
LOCATION	Online
DATE	17 April 2020
CHAIR	Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) Preparedness Project Team
PARTICIPANTS	Catholic Relief Service, HELP Logistics (Kuehne Foundation), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, Kühne Logistics University, Malteser International, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Welthungerhilfe
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A test run of log:ie to be done in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.• GLC to share the updated concept note for log:ie system• Partners are invited to contribute to the development of the Preparedness Guide which will be made available on a digital platform.• Partners are invited to share their views on what they think is best on the strategy of the Preparedness Project beyond 2021• Partners to share their views on the recommendation of pausing the Preparedness Project in Haiti due to constant delay faced in the country for the past six months.• GLC to share current ToRs of Preparedness Expert and National Preparedness Officer positions for with partners for review.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project Update2. Impact of COVID-19 on the Preparedness Project3. AOB

1. Project Update

Platform Update

Presentation of log:ie

- An interactive version of log:ie is available at: <https://logcluster.org/logie-cxb>
- log:ie is an interactive platform to share and analyse logistics infrastructure information (e.g. airports and warehouses).
- Preparedness and Operations are distinguished by a colour code on log:ie (Green for Preparedness and Red for Operations).
- The log:ie maps can be exported to PDF and printed. There also are a few interactive possibilities (e.g. drawing on the map) which do not require any specific credentials.
- log:ie is optimised for low bandwidth access in remote locations.
- An induction workshop was held in Cox's Bazar in February.

Next steps:

- Local piloting continues through in-country teams in Malawi.

- Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, will be a test run for the platform. log:ie should then be activated for Malawi, South Sudan, Madagascar, Zimbabwe.
- An additional option is the inclusion of testing dedicated in Logistics Cluster/Sector operations. This will be followed up after the first field tests are completed successfully.

Challenges:

- Due to the current COVID-19 emergency, non-essential project activities had to be suspended in order to use resources for critical needs.
- Rollout activities are currently reduced.
- South Sudan workshops are postponed until May/June (tentative date depending on the development of COVID-19 emergency).

Preparedness Guide

- The Preparedness Guide drafted by GLC will be available on a digital form for further development. The credentials will be provided to the working group members, as soon as the setup has been finished.
- Partners who are interested are invited to contribute to the development of this guide individually and as an organisation in their areas of expertise.

Working Group ToR

- The ToR of the Global Preparedness Working Group has been submitted to the Strategic Advisory Group for review and endorsement in February. A final decision is pending.
- The working group for 2020 has ten members from Action Against Hunger, Catholic Relief Services, HELP Logistics, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kühne Logistics University, Malteser International, Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Children's Fund and Welthungerhilfe who have agreed to actively provide support and guidance to the project.
- Active members can participate by providing overall project guidance, by taking part on scoping missions for new candidate countries and gaps analysis workshops, by contributing to the preparedness guide, and by reviewing ongoing projects through regional and global workshops.

Preparedness Project – Beyond 2021

- The Global Logistics Cluster is proposing the below three-fold approach to further develop the preparedness project and strengthen the support and guidance provided to the field for the period 2021 and beyond.
1. **Global Level Support:** To focus on logistics emergency preparedness, invest on studies related to return on investment to understand what works, where and why, and to establish and strengthen partnership at global level to help preparedness activities in the field.

2. **Strengthening Country Implementation/Sustainability:** Further strengthen preparedness activities in a selection of the currently targeted at-risk countries, where the project measures prove sustainable impact, for an additional project period of anticipated one to three years.
3. **Regional Strengthening of Preparedness Activities:** To further support and strengthen regional level partnerships with regional institutions and bodies.
 - Partners are asked to share their strategy recommendations on the Preparedness Project beyond 2021.
 - After common agreement, this recommendation will be shared with the Strategic Advisory Group for confirmation to proceed with fundraising activities.

Country Update

- **Bangladesh:** The Preparedness Expert ended his mission at the end of November last year. The recruitment of the national preparedness officer was delayed and is likely to be further postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 response. Most of the project activities are therefore temporarily suspended.
- **Cambodia:** The Preparedness Expert recruitment was completed in March, with onboarding conducted remotely. Due to travel restrictions, the expert is currently supporting the project activities remotely.
- **Colombia:** The scoping mission was conducted in February to assess the feasibility of the project. Furthermore, a remote gap and needs exercise was conducted during the first week of April to assess the impact of COVID-19. Both assessments concluded for the need to establish a logistics preparedness group led by the Government to review existing systemic supply chain gaps. Next steps are to (i) recruit logistics officer to conduct Logistics Capacity Assessments remotely to analyse and share logistics related information, (ii) to recruit a Preparedness Expert to start the preparedness project.
- **Haiti:** The security situation remains highly volatile with the ongoing emergency COVID-19 response. The project has therefore been significantly delayed. Travel restrictions are expected to further hamper the deployment of new staff when identified.
Next steps Haiti: With the current context that caused significant delays in 2019 to the project rollout, and given no short-term improvements are anticipated, it is recommended to suspend the preparedness project activities there and proceed with the next priority country in the candidate selection. If the situation changes in Haiti and upon interest of the local counterparts, the project options can be reviewed at a later stage. The meeting members agreed to the recommendations. The Strategic Advisory Group will be informed. The preparedness desk officer will reach out to the Haiti Country office to discuss the recommendation and agree on the next steps.
- **Iraq:** A gap analysis workshop was conducted in Erbil to identify the systemic supply chain gaps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq at the beginning of February. This is now planned to be followed by a similar exercise in Bagdad focusing on Federal Iraq and then merge both action plan to produce a country wide preparedness roadmap. Ongoing national lockdown and travel restrictions into Iraq are expected to further delay the project progress.
- **Lao PDR:** The National Preparedness Officer is working from home supporting the ongoing national emergency preparedness and response activities, currently focusing on COVID-19.
- **Madagascar:** The Government was able to lead and respond to the recent heavy rains and flooding that occurred in the country. Past and on-going preparedness activities in-country

showed to have supported an improvement of the emergency response mechanism. The National Logistics Working Group is coordinating with the health logistics commission on COVID-19 planned activities. The preparedness team is part of the Government national Coordination Cell. Fundraising to further extend the project activities are ongoing.

- **Malawi:** The preparedness action plan developed at the gap analysis workshop in November last year has been endorsed by the Government. The project is now at the implementation phase of the preparedness roadmap. Currently, a preparedness expert and a national officer are supporting the implementation phase.
- **Mozambique:** National Logistics Preparedness Plan of Action is endorsed by the NDMO and will be shared with all stakeholders for implementation. Based on gaps and needs identified in the Cabo Delgado region during the recent emergency, project will focus on strengthening provincial logistics technical working group. COVID-19 preparedness activities have also been integrated into the Logistics Preparedness project. Currently, a preparedness expert and a national officer are supporting the implementation.
- **Philippines:** The national Preparedness Officer is under lockdown, remotely supporting the Government's emergency preparedness and response activities, currently focussing on COVID-19 response.
- **South Sudan:** The plan to scaleup the project in March from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) focused approach to a countrywide supply chain gaps analysis has been postponed as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions. The project is currently focused on COVID-19 preparedness like the approach taken during the EVD period. Currently, a preparedness expert is supporting the activities.
- **Zimbabwe:** The project was rolled out in Zimbabwe at the beginning of February. The Government and other stakeholders had initially planned to conduct a gaps analysis workshop in April. This has now been postponed to a later period due to country lockdown. Currently, a preparedness expert and national officer are supporting the Department of Civil Protection and other stakeholders with the COVID-19 preparedness.

2. Impact of COVID-19 on the Preparedness Project

A. COVID-19 Impact on Current Project Countries:

General Impact

- Delay on the implementation of the project by an average of currently three months is foreseen due to lockdown, travel restrictions and countries being in an operation mode responding to COVID-19 emergency.
- Project is foreseen to be more COVID-19 focused.
- Due to project delays and additional costs caused by COVID-19 emergency, allocated funds are expected to be depleted prior to initially planned project completion. Planning adaption measures are being undertaken.

Proposed Approach

- For the project countries where preparedness officers are already in country, team will support on COVID-19 preparedness to the extent possible while also trying to keep the overall preparedness project moving forward.
- In cases where a shift to full emergency response mode becomes necessary, the project will be suspended and staff on the ground will be asked to support the response and their expenses will be covered through other emergency funding sources.

- For countries where the officer cannot enter the country, the project activities will be reduced in coordination with the country office and national project partners, until the COVID-19 emergency in that specific country is over.

B. COVID-19 Impact on New Candidate Countries

- Based on recommendation from the preparedness working group in February and the endorsement of SAG, there was a plan to rollout the preparedness project in the following countries before mid-2020:
 - Bhutan, Honduras, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tajikistan and Vanuatu

General Impact

- Difficult to conduct scoping missions to assess feasibility of the project due to current travel restrictions and country lockdowns.
- NDMOs and other national stakeholders are expected to have limited resources during this period to focus on a new project which may not be seen as a priority.
- Difficult to undertake recruitment process and deploy staff to the new countries.
- Overall rollout and implementation of the project in these new eleven countries is expected to be delayed beyond the current funding arrangements.

Proposed Approach

- To engage with new candidate countries to assess their readiness and willingness to start the project
- To conduct a remote online country onboarding to be followed by a physical scoping mission at later date to meet National Disaster Management Offices and other in-country stakeholders. Based on the outcome of scoping mission, staff recruitment and deployment to be conducted to rollout the project if the situation allows.
- To continuously update donors about potential delay and impact on available funding.

3. AOB

- GLC will share with the working group the current ToRs for the Preparedness Expert and National Preparedness officer roles for review.

Contacts

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