ESUPS

EMERGENCY SUPPLY PRE-POSITIONING STRATEGY

to reduce gaps and overlaps in emergency preparedness

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Who We Are?

The Emergency Supply Pre-Positioning Strategies (ESUPS) Working Group was created in 2016 by a group of stakeholders interested in

improving the pre-positioning of relief items as a preparedness measure. It is composed of Member States, Red Cross/Crescent Movement, NGOs, Academics, UN Agencies, and Regional Organizations that work in logistics preparedness and pre-positioning at strategic and operational levels. ESUPS is funded by USAID and governed by a Steering Group (SG) leading the project towards the definition of more efficient and effective prepositioning strategies at national and regional levels. The SG is co-chaired by Welthungerhilfe and UNHRD and includes Action Against Hunger, The British Red Cross, The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), The International Organization for Migration (IOM), Save the Children, USAID/OFDA, Pennsylvania State University (PSU), and PLAN International.
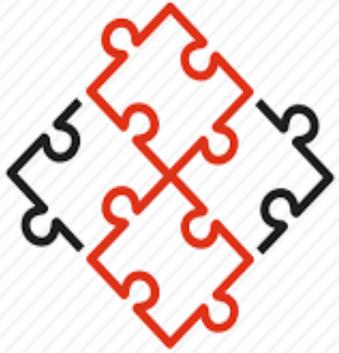
What is the problem we are looking solutions for?

Prepositioning relief items has been a preparedness measure set up by many humanitarian organisations all over the globe to be better prepared to respond to disasters in country. However, this prepositioning exercise is still very much done in the silo of each agency that are not talking to each other's to take into consideration what other agencies around them might already be prepositioning, nor where.

This leads to a pre-positioning situation which lacks coordination and overall coherence regarding what items are stored, where and in which quantities. This lack of coherence is later translated and apparent during the response phases where some items are not available enough, or too much, or, paradoxically, not in the appropriate location for the very measure of prepositioning to effectively make a difference in regards to the time and costs required to transport the available items where they are in fact needed.
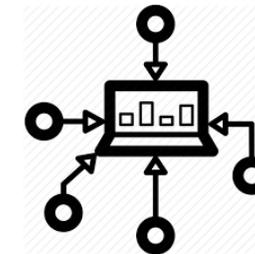
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Our vision….

…is to support the definition of coordinated and coherent national and regional pre-positioning strategies, maximising time and cost efficiency of dispatch through further developed usage of the coordination mechanisms of data sharing, loan-borrowing, joint procurement and limitations in branding. ESUPS works on the improvement of predictability and relevance of pre-positioned emergency supplies to ensure that the humanitarian community has the right items in the right quantities pre-positioned in the right places, with a minimum of duplication or gaps, and to ensure their timely and efficient dispatch and replenishment.
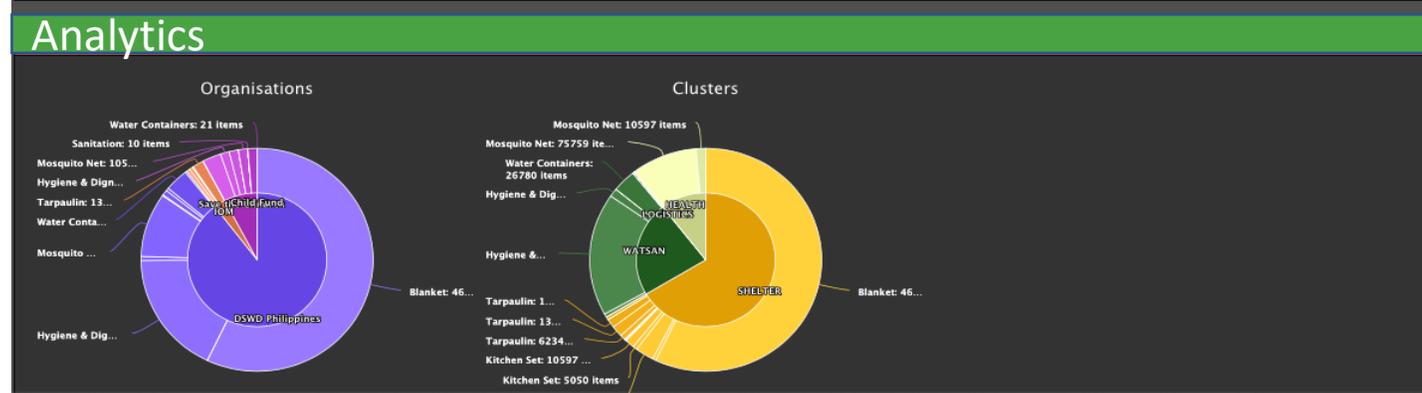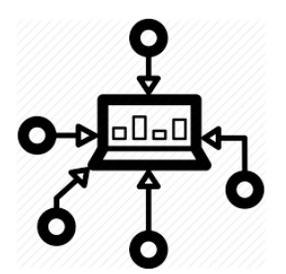
ESUPS objective is to…

…support the coordination of national and regional pre-positioning strategies to increase time and cost effectiveness in stock delivery during emergencies. In addition to coordination activities, ESUPS has 3 operational pillars driving the project:

1. **Data Collection:** ESUPS central question is: "**What is the current pre-positioned stock situation?".** ESUPS is developing a stock data collection tool that will assist stockholders in countries to have access to a visual representation of stock prepositioned in countries/regions and to further analysis to facilitate decision-making about pre-positioning strategy and responses. This stock data collection tool will form the required basis for the second pillar.
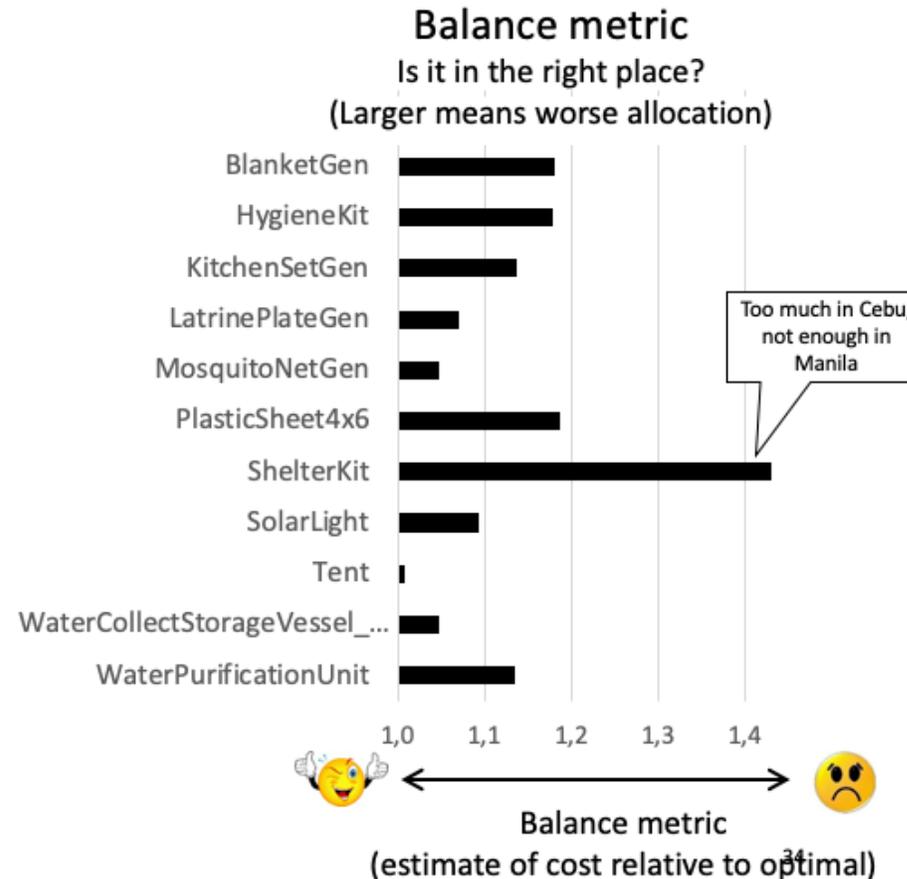
Data collection platform principles

1. A **preparedness tool** open and available to all humanitarian actors related to stock management on registration: National authorities, INGO's, NGO's, UN agencies, Donors, Institutions, Regional bodies.

2. **Visual map outputs** of data collected showing existing stocks per region/ countries/ communities. Those can be filtered by country/ organisation/ cluster/ item and by selecting a geographical area.

3. The map also shows the "optimum stocks" defined by ESUPS pillar 3 (data analysis) giving the user the capacity to visually see what is the existing situation compared to an optimum situation and opening the door for **coordinated prepositioning strategy definition**.

4. The platform supports a logistics **localisation agenda** and is owned by users: once registered, organisations will control who get access internally, the frequency of their data update and the level of details they want to enter.

5. **Empowers national authorities** by giving them the capacity to activate faster a pull strategy over a push strategy initiated by external partners.

6. Support relief item **standardization** through an Item group functionality

7. The platform provides automated **analytics** on the stocks data information selected.

Quality of overall inventory levels in Philippines

(Note: this includes only inventory from organizations who responded to our request for data)

Item	Actual Inventory in Philippines	Inventory Goal to meet 90% of disasters	Percent of goal met
Blanket	120,081	97,002	123.8%
HygieneKit	29,493	1,100,000	2.7%
KitchenSet	21,195	220,000	9.6%
LatrintePlate	624	55,000	1.1%
MosquitoNet	110,905	440,000	25.2%
PlasticSheet4x6	14,287	440,000	3.2%
ShelterKit	1,121	220,000	0.5%
SolarLight	7,800	1,100,000	0.7%
Tent	2,397	220,000	1.1%
WaterCollectStorageVessel_Bkt	27,196	440,000	6.2%
WaterPurificationUnit	16	458	3.5%

Balance metric
Is it in the right place?
(Larger means worse allocation)

Too much in Cebu, not enough in Manila

Balance metric
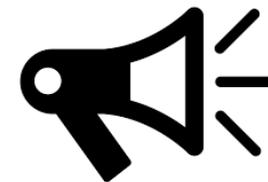(estimate of cost relative to optimal)

Data Analysis: ESUPS second question is: **"What should the optimum prepositioned stock be in this location".** In this part of the ESUPS project, logistical data are analysed through in-depth mathematical models defined in partnership with academics. Hereby, gaps and overlays are highlighted, and recommendations can be made towards the definition of a pre-positioning strategy. Ultimately, this helps optimize the average response time and costs.
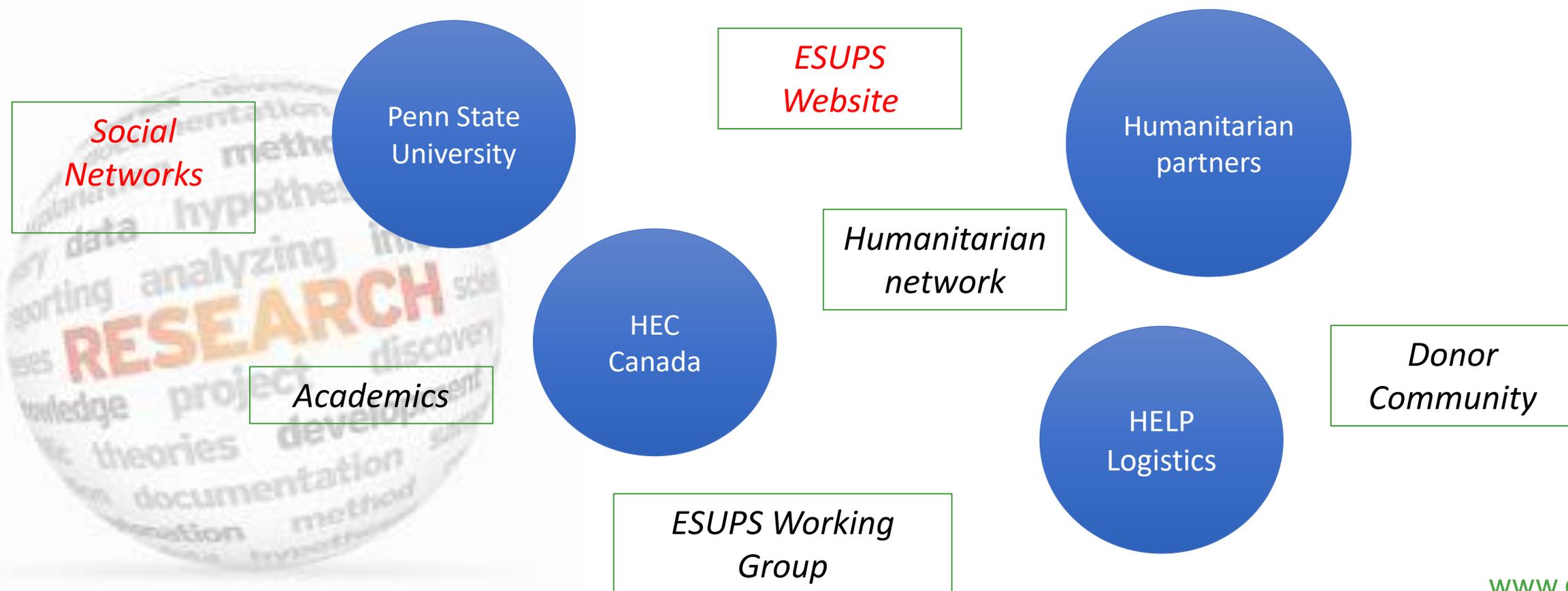
Data analysis pillar principles

1. Led by **Academics** researchers (Penn State University) in cooperation with humanitarian practitioners.

2. Based on decades of **historical data** about disasters sizes, impacts and locations as well as on **logistical data** such as time to contract a transport, distances, price per ton per kilometer, etc…

3. Includes the absorption capacity variable.

4. The created algorithm provides what could an "**optimum stock**" be, looking both at quantities and locations.

5. Those are displayed on the Data Collection platform allowing the users to collectively see **gaps and/or overlays** and opening the door for informed discussions towards a **coordinated prepositioning strategy**

3. Advocacy & Communication: Through in-depth research studies, ESUPS aims at demonstrating and communicating the added-value of sharing stock related data, relief items through a loan-borrowing mechanism, of adopting a non-branding approach and to increase joint-procurement. This supports a change in mindset towards a more concrete stock sharing collaboration among humanitarian stockholders to increase efficiency and efficacy of pre-positioning strategies.

Social Networks

Penn State University

ESUPS Website

Humanitarian partners

Humanitarian network

HEC Canada

Academics

HELP Logistics

Donor Community

ESUPS Working Group

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Where do we work

The initial focus area of ESUPS was Asia-Pacific where first pilots were carried out in the Philippines and Vanuatu. Recently, expansion on Asia with the project's initiation in Nepal and Indonesia was endorsed. Additionally, Central America and the Caribbean through Haiti and Honduras represent new regions for ESUPS to start in.

VANUATU (pilot)

- Stock Data collection
- Definition of the model & Metrics

PHILIPPINES (pilot)

- Stock Data collection (partial)
- Testing of the model & Metrics
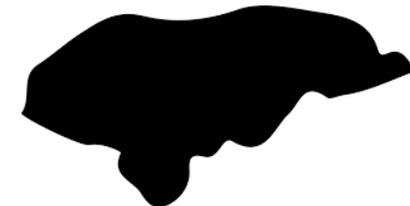- Results to be presented to government

NEPAL
(to start)

INDONESIA
(to start)

HAITI
(to start)

HONDURAS
(to start)

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