



IMPACCT

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

Disaster Preparedness: A View from the Border

Geneva, 21 March 2023

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Created in 2017 at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week, CICG, Geneva

Network of 11 strategic partners

World Customs Organisation
International Humanitarian City
UNCTAD
IFRC
Save the Children
OCHA

Help Logistics
World Bank
ITU
Global Logistics Cluster
MSF-Belgium

Funded by DG-ECHO



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Strategic objectives for 2020-2025

1

High-level policy initiatives: Contributing to the development of high-level policy recommendations and international legal frameworks

2

Global outreach and communications: Building increased awareness through outreach, coordination and networks

3

Technical and technological support: Supporting the use of technology and other systems that enhance and streamline cross-border processes for humanitarian aid



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Strategic objectives for 2020-2025

4

Training and capacity building: Partnering to increase the availability and quality of training materials and opportunities for humanitarian partners

5

Support to disaster response efforts: Sharing information and making available key disaster relief importation information for response efforts

6

Country specific activities: Implementing tailored country-specific activities to increase the preparedness of governmental regulatory agencies and humanitarian partners



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Impact of the lack of preparedness

Affected population: Delays in receiving needed humanitarian assistance



Credit: Vincent Tremeau/OCHA

Humanitarian actors:

- Goods delayed or stuck at Customs entry or transit points. In particular for specialized medical or telecommunications equipment.
- Uncertain or inconsistent importation procedures.
- Lack of Customs focal points.
- Lack of understanding on the role of Customs and the importance of the controls to protect the borders of the affected country.
- May be in compliance breach or later owe money for such breaches
- Increased risk of reputational loss.

Private sector / Trade: Disruptions of the commercial supply chain





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Impact of the lack of preparedness

Donors:

- Ineffective use of funding when aid is dispatched however does not reach affected people
- Increased costs due to delays and accumulated storage fees
- Little visibility of whether aid is likely to reach affected people



Government and cross-border agencies

- Compelled to make reactive, changing and inconsistent decisions in times of disaster if legal provisions for response are in place.
- Disruptions of the operations / Under-staffed.
- Need to ensure controls of incoming goods are maintained and taxes are collected, whereas under-staffed.
- Further pressures due to the influx of unsolicited goods.
- Little visibility of incoming aid goods.
- Large influx of goods received in short period.
- Inconsistent applications of the procedures at customs procedures.
- Lack or insufficient capacity building for customs staff at entry points.





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STRATEGIC PLAN



LESSONS LEARNED

Should the national legal framework be amended?

How to improve the collaboration at national level?

Should SOPs be revised?





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Four key messages

1

A proactive approach to emergency preparedness in case of natural disaster or public health emergency is crucial to support disaster relief efforts.

2

The provisions of the international conventions should be incorporated into the **national legislation, regulations, and national emergency plans.**

3

Training plans should ensure that customs officers, as well as officers from the other competent border agencies at all entry points, are qualified and able to manage a large influx of aid.

4

Lessons learned and recommendations from previous emergencies, training and simulation exercises should be effectively implemented.



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THANK YOU

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