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Emergency Supply Chain Preparedness Overview Guide

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OVERVIEW CONTENTS



Purpose of this overview: To provide sponsors, senior leadership, and interested partners with an introduction to emergency supply chain preparedness as it is covered in the Playbook.

THE OVERVIEW ANSWERS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What is emergency supply chain preparedness and why does it matter?

1

What is our approach to emergency supply chain preparedness?

2

What are the key elements of emergency supply chain preparedness?

3

What does the journey for implementing emergency supply chain preparedness look like?

4

WHAT IS EMERGENCY SUPPLY CHAIN PREPAREDNESS AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?



Definition of emergency supply chain preparedness: Establish a system ahead of an emergency to manage all the commodities necessary to respond to an outbreak and ensure they get to the point of care as efficiently as possible.

WHY IS EMERGENCY SUPPLY CHAIN IMPORTANT?



Emergencies present unique supply chain challenges



Demand is **unpredictable** and requires timely delivery to save lives



Emergencies put a **strain on existing logistics systems**



Resources required to respond to emergencies are **complex and expensive**



Investments in preparedness pay off



Preparedness saves lives by **getting essential medicines to the front lines rapidly**



Money invested in preparedness reduces the amount of response funds by **2x**



Time invested in preparedness speeds response **by over a week on average**

SOURCE: UNICEF/WFP Return on Investment for Emergency Preparedness Study, January 2015. Emergency management logistics must become emergency supply chain management, Young and Peterson.



WHAT IS OUR APPROACH TO EMERGENCY SUPPLY CHAIN PREPAREDNESS?



This playbook takes a particular perspective on emergency supply chain preparedness, although the recommendations and resources it contains are applicable across a range of emergency contexts.



Audience

This playbook focuses on helping country governments strengthen their emergency supply chain preparedness capabilities, though other partners will be involved



Types of emergencies

This playbook takes a One Health lens, focusing on emergencies caused by diseases with human, animal, and environmental factors posing epidemic and pandemic threats, though it can complement an all hazards approach



Function

This playbook focuses on supply chain, which fits into a broader comprehensive emergency planning process that includes other functions like surveillance



Time frame

This playbook emphasizes the “preparedness” phase of emergency planning, which occurs before an outbreak takes place; however, a country’s response plan should build on the capabilities put in place during this phase

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF EMERGENCY SUPPLY CHAIN PREPAREDNESS?



There are three major areas of ESC preparedness: people and processes, commodity planning, and logistics and transport. Under these three areas are nine key elements involved in building an in-country emergency supply chain preparedness capability. The journey of implementing this capability will involve doing work in each of these components.

PEOPLE AND PROCESSES: CLEAR STRUCTURES OF GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PROCESSES THAT ENABLE THE ESC TO FUNCTION



Governance and organizational structure:

Develop a governance system with roles and responsibilities for ESC structure to ensure accountability. Map stakeholders and put in place collaboration mechanisms to define how they will work together. Train staff and stakeholders.



Triggers: Identify and prioritize diseases for ESC to plan for and determine what events will trigger ESC's activation.



Financing: Calculate the amount of funds necessary for ongoing preparedness and emergency response, identify funding sources, and appropriate funds.



Data visibility: Put in place a system to track supply and demand data during an emergency to ensure timely and sufficient resupply

COMMODITY PLANNING: PRE-DEFINED COMMODITIES THAT THE ESC WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AND PLANS FOR HOW TO GET THEM



Commodity forecasting: Identify the types of commodities that the emergency supply chain will be responsible for in the event of an emergency based on the prioritized list of diseases that the country is at risk of.



Procurement and sourcing: Identify and document sources for each of the necessary commodities and put in place agreements ahead of time to procure the commodities



Stockpiling: Determine the quantity of commodities necessary to respond to prioritized diseases and plan where to stockpile those commodities to ensure they're readily accessible by examining existing stockpiles, building national stockpiles where necessary.



Warehousing and storage: Determine how much warehousing and storage will be necessary in an emergency response, map all existing resources, and plan to fill any capacity gaps through permanent or temporary storage.



Transport and logistics: Update customs procedures for emergency commodities, estimate transport needs for a response, and put in place agreements to secure sufficient transport capacity. Map out waste disposal capabilities and determine protocols for priority diseases.

WHAT IS THE JOURNEY FOR IMPLEMENTING EMERGENCY SUPPLY CHAIN PREPAREDNESS?



Preparedness journey



The preparedness journey will take several months of significant effort and capacity by a dedicated core team of ~5-10 people, with participation from a broader range of stakeholders, and then will be maintained on an ongoing basis. The first steps of this journey are detailed on the “Getting Started” page in the User Guide. Once these prerequisites are in place, teams will divide the responsibilities of the User Guide by role, and work through the User Guide methodically to build capacity in each of the key elements over the course of several months. Once the initial implementation effort is completed, the ESC team will need to maintain capabilities by using the Playbook materials as references and customizing key outputs and materials electronically on an ongoing basis.

