

HELIX PROBLEM STATEMENTS

HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY LOGISTICS INNOVATION EXPO (HELIX) 2021



BACKGROUND

Within the ASEAN region, the presence of a reliable humanitarian logistics system is essential to ensure that ASEAN and the other humanitarian actors can quickly respond to the needs of affected populations and fill the gaps in supporting the response operations of the government. The need is even greater as the region is experiencing increased frequency and intensity of disasters in the region.

As part of the Disaster Emergency Logistics System of ASEAN (DELSA) Project Phase II, the AHA Centre is organising the ASEAN Humanitarian Logistics Innovation Forum which will capture the latest advancements and innovation in humanitarian logistics and supply chain management. The forum aims to bring a range of stakeholders from both the commercial and non-commercial sectors to come together and discuss issues related to logistics innovations for humanitarian purposes, as well as recommend solutions to current gaps and emerging needs in logistics capability of humanitarian actors in the region.

Many systems used now in the humanitarian logistics operate with an application behind it. A hackathon is a competition to develop software or codes to solve society's problems – in this case, challenges faced by ASEAN governments in humanitarian logistics. The AHackathon is the platform established by the AHA Centre in partnership with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority and in cooperation with Thuy Loi University, HELP Logistics and Impact Week.

The teams competing will propose software or application-based solutions to the identified problems in humanitarian logistics. During the actual hackathon, all teams will have 48 hours to finish the application.

The ASEAN Member States and representatives from the universities and other humanitarian partners will serve as judges of the competition.

The “Best App Solution” will be announced during the HELIX on





PROBLEMS IN HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS

The AHAckahton should provide an application-based solution to any or a combination of the following problems:

1. How can humanitarian needs be quickly identified or estimated to enable humanitarian logistics teams to swiftly plan the types and volume of relief items and plan the most suitable mode or modes of delivery to reach and distribute the items to the affected community at the soonest possible time?

Needs assessments after a disaster take time. Various agencies use different formats to get different types of information to respond to different needs of the community. There is a high probability that some items will be oversupplied while other items are under-resourced, including life-saving assistance such as food, water, medicines, and blankets. There is also a high probability that the most hard-to-reach areas will be excluded or will receive assistance later rather than sooner. There is a lot of internal displacement and movement of people, so the demographics change significantly. Humanitarian logistics teams therefore are always faced with the challenge of what items they can supply and in what quantities, and where to direct this assistance and that these items are delivered at the soonest possible time so that duplication of efforts are minimized while the communities most in-need are prioritized.

References:

- [Types of items: AJDRP modules; SPHERE standards](#)
- [SASOP Forms \(Standby Arrangement\)](#)
- [WFP Logistics Capacity Assessment](#)
- [The Grand Bargain](#)

2. How can beneficiaries know what types of relief items will be distributed, when, to whom, and how they will be able to receive items?

Disasters affect a community, but it affects different people to different degrees. Poorer households who do not have access to information or to a supportive social network are the most vulnerable and deeply impacted. Yet, potentially, they are also most likely to be the ones to be left behind. Some households may receive a generic type of assistance, such as food assistance, but there are family members who have different needs. Older people will have a different type of food and medicines, and along with people with disabilities, will need assistive devices (walking sticks, wheelchair, or eyeglasses). Children will need school supplies and toys. Women will need feminine hygiene items or a proper breastfeeding area in an evacuation centre. Different organisations provide different types of assistance and they need to be directed to the people who need them according to their conditions. But affected families do not have this information available or know how to access them.

References:

- [Types of items: AJDRP modules; SPHERE standards](#)
- [SASOP Forms \(Standby Arrangement\)](#)
- [The Grand Bargain](#)

3. How can beneficiaries provide feedback about the relief items they received, including quality, appropriateness, and adequacy, among others? How can a humanitarian agency confirm whether beneficiaries received the relief items in a real-time or near real-time manner to be able to make adjustments to their humanitarian response?

During catastrophic disasters, there is an overflow of assistance from public and private donors but it is difficult to track whether all communities in need of assistance have been reached and whether they are satisfied with the assistance and how the support was provided to them. At the same time, humanitarian agencies need to conform to international humanitarian standards. How can there be increased transparency and accountability during humanitarian response? How can feedback from the affected communities be tracked if they have been addressed?

Resources:

- [CORE Humanitarian Standards and SPHERE Standards](#)
- [The Grand Bargain](#)

4. How can humanitarian logistics teams and agencies reduce transport costs and shorten delivery, get quick approvals for customs, immigration, and quarantine processes during emergencies? How can the relief assistance be more inclusive particularly to hard-to-reach areas?

One of the main roadblocks for getting relief assistance to affected communities quickly is the processing time for customs clearance of humanitarian relief items and equipment as well as immigration clearance for specialists. Different ASEAN Member States have different structures, processes, requirements and forms for CIQ.

- [SASOP Forms \(Standby Arrangement\)](#)
- [WFP Logistics Capacity Assessment](#)
- [The Grand Bargain](#)

5. How can decision-makers and humanitarian agencies know who is providing what types of relief items will be provided by whom, to where, when, and in what quantities, including where the items are in the logistics chain?

The United Nations uses the 3Ws (who, what, where) tracking system to determine what humanitarian agencies will provide to where. ASEAN hopes to build up on this system to provide decision-makers with real-time information on the offers of assistance and decide which items to accept. In the Emergency Operations Centre, the information on when items are arriving will help organise the logistics at the receiving end of the chain. Donors and the public will also be interested to know what assistance have been received by the affected communities.

References:

- [Types of items: AJDRP modules; SPHERE standards](#)
- [SASOP Forms \(Standby Arrangement\)](#)
- [WFP Logistics Capacity Assessment](#)
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6. How can the public more effectively and accountably pool funds for disaster response? How can governments and the public track the amount of public and private donations during a response and where they went (who received how much across the chain, how many benefitted from which disaster-affected areas)?

The Grand Bargain calls for increased localisation, including the progressive increase in the proportion of humanitarian funds managed by and as directly as possible. Local governments or subnational offices who are expected to manage and coordinate the response are also not fully aware of what needs have been addressed and therefore are blind to gaps which are felt and urgent needs of affected communities. Increasing the transparency and accountability of the use of humanitarian funding can encourage more people and donors to support the response and more importantly, ensure that the needs of affected communities and vulnerable groups are effectively and efficiently provided.

References:

- The Grand Bargain