

Highlights

- A national Logistics Preparedness Gap Analysis Workshop was facilitated in Mangochi on 4-6 November 2019 with representatives from government, UN agencies, and NGOs.
- A key outcome from the workshop was the drafting of a national Logistics Preparedness Action Plan, currently being finalised.
- National Preparedness Officer, Mbachii Munthali, started with the project on 16 December 2019. She will be responsible for supporting the government with the rollout of the national Logistics Preparedness Action Plan.



Participants to the Gap Analysis Workshop pose for a group picture. Inputs from the participants were instrumental in developing the Malawi Logistics Preparedness Plan. Image: Logistics Cluster



A view of the NFRA premises in Bangula, Nsanje District. A proposed Humanitarian Staging Area will be built here in support of the 2019-2020 National Contingency Plan. Image: Logistics Cluster

Background

In 2018 Malawi was selected by the Logistics Cluster community as one of 24 country candidates for the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project ("the Project"). The Project aims to support and empower national actors in strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. A key objective is to facilitate a coordinated approach towards improving local supply chain resilience and information exchange between the government, national actors and the private sector, to ensure all actors are well prepared for joint humanitarian logistics responses.

In March 2019, Malawi's southern region was exposed to heavy rainfall before, and following, Category 3 Cyclone Idai, causing extensive damage to logistics infrastructure. The subsequent emergency response resulted in the activation of the National Logistics Sector led by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW) and supported by the World Food Programme (WFP). Following the response, and in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), MoTPW and WFP, a GLC Field Preparedness Officer was deployed to Malawi in September to support the transition phase from logistics operation to logistics preparedness. This officer is to be supported by a dedicated National Preparedness Officer who will work on the implementation of the Action Plan for an initial 12-month period.

Coordination

- Reflecting on lessons learned from the 2019 Logistics Sector flood response, and taking the country's increasing disaster risks into consideration, a two-day Logistics Preparedness Gaps Analysis Workshop was held in Mangochi from 4-5 November. The workshop was jointly organised by the MoTPW, WFP and the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC).
- 37 participants attended the workshop, which built upon ongoing logistics preparedness efforts to identify potential gaps and bottlenecks, continue coordination between partners fostered during the flood response, and identify a path forward for priority actions to strengthen supply chain operations during emergencies.
- Full workshop report including identified challenges and key outcomes can be found [here](#).

Information management

- Following the National Logistics Cluster meeting held in September, a gaps analysis survey was distributed to partners to identify key logistics challenges and bottlenecks during humanitarian response. 15 partners completed the survey, and results were presented at the Gaps Analysis Workshop held in November. Results are presented in the workshop report.
- An infographic highlighting project achievements for Quarter 3 was published on the dedicated [Malawi Preparedness webpage](#) on Logistics Cluster Website.

Advocacy

- During the Logistics Preparedness Gaps Analysis Workshop, warehousing space was noted as a key challenge in emergency response by Malawi's humanitarian community. To support in overcoming this challenge, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) has agreed with WFP in Malawi to establish a Humanitarian Staging Area at their Bangula premises in Nsanje District.

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