

Overcoming Logistics Challenges in Delivering Humanitarian Aid

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“...disasters are the embodiment of randomness. You don’t know when they’re going to happen, where it’s going to happen, and who’s going to be affected. This is the ultimate execution of a sophisticated supply chain, particularly from an algorithmic planning basis. Every other supply chain is based on predictability” (Lynn Fritz, Fritz Institute, quoted by Sowinski, 2003:19).

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Our hypothesis:

- Insufficient mutual understanding, uncertain cross-sector relationships and the search for a tool set that is effective for both sets of stakeholders creates insufficient and ineffective interface between commercial logistics organizations and emergency management agencies.

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◌ Normal State vs. Emergency State



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◦ Commercial Logistics vs. Humanitarian Logistics



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o The Role of the Public Sector and NGO's



o Inclusion of private sector logistics providers?

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o Access to Transportation



o Private sector capabilities?

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◦ Market capacity



Delivering the right inventory to the right place at the right time (such as water coolers for a disaster in China)

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- Management and coordination



National
Donations
Management
Network

- Enterprise Resource Planning
- Transportation Management Systems
- Warehouse Management Systems

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- Storage and warehousing (temporary tent vs. modern warehouse)



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◦ Communication options



Overcoming Logistics Challenges in Delivering Humanitarian Aid

- Insufficient mutual understanding



- Training and professional development
- Collaboration in planning

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- Uncertain cross-sector relationships



- *“Some companies make community disaster recovery efforts a part of their business continuity planning. For instance, Walmart earned kudos over the past few decades for its ability to mobilize workers, stores and trucks to deliver crucial supplies to disaster-stricken parts of the United States. In the process of ensuring that its own stores would open to serve customers, the company relieved pressure on nonprofit organizations that distribute food, water and other supplies to disaster victims.” (Business Continuity Planning and Disaster Recovery, Joe Taylor, Demand Media)*

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- a tool set that is effective for both sets of stakeholders



- Use WMS, TMS, COP (Common Operating Picture) and other Supply Chain tools
- Business Executives for National Security
- International Association of Emergency Managers

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Questions?

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