UNHRD Major Responses: January-July 2014

Inaugurating New Facilities

San Vito (Brindisi), Italy

On 17 June, UNHRD’s refurbished facilities, training center and base near Brindisi, Italy, were inaugurated by WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin, and the Director of the Italian Development Cooperation, Giampaolo Cantini.

Click here to see the video

Las Palmas (Canary Islands), Spain

On July 8, Las Palmas was officially inaugurated as the latest addition to the UNHRD Network by WFP Executive Director, Ertharin Cousin, three Spanish Government ministers, the Secretary General of International Development Cooperation and representatives of the local government in the Canary Islands.

Click here to see the video
Facility Enhancements

New concrete ramp in Dubai
The International Humanitarian City (IHC) in Dubai has generously provided a concrete ramp outside UNHRD's warehouse, making loading and offloading containers much easier and faster. Previously, all 20-40 foot containers had to be grounded by a side-loader, costing approximately US$300 per container. On average, UNHRD receives 200 sea containers each year, so having the permanent concrete ramp will result in significant savings for UNHRD Partners and will further enhance UNHRD's operational efficiency in Dubai.

Going green in Ghana
With support from Irish Aid and in efforts to improve environmental sustainability, a 24kW photovoltaic system was installed on the roof of UNHRD Ghana's office building to provide the daytime electrical needs of the office. Solar panels were also installed to provide hot water in the washrooms. Not only will this reduce the running costs of the Accra depot, it will also help ensure a greener footprint.

More Partners
UNHRD warmly welcomes Welthungerhilfe, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and Fundación Mujeres por África to the UNHRD Network in 2014. UNHRD now has 61 Partners.

Did You Know?
UNHRD has joined Facebook and Twitter! Follow us @UNHRD and like the Facebook page to keep updated.
UNHRD has established a research and development unit called the UNHRD LAB to review, test and develop innovative products for humanitarian response, as well as having a strong support function advising Partners on the most appropriate specs for their activities. A team of field experts and engineers based in Brindisi are partnering with leading research centres, suppliers and governments to identify more appropriate and cost-effective items, incorporating green technologies, user-friendly units and integrated kits for our Partners.

Barcoding and Warehouse Mapping Update
In efforts to improve efficiency, accountability and provide Partners with immediate updates, UNHRD is digitally mapping its warehouses by barcoding the facilities and stock. By July, the barcoding project design had been verified and systems were developed to finalise pending issues. Dubai warehouse has been fully mapped, while the Subang warehouse will be mapped in August. It is expected that Dubai barcoding will go live in September, and Subang in October.

Advanced Prepositioning
As a pilot project, UNHRD has prepositioned Wiikhalls in Kampala for Partners to draw from. By prepositioning high-rotating items like Wiikhalls closer to final destinations, delivery time and costs for Partners are reduced. UNHRD is exploring similar arrangements in other corridors facing long land transit time. This pilot project is being supported by the HEC Montréal who are undertaking an analysis of the activity to determine the value added.

Regional Partners Meeting
Following the Global Partners Meeting in 2013, UNHRD Subang hosted a two day Regional Partners Meeting in June 2014 to specifically focus on activities in Asia. This meeting took stock of progress made so far in the region, and discussed ways of further enhancing emergency preparedness and response through stockpiling relief items across the UNHRD Network. To see a summary report of the meeting, click here and log in.
**External Audit**
The first external audit of the UNHRD Network was presented in the June 2014 WFP Executive Board meeting. Key recommendations include: 1) diversifying the donor base and range of activities to help ensure long-term financial sustainability, and 2) improving operational processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

**Trainings**
Both Brindisi and Subang depots have hosted a variety of trainings in their facilities this year, including WFP's and UNICEF's corporate emergency response trainings, and the AHA Centre Executive Programme (ACE) for disaster management officers from the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) member states. Did you know the Accra depot also has a training center? Click here to see UNHRD Accra’s training center brochure.

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