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

World Trade Organization

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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-rack 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 exoneration lists, during ER, favor established NGOs to import and implement responses, or exempt NGOs from exoneration 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 conginee 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!

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