Role of customs
In natural disaster relief

Brussels, 6 March 2015
Why worry about customs challenges in international disaster response?
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PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS IN 2013

97 MILLION
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS IN 2013

CHINA
27.5 million

PHILIPPINES
25.7 million

INDIA
16.7 million

VIETNAM
4.1 million

THAILAND
3.5

Top five countries by number of people affected by natural disasters
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51.2 MILLION
PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT IN 2013

ASYLUM SEEKERS: 1.2 MILLION

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE: 33.3 MILLION

REFUGEES: 16.7 MILLION

16% INCREASE IN IDPs
Main issues reported by international responders:

- Duties, taxes and fees
- Clearance problems
- Re-exportation
- Physical examination
- Several governmental entities involved
... but also many problems from responders

- Inappropriate emergency goods
- Poor quality
- Poor documentation
- Abuse of relaxed procedures
On-going activities

Implementation of the resolution on the role of customs (2011)

Regional seminars on the role of customs

Participation to simulation exercises
Participation to GARD exercises

Istanbul convention (annex B9)

RKC (annex J-5)
Recent activities & opportunities

• Marketplace session in Geneva
• Development of a new tool
• Explore means to enhance cooperation between Customs and humanitarian operators
• Use of the TRS
Recent activities & opportunities

Creation of a working group

**Target audience:** Disaster-prone countries, Donors, Customs administrations, Global Logistics Cluster, Users of automated systems for customs data, Emergency stockpile holders, UN Agencies, Private sector, NGOs, etc.
Best practice
Implementation of OSS (Philippines)

Bureau of Customs

Objective
To ensure the prompt facilitation of the processing and release of foreign donations in times of calamities through the creation of a One-Stop Shop in all the Collection Districts of the Bureau of Customs
Best practice
Implementation of OSS (Philippines)

The Donor must inform the intended donee of the incoming shipment.

The Donee will inform BOC of the incoming shipment.

DSWD or DSWD Accredited Relief Operations

Donor

* All importations of used clothing for donation shall be for the account of the DSWD only. Prohibited importations shall ipso facto be forfeited in favor of the government.

Within 24 hours from filing of the import entry, the BOC shall release the donated goods to the DSWD/DSWD Registered Relief Organization subject to compliance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.
Best practice

Ebola: Guinea – Liberia – Sierra Leone
Nomination of a focal point
+ Clearance procedures available

Malawi: Nomination of a focal point
Why worry about customs challenges in international disaster response?

Awareness of the role of customs in natural disaster relief operations

Understand and participate to the on-going activities to streamline customs procedures in emergencies