



Logistics Cluster Preparedness Platform Training

Antananarivo 30-31 July 2018

Background/Introduction

The Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) Preparedness Project forms a key pillar of the 2016-2018 strategy and aims to create a common, sustainable approach to supply chain preparedness. Localisation and skills transfer form the foundation for the project, which currently focuses on six disaster-prone countries for 2018. Overall, the initiative aims to enhance logistics coordination, collaboration and foster information sharing amongst the humanitarian community.

A core feature of the project is the Preparedness Platform. With the technical capacity to combine imagery, mapping, early warning figures and crowd-sourced updates, the platform aims to overcome a key constraint in disaster planning: filling the information gap as a common source for rapid, validated, real-time data.

As part of the Preparedness Platform project framework, and the GLC Preparedness Project overall, a technical training was conducted in Madagascar. Hosted by Madagascar's National Disaster Management Agency, le Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et Catastrophes (BNGRC), and jointly organised by WFP and GLC, the training aimed to operationalise the platform at country level.

This report aims to provide a summary of the key objectives, discussion points and outcomes from the training.

Objectives

The platform user training follows two previous events held in Madagascar at which technical requirements and information needs were jointly analysed by the humanitarian community.

Key training objectives were:

- To tailor the Preparedness Platform to country-specific information needs
- To provide participants with the opportunity to gain greater experience in utilising the platform and its functionalities.
- To train participants in the platform's different applications (e.g. the simulator).
- To strengthen knowledge on data-collection, verification and the platform's self-printing application through small simulation exercises.

Observations, outcomes & recommendations

Overall the training was very successful, with more than 20 participants from the BNGRC, government authorities and WFP participating.

General observations from workshop facilitators include:

- There is a strong need and interest in the Preparedness Platform.
- **The Live Monitoring Application** was well-received by participants. The function serves as a main dashboard that could be on continual display within a country's operations room in an emergency scenario.
- **The Operational Analysis Application** was the platform's most utilised application during the training. It provides access to tools such as summary, near-me and directions.
- **The CrowdSourcing Data Collection application** was the most successful among the trainees. It provides a straightforward interface and encompasses an intuitive structure.
- **The Data Collection and Data Verification applications** remained difficult to navigate. Recommendations from participants will be included in the subsequent test version to optimise logic and process flow.
- **The Self-Printing App** was well received by participants. While additional improvements were identified, it remained a useful tool for non-GIS users. Succinctly, the app allows users to upload any tabular data and produce a high-quality map that is both printable and shareable. It was recognised as a valuable resource for organisations without GIS infrastructure.
- **The simulator** was the most popular application. Despite ongoing development for the cyclone buffer calculations, the simulator provided a crucial starting point for the workshop. Developers are currently undertaking a redesign of the application to increase usability. Integrating an earthquake simulation option was also recommended.

