

A woman in a yellow patterned dress carries a child on her back, walking through a dry, dusty landscape. In the background, other people and a few trees are visible under a hazy sky.

Disaster Preparedness: A View from the Border of Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs)

World Trade Organization

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Sebastien Cazenave, Sr. Director - Global Logistics & Supply Chain



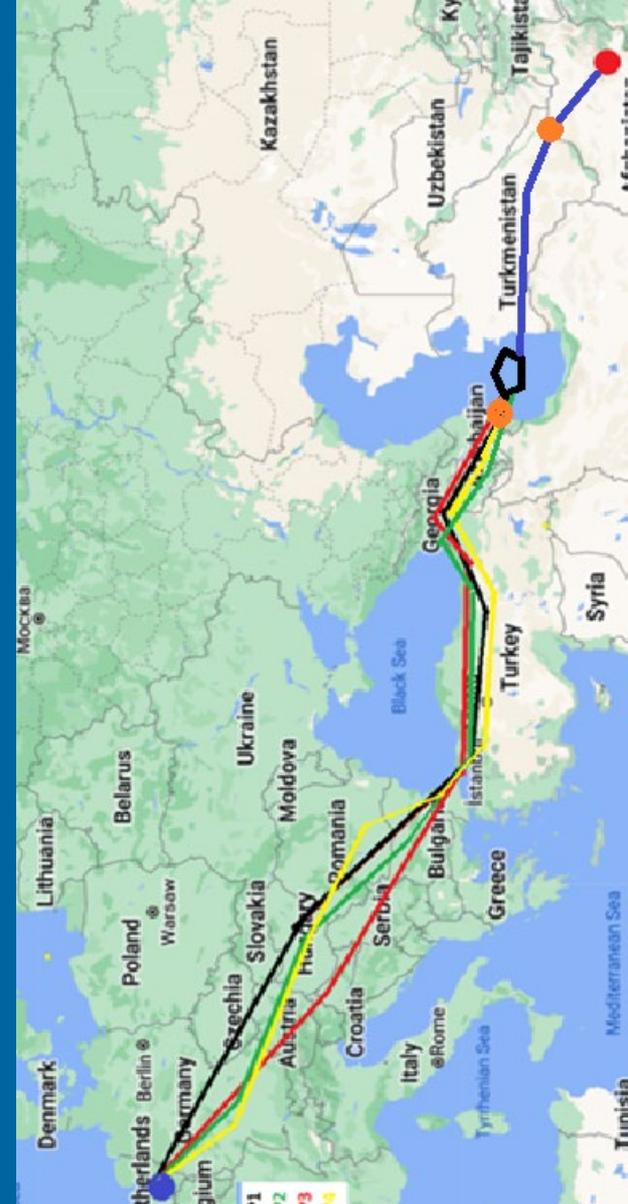
Emergency response

- The faster commodities are delivered; the more people are saved.
- **Delays in acquisition, transportation & duty-free importation have a direct impact to level and speed of assistance to affected populations**
- **Stakeholders' efforts to facilitate rapid acquisition, transport and importation allow implementing partners to respond better**
- Affected-country Governments, Transit-countries Governments, Donors play a key role in humanitarian response effectiveness



Export restrictions

- **Sanctioned countries / export:** requiring donor pre-approval limited for certain type of commodities
 - Impact: Delayed in deployment of equipment to Sanctioned countries
 - Example: approval for EMT to Syria was granted within 10 days
 - Recommendation: waver applicable to humanitarian cargos when large response is planned, set fast-track waver approval mechanisms
- **General Export restrictions:** Export limitations implemented with no prior-notice to protect country customers
 - Impact: ongoing procurements, unclear administrative processes, additional time required, success uncertainty
 - Example: COVID19 PPE export restrictions for goods produced in China, India and EU as well as USA.
 - Recommendation: Exempt humanitarian shipments, fast-tracked administrative processes, common comms channel



Transit restrictions

- **Transport restrictions:** Sanctioned countries excluded from road transport options
 - Impact: overreliance of air-shipment, increased costs, complex transport models, increased lead time, limited alternatives.
 - Example: land transport to AFG by-passing Iran 14 countries crossed, \$30K/truck, +10 days vs Iran transit
 - Recommendation: reconsider restrictions for humanitarian cargo
- **Transit countries political will / interest:**
 - Impact: can facilitate, slow down or prevent transit leading to transit challenges / delays
 - Example: Ongoing conflict in Arabic peninsula require trans-boarding mid-way adding time.
 - Recommendation: Involve transit countries government in design of response plan

Maintain cold chain or ambient temperature storage during transit is paramount to preserve items integrity



Transit challenges – Non-Gvmt-Areas

- **Initial unclarity in XB operation to NGAs.**
 - **Impact:** legal risks, process unclarity, supply chain design challenges, time to establish mechanism
 - **Example:** Syria response onset

- **Reliance on treaties depending on political interest**
 - **Impact:** complex importation procedures, political pressure and agenda to renew mechanism.
 - **Example:** Resolution 2672 allowing Border Crossing into NGA of Syria renewal dependance to security council member political agenda



Sourcing restrictions

- **Sourcing restrictions:** Acquisition of medical commodities from pre-approved suppliers. Waiver for use of local vendors is a complex process.
 - Impact: competition, reliance on few vendors vs. local procurement
 - **Example:** US Gvt limited to 16 vendors (for QA purposes) major based in Netherlands, requiring air-shipments and competition between actors
 - Recommendation: Authorize local procurement from prequalified vendors or adopt QUAMED as (temporarily) sufficient



Import regulation challenges: Restrictions or bans for molecules/brands/manufacturers

- **Politically motivated rejection of brands / manufacturers**
 - **Impact:** cargos on hold due to one item, limited acquisition options, timely waiver requests
 - **Example:** Israeli products boycott, Chinese banned manufacturers of IT equipment
 - **Recommendation:** exempt humanitarian cargo from restrictions

- **Protection of local market rejection of molecules**
 - **Impact:** incapacity to procure from international manufacturers (donor-imposed) and import (host-government-imposed), higher costs
 - **Example:** Cameroon, Turkey, Jordan
 - **Excessive or unrealistic documents requirements for humanitarian shipments and no priority given to the duty free import request from humanitarian health partners**
 - **Recommendation:** lift restrictions to humanitarian importations and prioritize humanitarian cargo processing



Import regulation challenges: inadequate infrastructure

- **Lack of temperature controlled warehouses or lack of handling equipment exposes cargo to inadequate conditions:**
 - **Impact:** Cargos may be left or stored under sub-standard conditions or released prior to clearance completion. There is
 - **Example:** IMC cargo stored for 2 months in sub-standard conditions (Sudan), 72hrs clearance post delivery (CAR).
 - **Recommendation:** Establish appropriate temperature controlled warehouses with ambient temperature and cold chain where lacking or non-functional
- **Limitation in entry points for medical cargo:**
 - **Impact:** importation complexity
 - **Example:** Import via Chad to Sudan via Geneina not valid for medical commodities (in normal time) requiring import via Abeche
 - **Recommendation:** establish “medical cargo import capacity during ERs”



Import regulation challenges: Renewal of authorizations / MOUs

- **Delays in renewal of NGOs framework agreements, import and tax exemptions...**
 - **Impact:** Incapacity to import during renewal time
 - **Example:** Every year, shipments stop Dec.15 and start best case Mar.01 when import exoneration is renewed
 - **Recommendation:** grant multi-year exonerated lists, during ER, favor established NGOs to import and implement responses, or exempt NGOs from exonerated requirement
- **Lack of consignees during emergency responses**
 - **Impact:** unrealistic lists, not considering emergency responses, need review preventing import
 - **Example:** Itemized lists “box-level” submitted yearly
 - **Recommendation:** WHO or UN to act as consignee where present



Import regulation challenges: Consignees

- **Lack of eligible consignee prevent NGOs to respond rapidly**
 - **Impact:** Goods are available but cannot be shipped
 - **Example:** where countries have a strong local response mechanism, local NGOs have to be consignees
 - **Recommendation:** EMT mechanisms are effective means to allow fast deployment under Gvt controlled process, list of potential NGOs recipients
- **Lack of pre-defined emergency importation process**
 - **Impact:** lack of clarity at the onset of the response leads to delays in importation, change in processes along the way
 - **Example:** Simplified Importation of medical commodities
 - **Recommendation:** Countries to adopt simplified importation mechanisms (may be applied to all of limited to organizations registered in country)



Regulating un-solicited donations overflow

- **Unsolicited donations are impacting the possibility to fast-track the importation of required urgent items**
 - **Impact:** crowded warehouses, destruction, import delays...
 - **Example:** unsolicited GIKs systematically end up not utilized and to dispose for every response
 - **Recommendation:** Communicate on items authorized to import, provide registered actors more flexibility, one stop-shop.



THANK YOU!



HEADQUARTERS

12400 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90025
310-826-7800

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www.InternationalMedicalCorps.org