

Highlights

- Severe flooding in Cambodia in October 2020, and the subsequent infrastructure damages and multiple donations received, have demonstrated the importance of humanitarian logistics preparedness and the roles of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) in coordinating rescue and relief efforts by government agencies at different levels. The flood also presented the critical roles of provincial-level stakeholders as first responders and led to ongoing discussions between NCDM, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project on organising the first Provincial Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshop, which will take place in early 2021.
- The recruitment process of the national Logistics Preparedness Officer was commenced to support national emergency responders in their various activities for enhancing humanitarian logistics preparedness. Some of the activities planned for 2021 include three Provincial Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshops, one National Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshop, and continued support to NCDM in the coordination of the humanitarian logistics preparedness network.

Background

Based on risk indices and national-level logistics performance and capacity indicators, in 2018 Cambodia was identified as one of 24 country candidates for the Global Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project ("the Project"). The primary aim of the Project is to support and empower national actors to strengthen their capacity to autonomously prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises. A key element of this is the facilitation of 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 the event of a large-scale disaster event and should the Government of Cambodia request international humanitarian assistance, the Global Logistics Cluster capacities can support national actors in facilitating a coordinated response.

In March 2020, a Preparedness Expert was deployed to Cambodia to commence the process of mapping national logistics capacities and identifying existing national disaster management structures and frameworks. She has worked with national responders to augment information sharing and exchange, and provided technical support and guidance towards establishing a coordinated and localised approach to humanitarian logistics preparedness activities.

Cambodia is exposed to yearly recurrent floods that place rural population and their agriculture-based livelihoods in significant risk. The last major events that depleted the capacities of national emergency responders occurred in [2011](#) and [2013](#), where a combination of successive typhoons and a strong monsoon season caused the water levels of the Tonle Sap and Mekong River to rise, leading to extensive flooding with an estimated affected population of 1.8 million.

Cambodia is further exposed to extreme weather events triggered by El-Niño causing severe drought. The hottest year recorded in 2016 triggered drought that was described by Prime Minister Hun Sen as the "worst natural disaster occurring in Cambodia in 100 years".

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

Coordination

- In October 2020, Cambodia experienced severe flooding as a result of multiple tropical storms in the South China Sea, affecting 800,000 persons over 19 provinces. With key infrastructure damaged and multiple donations received, the **importance of logistics preparedness and the coordinating role of the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)** to secure rescue and delivery of relief items in the government assistance efforts to the provinces affected, was demonstrated.
- The flood has served as a starting point of subsequent discussions, for WFP and the Preparedness Officer, with NCDM in arranging the **first Provincial Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshop** to take place tentatively in February 2021. The workshop will be attended by staff of Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDM), NCDM, Cambodian Red Cross and Humanitarian Response Forum's (HRF) Sector Leads. It aims at enhancing understanding of humanitarian logistics preparedness and its relevance to the provincial contingency plan operationalisation as well as establishing a provincial humanitarian logistics preparedness network. Through a Gaps Analysis workshop, an initial provincial humanitarian logistics action plan will be drafted by the participants. The action plan will address common humanitarian logistics issues and contribute to the provincial contingency plan update.
- The floods also provided an opportunity to **explore solutions with** the Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring's **(PRISM) team and the Global Logistics Cluster's Logistics Preparedness Platform (Log:ie)** to update information on road access constraints. Discussions will continue in 2021.
- Within the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), the establishment of a Logistics Preparedness Working Group is pending the dissemination of, and agreement on, the **working group's terms of reference (TORs)**. In the interim, a Telegram chat group was created among HRF's partners for coordination and information sharing on logistics response.
- The dissemination of NCDM/HRF/Joint Action Group(JAG)/ Preparedness Partnership of Cambodia (PPC) **stakeholder and resource mapping questionnaire** has been postponed due to October flood response and the first COVID-19 community outbreak in Cambodia in November 2020. The plans to distribute the questionnaire will be further discussed in preparation for the next rainy season between June-November 2021.
- The Project provided support in the **translation of the National Contingency Plan for Flood and the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (NAP-DRR 2023)** into English and shared it with NCDM for verification and subsequent dissemination.
- The **recruitment of a National Logistics Preparedness Officer** commenced in December 2020 and should be finalised within the first quarter of 2021. The role will support NCDM-WFP Joint Activity Plan 2021, which now includes FBPP project. Three Provincial Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshops, one National Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshop and support to NCDM in the coordination of the humanitarian logistics preparedness network are among the activities for 2021.

Information management

- The [Cambodia Preparedness webpage](#) was launched in October 2020.
- The quarterly update and infographic for July-September 2020 were published on the [Cambodia Preparedness webpage](#).

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