagement from preparedness partners leading the Thematic Areas (Customs, Environmental Sustainability, Institutional Capacity Strengthening and Stock Prepositioning) with national stakeholders in the region.
- Informing strategies for advocacy and resource mobilization.



3. OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting objectives were largely met. The key outcomes for the meeting include:

- Disseminated the best practices in coordination led by National Logistics Working Groups and support to National Disaster Management Agencies (NDMA) in leading preparedness activities.
- Enhanced collaboration in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).
- Improved private sector collaboration in logistics preparedness and response.
- Strengthened focus on joint advocacy and resource mobilisation at regional and sub-regional levels.

The following are the priority actions and recommendations agreed at the end of the meeting, which will be implemented or advocated for by the regional logistics community:

- 1) Set up a regional logistics community of practice or working group.
- 2) Enhance the collaboration with programme/project stakeholders to incorporate logistics and environmental sustainability aspects in Preparedness and Anticipatory Action for the countries in the region.
- 3) Drafting, revising of protocols in the SADC region to include facilitation of free movement of goods (and people) during emergency response periods. NDMA to advocate within government and regional bodies to ensure protocols do not hinder the import or export of commodities based on needs and gaps.
- 4) ESUPS, WREC, Community Solutions and IMPACCT to facilitate follow-up sessions with countries through FBPP in collaboration with the WFP Heads of Supply Chain in the countries, NDMA and other logistics stakeholders.
- 5) Improve advocacy for best practices and fundraising for emergency preparedness noting that attention is normally given to emergency response. Promote prioritization of preparedness by stakeholders and demonstrate the value of preparedness through generation and dissemination of evidence.
- 6) NDMA to finalise and disseminate a Regional Contingency Plan through SADC, OCHA and other coordination mechanism to ensure that early warning translate into early action by stakeholders.
- 7) NDMA to support the harmonization of SADC humanitarian policies to ensure that they promote coordination of preparedness activities to create platforms for collaboration. Promote best practices in public procurement and ensure good management of pipelines to avoid delays in response.
- 8) National logistics working group to develop in-country mechanisms for asset/expertise sharing among organisations for emergency preparedness and response.



- 9) Stakeholders to advocate for the development of a Regional Resource Hub ('sub-regional United Nations Humanitarian Response Hub, UNHRD') where essential stocks are prepositioned. Consider Mozambique as possible hub location for the region.
- 10) For the countries of interest, training, and adoption of the STOCKHOLM platform through the Emergency Stocks Supply Prepositioning Strategy Project (ESUPS).
- 11) Piloting and adoption of digital tools available for use by the humanitarian community e.g., Logistics Cluster Application including LogIE.
- 12) Consider hosting a regional simulation exercise for supply chain emergency preparedness. Stakeholders to share training or simulation exercise plans to enable participation across borders and foster integration across humanitarian clusters and enhance capacity development in the region. Participants encouraged to participate in Logistics Cluster ([Trainings](#)).
- 13) Advocate for SADC member states to invest in preparedness and ensure regular engagement on preparedness issues. FBPP and other stakeholders to continue supporting resource mobilisation for preparedness.
- 14) Promote private sector investment in preparedness through development of an advocacy and resource mobilization strategy.
- 15) NDMA's to enhance engagement with SADC and support supply chain aspect of the operationalisation of the SADC Humanitarian Operations Centre (SHOC).
- 16) Enhance collaboration in EPR through advocating for and adoption of the whole-of-government and whole-of-society collaboration approaches. Share lessons through exchange visits, inter-cluster collaboration, regional and global forums on ways to effectively increase collaboration to ensure that resources, capabilities, and capacities of stakeholders are utilized to the maximum potential in support of affected communities.
- 17) Conduct a follow up Regional Technical Roundtable to be held in Zimbabwe. Use the next meeting to explore specific topics such as Zimbabwe's model of engaging the private sector in supporting NDMA, how to manage coordination more effectively between national and subnational structures, ensuring efficient and environmentally friendly public procurement for emergencies and taking stock of how countries have implemented the National Logistics Preparedness Plans developed with support of FBPP.
- 18) NDMA's to prioritise the finalization and signing of all outstanding memorandums of understanding (MOUs) and endorsing collective standard operating procedures for emergency preparedness and response among SADC Countries.