



CLRAH
Centro Logístico Regional de
Asistencia Humanitaria

The CLRAH in Images

July - August 2020
Volumen 2, N° 4



- ♦ Inauguration of the **UNHRD Warehouse**
- ♦ **CLRAH** as a regional discussion forum
- ♦ **World Humanitarian Day**

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Connecting the World, Serving the Region

THE HUMANITARIAN 2020

Key Topics:

- Inauguration of the UNHRD warehouse
- CLRAH as a regional discussion forum
- World Humanitarian Day

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The CLRAH in Images

“Humanitarian Triad is now complete”

On July 23, 2020 the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), administered by the World Food Programme (WFP), was officially incorporated as the second user of the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH for its initials in Spanish), consolidating the first and only “Humanitarian Hub” in the Americas.

The National Government was represented by His Excellency Mr. Laurentino Cortino Cohen, President of the Republic of Panama; vicepresident, Jose Gabriel Carrizo; minister of government, Janaina Tewaney Mencomo; minister of foreign affairs, Francisco Ferrer; executive director of the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance, Alberto Sierra; director general of the National Civil Protection System, Carlos Rumbo, administrator of the Panama Pacifico Agency, Juvy Cano, all together to strengthen and reinforce the importance of the humanitarian operations that take place at the CLRAH.

The inauguration event had the participation of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), David Beasley, regional director of the WFP for Latin America and the Caribbean, Miguel Barreto, and senior director of Operations of the WFP, Amer Daoudi, in the context of continuing close collaborations with the Logistics Center.

The official inauguration of the UNHRD warehouse in the Humanitarian Hub, has lead to the conformation of the humanitarian triad, composed by the National Civil Protection System, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, which now consolidates the CLRAH as the humanitarian logistics platform for the region, enabling the strengthening of alliances, and development of synergies among actors, providing a more efficient and timely response to emergency situations.



July 23, 2020

Presidential visit to the Humanitarian Hub

The accompaniment and support of the President of the Republic of Panama, Laurentino Cortizo, ministers of state, directors of international organizations, strengthens the role of the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH) as the first and only humanitarian logistics platform in the region of the Americas at the service of users and strategic partners. This became apparent with the visit to the humanitarian warehouses in the CLRAH, at the inauguration of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in July 2020.



MINGOB and WFP high-level meeting

During the inauguration event of the regional warehouse of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), the executive director of the WFP, David Beasley, minister of government (MINGOB for its initials in Spanish), Janaina Tewanay Mencomo, executive director of the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH), Alberto Sierra, held an important strategic meeting to strengthen alliances and cooperation between both parties.

The agenda included, the strengthening of strategic alliances, as well as the exchange of experiences and knowledge transfer in humanitarian assistance.

After the meeting, the minister of government and the executive director of the CLRAH, expressed gratitude for the continuous exchange of cooperation and experiences of the WFP during the current COVID-19 pandemic.



July 23, 2020

Updating the Procedures Manual of the Coordination Center for Humanitarian Aid and Assistance

The National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC in Spanish) in conjunction with the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH), began the revision and update of the procedures manual of the Coordination Center for Humanitarian Aid and Assistance (CCAH in Spanish), with the objective of incorporating the operations that the CLRAH executes through its users, in alignment to the logistics processes performed by the Emergency Operations Center (COE in Spanish), coordinated by the SINAPROC.

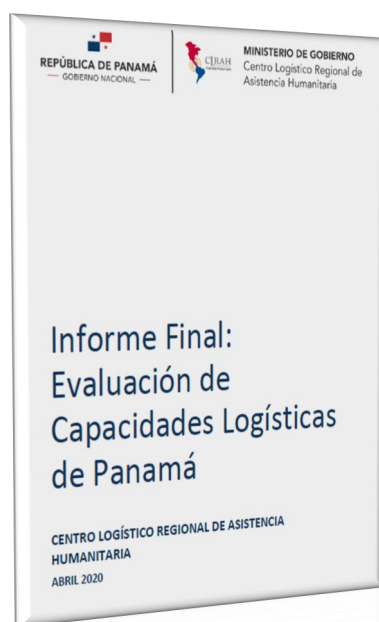
This process is linked to the update of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Procedures Manual for situations in case of disasters and humanitarian crisis, and the context in which the CLRAH operates.

A short-term road map has been designed, which considers an agreed proposal by the humanitarian sector of the COE, and its presentation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international organizations.



July 7 to August 27, 2020

Presentation of the Panama Logistics Capacity Assessment Report



The Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH), as a platform for logistics facilitation, has finalized the first report on Panama's Logistics Capacity Assessment in the humanitarian context. This project known as LCA consists in the mapping of logistics infrastructure and services in order for a country to prepare and respond to disasters. Panama as a Logistics Hub, and now as a Humanitarian Hub, now becomes a strategic point for planning and execution of national and regional operations in response to emergency situations.

This project had the strategic support of the Logistics Cabinet and the collaboration of the Georgia Tech Panama Logistics Research Center, with the participation of more than fifteen organizations from the government, private sector and academia, which contributed with available and reliable data.

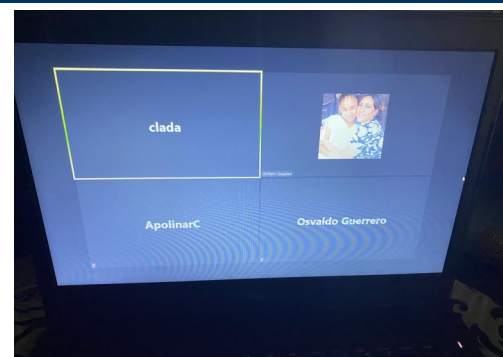
The Panama LCA will be published by the World Food Programme in the United Nations Global Logistics Cluster Platform, and will be available to the humanitarian community. The CLRAH has developed the report in its original version in Spanish, and its translated version in English, with the objective of reaching a greater international audience.

Tele-Work, new method of Humanitarian Management at the CLRAH

The CLRAH continues its humanitarian operations through reduced mobility of its human resources, known as "tele-work".

We have followed-up the administrative activities of maintenance and control of the facilities; biosecurity and management of personnel; as well as the facilitation and coordination of logistics and humanitarian activities of our users.

In addition, we have coordinated and participated in regional cooperation activities; conferences, seminars, workshops, initial conversations with new partners to establish strategic alliances, using virtual platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams.



March 15 to August 31, 2020

Process Meetings

- ◆ Exploratory discussion with UNOPS and SINAPROC on the expansion of the national user's facilities.

July 2, 2020

- ◆ Meeting of the Logistics Regional Board on COVID-19 operations.

3, 10, 17, and 24 of July, 7, 21 and 28 of August, 2020

- ◆ Technical meeting with the National Customs Authority on the dispatch process for vehicles.

July 10, 2020

- ◆ Planning Meeting with CEPREDENAC and UNOPS on Resilient Infrastructure Webinar.

July 17, 2020

- ◆ Planning meeting with OCHA to commemorate World Humanitarian Day.

July 17, 2020

- ◆ Planning meeting with the International Federation of the Red Cross... (IFRC) and the Panama Chamber of Commerce.. (CCIAP in Spanish) on the Humanitarian Business Roundtable.

July 24, 2020

- ◆ Meeting with Colliers International on their support as strategic ally on supply chain analysis.

July 28, 2020

- ◆ Exploratory and strategic discussion with Panama Pacifico Agency on the expansion and development plan of the CLRAH.

July 29, 2020

- ◆ Strategic meeting with the Advisor to the Minister of Government on the development plan of the CLRAH.

August 4, 2020

- ◆ Implementation of the CCAH Board and meetings.

August 5, 13 & 27, 2020

- ◆ Meeting with the VicePresident of City of Knowledge to resume strategic alliances.

August 6, 2020

- ◆ Exploratory and information discussion between MOFA and OAS for the establishment of strategic alliances.

August 17, 2020

- ◆ Technical meeting between the Minister of Government and the CLRAH Executive Director with UNOPS on investment projects.

August 25, 2020

Humanitarian Hub, warehouse for the storage of vaccines

The Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH) is prepared to distribute vaccines against COVID-19, once these are approved by the international organizations. The Logistics Center has a cold chain platform for the storage of vaccines and medicines.

The executive director of the CLRAH, Alberto Sierra, has reaffirmed that the national government has a commitment to the world population and the region, facilitating the Humanitarian Hub as a humanitarian logistics platform, as well as a point of connection and distribution for users and the Americas

The CLRAH has approximately a thousand 200 square meters of cold storage for medicines and vaccines. Once the COVID-19 vaccines is released, the CLRAH will become a center for its distribution; just as it has been for its international users during the last months with dispatches of humanitarian assistance to more than 30 countries.

"The plan is ready, and we are just waiting for the vaccine to be released and approved by the international organizations to contribute in its distribution", assured Mr. Alberto Sierra in an interview.



July 15 to August 15, 2020

World Humanitarian Day

On August 19, 2003, a terrorist attack hit the United Nations headquarters in Bagdad (Iraq) which took the lives of 22 people. For this reason since 2008, on World Humanitarian Day, the world commemorates humanitarian workers who continue risking their own lives to selflessly aid others in need.



The Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance as a humanitarian logistics platform for the region, first and only Humanitarian Hub in the Americas, and the National Civil Protection System, as the governing body of disaster risk management and national user of the Hub, paid homage in this day to hundreds of volunteers and public servants in both entities, as well as humanitarians, NGO's and civil society members, that have gone the extra mile, donating their time and even lost their lives due to COVID-19.

The Minister of Government, Janaina Tewaney Mencomo, sent a message of gratitude and solidarity to the real life heroes and heroines in this health crisis, highlighting their work during the pandemic.

The Humanitarian Hub has emerged as the humanitarian logistics platform of the republic of Panama at the service of the region, connecting the world through its users, becoming a strategic point in the storage and distribution of humanitarian assistance.

In celebration of the World Humanitarian Day, a promotional campaign was disseminated via different media, and the Center participated in an online regional gathering with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Center's international users.



Real Life Heroes and Heroines



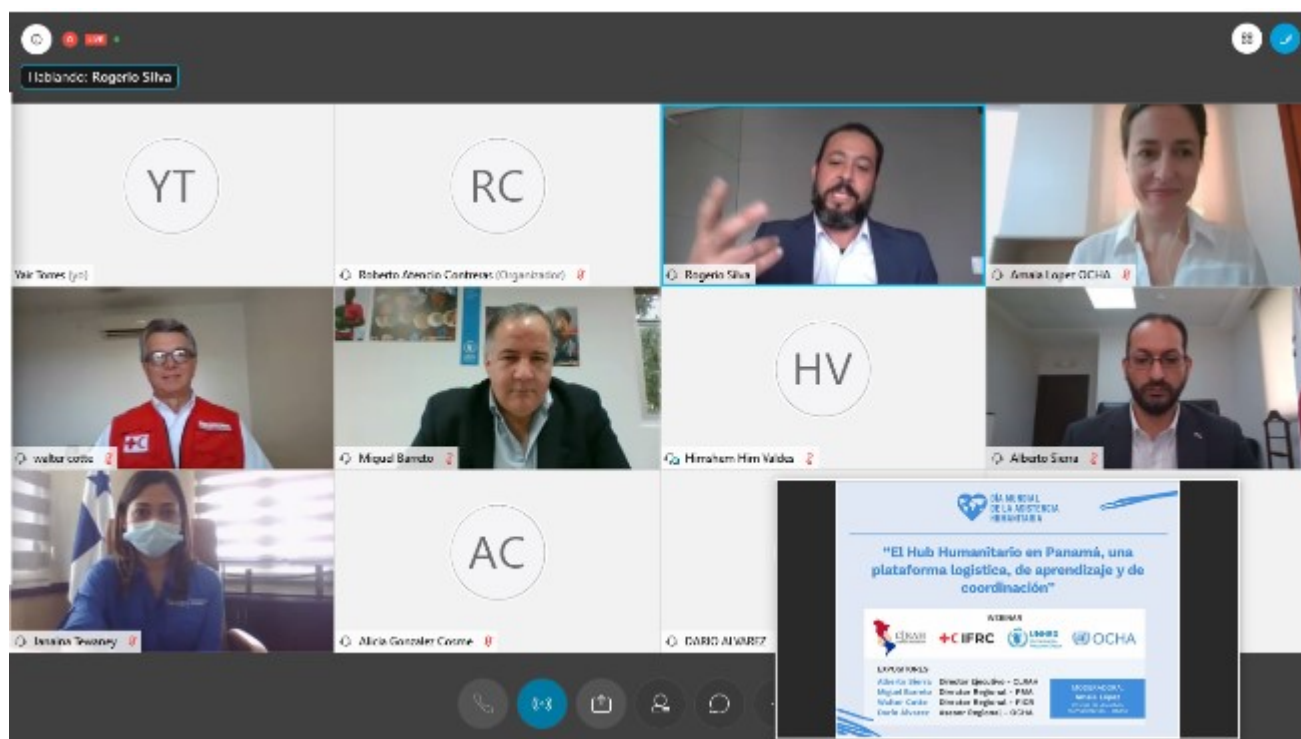
August 19, 2020

Webinar “ The Humanitarian Hub in Panama, A logistics platform of learning and coordination”

In commemoration of World Humanitarian Day celebrated in August 19, the event sought to share the experiences of the Humanitarian Hub in the Americas during Covid and present the oportunites to improve humanitarian coordination in the region. Therefore, together the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNOCHA, and the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance, CLRAH, and its users, designed the webinar “The Humanitarian Hub in Panama, A Logistics platform of learning and coordination”.

The Regional Gathering took place on August 20, through the webex online platform used by the United Nations, with a duration of 90 minutes. The webinar had the participation of high level directors of the CLRAH, IFRC, WFP and UNHRD as speakers, in addition to international and international representatives. The webinar allowed to pay homage to heroes and heroines during Covid-19, as well as the presentation of the opportunities that the Humanitarian Hub offers to the region:

- ◆ CLRAH activities since march 2020, opportunities and challenges.
- ◆ Humanitarian Hub, a center for learning.
- ◆ Humanitarian Hub, a platform for regional coordination.



DÍA MUNDIAL DE LA ASISTENCIA HUMANITARIA

“El Hub Humanitario en Panamá, una plataforma logística, de aprendizaje y de coordinación”

WEBINAR

EXPOSITORES

Alberto Sierra Director Ejecutivo - CLRAH
 Miguel Barreto Director Regional - PMA
 Walter Cotte Director Regional - FICR
 Dario Álvarez Asesor Regional - OCHA

MODERADORA:
 Amaia López
 Oficial de Asuntos Humanitarios - OCHA

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REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
GOBIERNO NACIONAL

MINISTERIO DE GOBIERNO
Centro Logístico Regional de Asistencia Humanitaria

Commemoración en el Día Mundial de Asistencia Humanitaria

Hablando: Alberto Sierra

Participantes

Panelistas 11

RC Roberto Atencio Contreras Organizador
 AO Amaia Lopez OCHA
 DA DARIO ALVAREZ
 HV Hiram Him Valdes
 AC Alicia Gonzalez Cosme

P&R

August 20, 2020

Panama Humanitarian Warehouse, coordinated by the SINAPROC

The National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC) has continued its operations from their warehouse located at the CLRAH providing assistance and aid to population affected by adverse events, as well as its contribution to the Panama Solidarity Program, created in response to the health emergency due to Covid-19.

During the months of July and August, the SINAPROC provided support in the dispatch of humanitarian assistance, consisting of hygiene kits and two mobile storage units, to migrants in transit in the province of Darien. Additionally, it assisted communities affected by floods, strong winds, and landslides in various sectors in the regions of Western Panama, Eastern Panama, Central Panama and Colon.

It is important to mention that the Humanitarian Warehouse meets the biosecurity regulations and protocols issued by the Ministry of Health, as well as the procedures applied by the CLRAH administration to its respective users; in addition it periodically sanitizes the administration and operations offices of the center.



Visit of the President of the Republic, Laurentino Cortizo and the Vicepresident, Gabriel Carrizo to the Panama Humanitarian Warehouse



The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies donated face masks to the SINAPROC for humanitarian operations at the national level.



Organizing and packaging humanitarian assistance at warehouse, destined to population affected by adverse events.

IFRC Humanitarian operations

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has continued its humanitarian and logistics operations during the pandemic, providing assistance to its national societies. During the months of July and August 2020, IFRC has dispatched personal protective equipment to more than 22 countries in the region, with the support of air strategic partners.



In the month of July, IFRC received a charter with medicine kits for operations in the region. Flight was donated by Air bus Foundation from Amsterdarm, Netherlands



Delivery of ambulances and vehicles to the Panamanian Red Cross, from the International Humanitarian City in Dubai.



In August, IFRC coordinated the export and delivery of ambulances from the International Humanitarian City in Dubai, to the National Societies of Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.



UNHRD Humanitarian operations

The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, UNHRD, recognized as leader in the prepositioning, storage and handling of emergency supplies and support equipment has provided, from its new warehouse in the CLRAH, humanitarian assistance with greater efficiency to its respective partners, notable more so during the Covid-19 pandemic.



On July 23, the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, UNHRD's, new warehouse was inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Panama, Laurentino Cortizo and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley, providing UNHRD's partners an improved resilient humanitarian infrastructure.



Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) provided air transport of humanitarian and medical items through the UNHRD on behalf of the World Health Organization, WHO, and the World Food Programme, WFP.



Knowledge Transfer Center

Also known as CTC (due to initials in Spanish) is a mechanism in which the CLRAH develops activities oriented towards the generation and dissemination of knowledge, training, skills development, best practices and exchange of experiences related to humanitarian aid and assistance.

The new reality has forced the CTC to change and reinvent itself by creating virtual activities through online conferences and group discussions. We have designed and participated in academia gatherings and regional trainings with international organizations, such as:

- ◆ **CEPRENAC and UNOPS:** Design of the first roundtable on *“Resilient Humanitarian Infrastructure under the lens of disaster risk reduction in the context of COVID-19”* together with the *Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America and Dominican Republic* and the *United Nations Office for Project Services*; reaching an online audience of more than 180 people and more than 1400 followers via social media. This event was highly successful, and presented the CLRAH as a model of resilient infrastructure.



Agenda

Invitados Especiales:

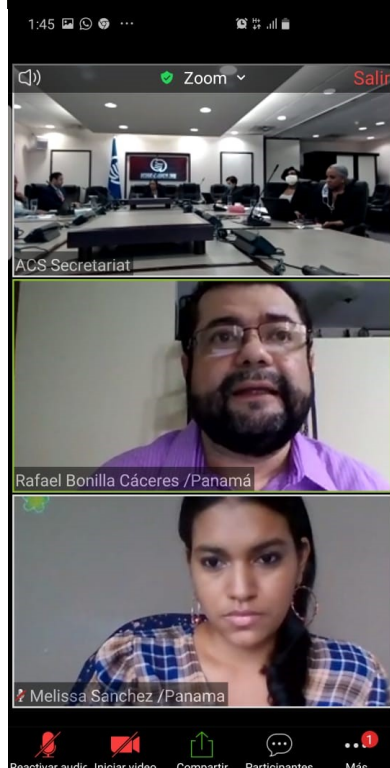
- Janaina Tewaney Mencom, Ministra de Gobierno de Panamá, Representante de AEC
- Representante de CDEMA
- Representante de CAPRADE

Ponentes:

1. Alberto Sierra, Director General del Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres en América Central y el Caribe, CLRAH
2. Alejandro Rossi, Director de la Oficina Asesora País de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas de Servicios para Emergencias, UNOPS en el Caribe, Costa Rica y Panamá
3. Claudia Herrera, Coordinadora Adjunta del Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres en América Central y el Caribe, CLRAH



- ◆ **ACS:** We participated in the *“XXVIII Meeting of the Special Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction”* where we provided the progress on the Action Plan of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Caribbean States, ACS, and the Republic of Panama in regards to the CLRAH.
- ◆ **CEPRENAC:** We participated in the *“Resilience Rally 2020”*, strengthening resilience actions in the Central American region, with an on-line participation of more than 90 people.
- ◆ **UNOCHA:** Organization of the commemoration of World Humanitarian Day, in conjunction with the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with a series of virtual conferences, titled *“The Humanitarian Hub in Panama, A logistics platform of learning and coordination”*. The event had an on-line participation of more than 200 people.



Interviewing CLRAH's users

During the months of July and August, the users and administration of the CLRAH had direct communication with diverse media, sharing and disseminating information to citizens on the humanitarian operations that take place in Panama towards the region, specifically on COVID-19 and other activities. Interviews to the warehouse managers and directors, as well as to the executive director of the CLRAH, were significantly important, providing updated information on the activities and logistics facilitation services that we offer.



CLRAH National and International News

- ◆ Regional Humanitarian Hub dispatched 98 tons of protection equipment against Covid-19
- ◆ Fighting against the pandemic, Humanitarian Hub commemorated World Humanitarian Day
- ◆ Interview to Alberto Sierra, Director of the Panama Humanitarian Hub
- ◆ Panama is prepared to become the distribution center in Latin America for vaccines against Covid-19
- ◆ Feature: Humanitarian Hub in Panama - Hosanna Vision
- ◆ Humanitarian Hub is prepared to receive vaccines against Covid-19 once requested by organizations
- ◆ 98 tons of protection equipment against Covid have been movilized from the humanitarian hub in Panama
- ◆ Resilience Rally 2020 - CEPREDENAC
- ◆ Resilient Humanitarian Infrastructures under the lens of disaster risk reduction in the context of Covid-19
- ◆ Webinar "Resilient Humanitarian Infrastructures in the context of Covid-19"
- ◆ News Forum: Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance
- ◆ Dengue and hurricanes on the Humanitarian Hub's radar
- ◆ UN distributes 8 tons of items against Covid-19 in Latin America
- ◆ CLRAH: humanitarian aid continues during the pandemic

Connecting the World, Serving the Region

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Acknowledgements:

- ♦ CLRAH's users

The Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance or CLRAH, under the Ministry of Government, was created through Law No. 80 of 14 December 2017, as a logistics platform for humanitarian assistance, that facilitates activities of reception, management, storage, redistribution of supplies and equipment, as well as the mobilization of human resources in response to national and international emergencies in the region; consolidating the Humanitarian Hub of Panama. Furthermore, the National Civil Protection System, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot, currently are users of the CLRAH.



Humanitarian assistance, tele-work, humanitarian triad, webinars

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