MID-YEAR REVIEW 2015
MASSIVE MULTI-HUB RESPONSE FOLLOWING NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

Immediately after the devastating earthquake that struck Nepal on 25 April, the depots in Dubai, Malaysia and Panama began working in overdrive to dispatch life-saving supplies and support partner response efforts. Since then, 699 MT (worth US$4.3 million) of critical medical, shelter, water/sanitation items and support equipment have been sent to Nepal from the three depots.

Despite significant logistics challenges, eight chartered flights carrying US$1.3 million worth of humanitarian cargo flew from Dubai to Kathmandu on behalf of 13 partners. The International Humanitarian City (IHC) provided unwavering support in facilitating flights from Dubai.

Two chartered flights also departed from Kuala Lumpur; one carrying relief items for Irish Aid and the other carrying shelter tool kits for Australian Aid. Also onboard and generously transported by Australia were two forklifts that WFP is using to help manage supplies for the humanitarian community, as they race against the clock to deliver relief assistance before the monsoon rains.

Relief items were also sent from Panama on behalf of Cascos Blancos, and support equipment was shipped via sea from Kuala Lumpur for WFP.

Four members of UNHRD’s Rapid Response Team (RRT) were deployed to Nepal to support cargo receipt at Kathmandu airport, and to help construct storage and hospital facilities. The first RRT member arrived 48 hours after the earthquake struck, onboard a plane provided by Malaysia and also carrying personnel and supplies from Mercy Malaysia and the Red Crescent.
OTHER OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Floods in Malaysia**
January

- **213 MT** CARGO DISPATCHED
- **1.4 million USD** VALUE OF GOODS DISPATCHED
- 11 SHIPPMENTS
- 6 PARTNERS

**Floods in Malawi**
January

- **259 MT** CARGO DISPATCHED
- **1.4 million USD** VALUE OF GOODS DISPATCHED
- 7 SHIPPMENTS
- 6 PARTNERS

**Conflict in Yemen**
Since March

- **169 MT** CARGO DISPATCHED
- **1.4 million USD** VALUE OF GOODS DISPATCHED
- 11 SHIPPMENTS
- 5 PARTNERS

**Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu**
March

- **115 MT** CARGO DISPATCHED
- **545,000 USD** VALUE OF GOODS DISPATCHED
- 6 SHIPPMENTS
- 9 PARTNERS

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**Staff Profile: Kelvin Wong, Rapid Response Team**

Kelvin is a logistician in UNHRD’s Kuala Lumpur depot, but over the last eight months he has spent more time in the field helping Liberia fight Ebola, Vanuatu recover from Cyclone Pam and most recently making sure supplies were well managed in Nepal following the devastating earthquake. He had returned home from Vanuatu only two days before the earthquake struck, and landed in Kathmandu 48 hours later.

**What were your immediate impressions upon arrival in Kathmandu?**
The airport was chaotic with so much aid arriving and so many people trying to leave at the same time. I started work as soon as I got off the plane and did not see any of the destruction for a week because I barely left the airport.

**What specific tasks were you given?**
My first task was to set-up more Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) and pre-fabs in the Humanitarian Staging Area, which had been established a few months earlier as a preparedness measure. I helped manage all the relief aid coming in and out of various warehouses. A few days later, UNHRD’s RRT and other local staff moved to remote areas, while I stayed in Kathmandu to install more MSUs for the Supreme Court, hospitals and army camps, and then went out to Banepa and Nuwakot.

**How was this mission different to other missions you’ve undertaken?**
Developing the Staging Area much more efficient because WFP had pre-positioned most equipment, MSUs and pre-fabs for immediate set-up. The aftershocks continued for several weeks and the damaged infrastructure in mountainous terrain hampered the movement of supplies, but we kept them going. The cooperation and assistance from the Nepali forces, and local WFP colleagues and UNHRD staff were second to none.

**What did you find most challenging?**
Road access and transportation were most difficult. Personally, access to food and clean sanitation were a little challenging in the first few days. A couple of weeks later, I was very nervous setting up two additional MSUs in Banepa when the second 7.1 magnitude quake hit.
Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in 2014, UNHRD has consistently supported Partners’ response operations. After dispatching 1,600 metric tonnes of critical supplies from four depots to West Africa last year, UNHRD’s 2015 operations have focused on supporting WHO, WFP and JICA’s efforts to eliminate Ebola.

Extending Port Loko Logistics Hub

Within just one month, WFP’s main logistics base in Sierra Leone at Port Loko was transformed from 9 to 23 storage tents for the humanitarian community.

In March, UNHRD’s Rapid Response Team (RRT) returned to Sierra Leone for five weeks to help extend the Port Loko logistics hub. This base is now 40,000m² with 19,250m³ protected storage capacity, and has become the largest warehousing complex for Ebola supplies in West Africa. The extension follows humanitarian partners agreeing to centralise all supplies in Port Loko as it is best-positioned close to areas still suffering from Ebola cases. It’s also close to Lungi international airport which will assist the transition to post-Ebola projects. The Logistics Cluster currently manages supplies for 13 organisations there, and all other bases are closing.

Supporting WFP’s Engineering unit, UNHRD’s RRT disassembled the previous nine Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to optimise the space for additional ones, thereby expanding the facilities to 23 MSUs. WFP provided US$1 million for the project and the majority of extension works included:

- Digging 2,000m for drainage
- Adding 2000m³ of gravel
- Installing electricity and water networks
- Building staff facilities
- Repairing 800m of concrete wall
- Creating fuel, chemical and medical storage sub-divisions

Supplying and Setting-up WHO Advance Camps

In February, WHO and WFP formalised an agreement whereby UNHRD would procure prefabricated units, furniture, equipment and medical supplies for 16 camps across the Ebola-affected countries. Since then, over 60 prefab units have been delivered and 15 have been installed by UNHRD’s Rapid Response Team in Sierra Leone. WHO staff live and work in these advance camps and conduct deep-field operations to trace potential Ebola contact.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Kitting in Accra

In March, all hands were on deck in the Accra depot receiving, storing, kitting and shipping over 250,000 pieces of WHO’s protective equipment including gum boots, google, gloves, masks and face shields. Kits for 7,500 health care workers were immediately shipped to the affected countries, and kits for an additional 5,000 people were prepared ready for rapid dispatch when needed.

Japan Donates 700,000 Sets of PPEs to WHO

To help ensure healthcare workers are protected, Japan donated 700,000 sets of PPEs to Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Mali, through WHO. In January, the sets were sent from Japan to the Nippon Express warehouse in Dubai, and then transported to the UNHRD warehouse over 10 days. Since then, the supplies were regularly flown from Dubai to West Africa with the final shipment taking place in May.
HUMANITARIAN PROCUREMENT CENTRE CERTIFICATION

The WFP-managed UNHRD Network has been recognized by ECHO as a Humanitarian Procurement Centre (HPC), which will allow ECHO’s humanitarian partners to procure using a single quote procedure and place orders without the competitive tendering process.

Several of ECHO’s partners are part of the UNHRD Network and therefore could directly benefit from this certification. Partners are assured that ECHO has already assessed UNHRD’s fair tendering and pricing structures, and therefore they do not need to conduct their own assessment or price comparison.

They are also assured that they are respecting the minimum procurement requirements and obligations established by ECHO, irrespective of the amount of the contract. This creates simplified and more efficient procurement processes as it reduces extra financial and administrative work.

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS ENHANCE UNHRD

UPS Supports UNHRD’s Rapid Response Team

The UPS Foundation is generously supporting UNHRD’s Rapid Response Team (RRT), allowing the development and delivery of a RRT training in 2015. UNHRD provides Partners with crucial technical assistance for specialized logistics services through its RRT, such as supporting the management of airport operations, warehouse installation and management in emergency operations. Using UPS’ contribution, UNHRD will work with a team of experts to develop a new, tailored training module and train staff from WFP, UNHRD, UNHRD Partners and the private sector. This training will help ensure that human resources and service requirements are matched for future emergency responses, and that equipment is set-up faster to support the operations.

New CAT Equipment

Caterpillar is providing much-needed operational equipment for the Brindisi and Dubai depots this year. New forklifts, shelf-stackers and trans-pallets, worth over US$320,000, will increase the efficiency of these depots and will enable faster emergency response as current equipment has reached the end of its lifespan. Considering the critical timeframes for UNHRD’s operations, having fully operational ground handling equipment is essential. In April and May, most new equipment was delivered and two additional diesel forklifts will arrive in Brindisi in June.

Switzerland Strengthens Global Emergency Preparedness & Rapid Response

The Government of Switzerland continues to support the UNHRD Network and has recently provided US$250,000 for global operations in 2015. This generous contribution will allow UNHRD to better serve the humanitarian community, by helping improve operational effectiveness in the six depots and diversifying the services offered to UNHRD’s 67 Partners. Since 2013, Switzerland has been a regular and generous supporter of the Network, not only with cash contributions but also through the secondment of experienced staff. Currently, two Swiss secondees are in the Dubai depot; one who focuses on external relations and another who is doing a three-month on-the-job training to be ready to deploy as part of UNHRD’s Rapid Response Team.
RECENT EVENTS

Launch of the Group of Friends of UNHRD

In February, the Group of Friends of UNHRD was officially launched by the Italian Government, bringing together likeminded donors who recognize the need to invest in preparedness and want to help ensure a sustainable UNHRD Network.

The Group of Friends is an informal group of UNHRD donors and WFP Executive Board members who will raise awareness and sensitize interested parties about the significance of UNHRD’s role in the humanitarian community.

During the launch, representatives from over 30 countries showed their support and asked to be updated on UNHRD progress, activities and events. The Italian Government is currently coordinating the Group of Friends initiative; leadership will rotate on a yearly basis and Spain has offered to take the next lead. The Group of Friends will develop a special partnership with UNHRD management to help increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Network’s activities.

AHA Centre and UNHRD Lessons Learned workshop in Indonesia

In May, UNHRD Kuala Lumpur met the AHA Centre in Jakarta to review its partnership, detail the successes, challenges and lessons learned for future cooperation in the region. A major point of discussion was the preparation plan for Phase 2 of the Disaster Emergency Logistic System (DELSA) Project, which is a comprehensive logistics system that can immediately serve disaster-affected ASEAN Member States during an emergency response.

Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development (DIHAD) conference

The 2015 DIHAD conference in Dubai brought together humanitarian actors, governments, NGOs and the private sector to discuss ways of delivering aid more effectively. DIHAD is an important event to share best practices among humanitarian actors, and showcases new trends in operational support and services. This year’s conference focused on humanitarian opportunities, mobility and sustainability, and participants were invited to tour the UNHRD facilities.

NOREPS Meeting in Oslo

In January, UNHRD management visited Norway to discuss potentially expanding their stockpile of humanitarian supplies across the Network. Norway is a strong supporter of UNHRD and is seconding a Junior Professional Officer to the UNHRD LAB.

UNHRD Mission to Australia

In April, UNHRD management visited the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra, and also went to Australia’s largest humanitarian response warehouse in Brisbane where Australian Aid and partner NGO’s relief items are stored.

Irish Aid Visits UNHRD in Italy

In May, Irish Aid visited WFP headquarters in Rome and the depot in Brindisi. They have been a long time supporter of the UNHRD Network, and an Irish Aid stand-by partner has recently joined the Accra depot to focus on WFP’s Regional Fleet activities.
In the first half of 2015, Linking the World, ECHO and USAID signed Technical Agreements with the UNHRD Network, bringing the total number of Partners to 67. In the last five years, the number of UNHRD Partners has increased by almost 70%.

**NEW PARTNERS**

**TRAINING FACILITIES**

In early 2015, UNHRD’s facilities in Brindisi were used to hold two humanitarian logistics trainings; WFP’s Functional and Support Training for Emergency Response (FASTER), and the Logistics Cluster’s Rapid Response Training (LRT). FASTER helps improve WFP's emergency response during sudden onset emergencies, by placing staff in a realistic emergency environment and exposing them to various response approaches, tools and deadline pressures. The LRT gathers participants from many organisations to undertake intensive simulation exercises and coordination tasks for the onset of an emergency response. The Brindisi depot has hosted more than 20 similar trainings since 2007 for partner organisations.

UNHRD’s facilities in Accra have also been used for recent workshops. WFP hosted a mid-year review meeting with all their partners, and FAO used the facilities for their regional meeting. In Kuala Lumpur, World Vision International used the UNHRD facilities to hold an Integrated Emergency Logistics Training in March.

**NEW VIDEOS ON UNHRD WEBSITE**

Barcoding and warehouse mapping project rolls out in Dubai
Rapid Logistics Response Training in Malaysia
Flight Lands in Guinea Carrying Japan’s Ebola Protective Gear
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