



Humanitarian logistics preparedness in Bhutan

Background

The National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG) was formed in August 2021 to assess and strengthen logistics readiness among government agencies and to expand engagements of key frontline agencies in humanitarian logistics preparedness in Bhutan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is the lead agency for the logistics desk. The working group is mandated to define key priorities, collaborate between and guide each other to enhance the overall logistics preparedness in the country. The working group's activities are aligned with the Government's Disaster Risk Management Strategy

Inception

An inception workshop aimed to support the formation of a well-informed logistics working group was organised in August 2021 to introduce the approaches and government policies in disaster management and understand recent developments and initiatives in logistics preparedness globally and its benefits and applicability in strengthening disaster readiness for Bhutan.

Gaps analysis and action planning

A second workshop followed in October 2021 to create a baseline capacity assessment and gaps analysis in humanitarian supply chain and logistics and develop a logistics preparedness action plan. As a result, a **National Logistics Preparedness Working Group 5-Year Action Plan** was developed. Under the oversight and coordination of the National Disaster Management Authority

(NDMA), the Action Plan determines the national logistics preparedness priorities in short, medium, and longer terms, to be implemented by the Logistics Desk and the NLPWG.

Guided by the NLPWG 5-Year Action Plan, some logistics preparedness priorities were carried out as follows:

National logistics preparedness portal and learning needs assessment

Between November 2021 and September 2022, two workshops were organised to identify, align, and consolidate information and knowledge requirements and validate the availability of information across various agencies in the country.

Nationwide humanitarian supply chain management training workshops

Three regional training workshops were held to **raise the understanding and awareness of local actors on the importance of supply chain & logistics** in emergency preparedness and response.



Frontliners unloading MSU tents to set up coordination hubs.

National logistics operation manual and agency-specific logistics SOPs

Following the training workshops, recommendation to streamline logistics coordination and operation before and during emergencies, a national logistics operation manual development was developed in January 2024, followed by the agency-specific SOPs in March 2024. The NLOM and agency-specific SOPs guide and clarify the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders and guide their decisions.



NLPWG visits the FCBL depot to check the food distribution process.

Key Milestones in numbers



Way forward

Through the NLPWG, the Logistics Desk has made remarkable achievements in humanitarian logistics preparedness. To create awareness and to garner more support, MoAL as the logistics desk lead will seek to undertake the following activities in collaboration with the NLPWG:

- Emergency supply chain & logistics management training for local governments and municipalities
- Sensitisation workshops with high-level government officials including the Cabinet and the Secretaries and Governors
- Development of the agency-specific logistics SOPs for the remaining frontline agencies
- Table-top simulation exercise to validate and practice the NLOM and the agency-specific logistics SOPs.

NLPWG members



Department of Local Governance & Disaster Management (DLGDM), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Dzongkhag Administration: Disaster Management Officers and Procurement Officers, Department of Air Transport (DoAT), Ministry of Infrastructure & Transport (MoIT), Department of Livestock (DoL), Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock (MoAL), Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Department of Agricultural Marketing & Cooperatives (DAMC), MoAL, Bhutan Food & Drug Authority (BFDA), Ministry of Health (MoH), Bhutan Livestock Development Corporation Limited (BLDCL), Department of Infrastructure Development (DoID), MoIT, Department of Human Settlement (DHS), MoIT, Department of Agriculture (DoA), MoAL, Regional Poultry Breeding Centre, Regional Centre for Aquaculture, Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited, Druk Holding and Investments Ltd, Bhutan Red Cross Society, National Horse Farm, National Sheep Farm, Royal Bhutan Police, Royal Bhutan Army, Desuung Office, Bhutan Post, Disaster Communication Helpline Unit, The United Nations World Food Programme