Natural Disaster Relief – The Nigerian Example

Tope OGUNKUA, Deputy Comptroller, Nigeria Customs Service
Walter Hekala, CQA, PMP, Nathan Associates Inc.

February 2011
Background of USAID MARKETS Project

• Emphasis of assignment on food security
  – *Transit of food relief the initial focus, not import*
  – *Customs only the initial focus, not other agencies*

• Prior relevant work with NCS
  – *Legal Reforms*
  – *Risk Management Including Organizational Risk using “Projectized Approach”*
The NCS approached: Projectized Response to Risk

Negative Risk Response
- Avoidance
- Mitigation
- Transfer
- Accept

Positive Risk Response
- Enhance
- Exploit
- Share
- Accept
Models for the Nigeria Approach

- WCO RKC - Specific Annex J
- WCO SAFE Standards
- ANSI/PMI Project Management Standards
Assumptions for the Nigeria Assignment

• Primary responsibility is at national level for emergency response
• Preplanned response is critical
• Border response must be coordinated
• Customs is not the lead national agency
• Customs must use modern approaches to risk management
Nigeria’s Lead Agency Mandate

• The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) leads Nigeria’s national disaster response
  – Reports to President
  – Lead Agency in all aspects of disaster response
  – First point of contact with other entities in either domestic or foreign disaster relief
Preplanned Response

• Advance planning includes:
  – *Roles and responsibilities* – Government, Private Sector, NGOs
  – *Approval levels to activate plan*
  – *Preset authority & approval levels including normal systems override*
  – *Shared responsibilities*
Coordinated Approach

• Early stakeholder identification
• Separation of communication lines from decision & direction
• Delegated authorities by National Government Agencies to other Agencies
• NGOs delegated responsibilities by Government Agencies
Customs & Immigration Roles

• Customs – lead agency for managing disaster relief goods crossing border
  – *Other regulating agencies – i.e. Standards Organization of Nigeria, etc.*

• Immigration – lead agency for managing entry and departure of relief personnel
  – *Responsible in emergency to protect interests of regulating agencies regarding persons – i.e. Ministry Of Health, etc.*
Nigeria Emergency Response Specifics

• Declaration – President
• Lead Agency – NEMA
• Secondary Agencies for border issues
  – Nigeria Customs Service – Emergency Relief Consignments (ERCs) clearance and release/transit
  – Nigeria Immigration Service – Temporary Admission Non-ECOWAS citizens
Nigeria Emergency Response Specifics

• Preplanning and registration
  – NEMA – Identification and registration for pre-approved participant organizations (Shared risk management similar to AEO program)
  – Customs – Pre-approved participant organizations identified in automated systems
  – Immigration – Pre-approved organizations identified and where possible up-to-date person registry identified
Nigeria Emergency Response Specifics

• Emergency Relief Consignments (ERC) multi-agency coordination
  – *Customs delegated to act in behalf of other agencies in managing disaster relief goods*
  – *Normal pre-arrival processes suspended for ERC shipments*
  – *Normal post arrival processes suspended for ERC shipments*
  – *Priority clearance afforded to confirmed ERC shipments*
Emergency Termination

- Declared by President
- NEMA coordinates all participant notification
- Customs coordinates re-export of temporary importations and excess relief goods or conversion to duty paid status
- Immigration confirms departure of persons with temporary admission specific to disaster relief
- NEMA leads in lessons learned analysis
Nigeria Program Current Status

• Agreements rewritten by NEMA, NCS, NIS from initial drafts

• Draft agreement finalization and implementation pending further technical assistance with:
  – Tests of designed systems and processes
  – Stakeholder events to educate on new approaches for emergency responses
Thank you for your kind attention!

Walter Hekala - CQA, PMP
Principal Associate, Trade and Investment
Trade, Business, and Economic Growth Practice
Nathan Associates Inc.
Skype: whekala
Tel: +1 360 566 2374
Mobile: +1 360 393 8461
Fax: +1 703 351 6162
whekala@nathaninc.com
www.nathaninc.com

Tope Ogunkua
Deputy Comptroller,
Nigeria Customs Service
Skype:
Tel: +234805419
Mobile: +2348033026269
Fax:
topeogunkua@yahoo.com
www.customs.gov.ng/