Irish Humanitarian Aid Coordinated by The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management to India, Nepal & Brazil 2021
The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management represent the Government Task Force for Emergency Management on the ProCiv EU Council Working Party and also the Civil Protection Committee which is a working party of the EU Commission.

The Directorate is one of four contact points for the Common Emergency Communications and Information System regarding Civil Protection in Ireland. The others are An Garda Síochána, The Coast Guard and now the Department of Foreign Affairs.

All Communications regarding Disasters occurring worldwide is transmitted through this system. Affected Nations wishing to seek assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism use this platform detailing their needs, and countries wishing to offer assistance use this platform to communicate their offer.

The Department of Foreign Affairs / Irish Aid- Humanitarian support

Some key facts - 2019

- Total Official Development Assistance: €869.54 million
- Of the OECD donors, Ireland provides the 12th highest percent of its GNP to ODA, coming in ahead of countries such as Australia, Canada and Japan.
- 56% of Ireland’s total ODA is channelled through carefully selected multilateral partners; 21% through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and 6% through national systems of our partner countries.
Background

• Telephone call received on Saturday 24th April from the Emergency Response Coordination Centre, Brussels as Civil Protection contact point for Ireland.
• Only information available: there was Consular contact between Irish Ambassador and EU Delegation in Delhi.
• No Irish contact names or phone numbers, or what Humanitarian aid was available or from what organisation it was offered?
• Ring around! – Sunday 25th - GTF Contact List, picture emerging of the who are the key people, what is being offered and roughly where the equipment was.
Starting Point

- No Blueprint, procedure, precedence for providing Humanitarian aid through the European Civil Protection on this scale from an Irish perspective.
- No details of what humanitarian aid was available, where it was and what organisation/agency had it, if any at all?
- No Contact point of contact details available for agency which may have the humanitarian aid.
- Drawing on National & International experience of Emergency Management.
- Utilising Civil Protection networks and relationships both from an Irish and European perspective built up over many years to achieve goals.
India Request through the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)

Emergency Synopsis

Country: INDIA - IN
Emergency Name: India - COVID-19
Cause of Event: Natural disaster
Type of Event: Pandemic
Status: Request for assistance
Date & time of occurrence: 2021/04/23 13:11:14
Situation:

Please be informed that the ERCC has received a request for assistance from the Embassy of India in Belgium. As previously communicated, India is currently facing an acute shortage of liquid oxygen for medical purposes. One of the main contribution factors to the lack of oxygen is the shortfall between demand and supply of oxygen in hospitals due to the missing availability of cryogenic containers for the transport of oxygen (specifically ISO cryogenic containers - 20ft). Such containers are also in short supply in the region. The request pertains support in terms of any means providing liquid medical oxygen of minimum 99.5% purity as per following technical specifications:

1. Purity (Assay) minimum 99.5% v/v;
2. Carbon dioxide maximum 300 ppm v/v;
3. Carbon monoxide maximum 5 ppm v/v;
4. Water vapor maximum 67 ppm v/v;
5. Incoming ISO containers should not be at a pressure exceeding 5 Bar at the time of decantation.

Oxygen producers in India are willing to lease and pay for the air transport of the cryogenic containers.

The ERCC would very much appreciate receiving any information and potential response to this request.
Context of Irish Donation to India

- **Advance Pandemic Preparations**
- **National Oxygen Stocks (+60%)**
- **Metrics Monitoring Equipment Use in place, real time information of stock**
- **Readily Available - Additionally (field hospital setting)**
- **Ireland Uniquely Positioned to Mobilise Aid Quickly**
Coordination by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management
TIMELINE - 1st Humanitarian Aid Flight

24 April
• Coordination begins with HSE and DFA (Saturday PM)
• Direct charter flight identified as best option

25 April
• Irish offer confirmed at ERCC coordination meeting
• Offer and Part A Transport Grant application on CECIS

27/28 April
• Charter flight lands in Dublin
• Cargo loading overnight
• Plane departs Dublin Airport

29 April
• Irish Humanitarian Aid lands in New Delhi
• Distributed to various Hospitals

ISSUES:
- Late addition of extra insurance by Transport Broker
- ERCC overwhelmed, asked Ireland to communicate directly with Broker (First time this had been asked of any MS)
- Required Customs documentation, Gift Letter, Commercial invoice, Landing permits
- Technical issues with Antonov II-76 in Russia
TIMELINE - 2nd Humanitarian Aid Flight

An Roinn Tithíocha, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

26 April
- Additional Aid identified by HSE
- Likely cargo would require much larger Plane
- ERCC stretched beyond capacity
- Work began directly with Transport provider on planning 2nd flight

26 - 28 April
- New Irish offers confirmed at ERCC coordination meeting
- Offer and Part A Transport Grant application on CECIS

03 May
- Charter flight lands in Dublin
- Cargo loading overnight
- Plane departs Dublin Airport

04 May
- Irish Humanitarian Aid lands in New Delhi
- Distributed to various Hospitals

ISSUES:
- Late withdrawal of freight loading partner
- Local lifting and delivery of cargo
- Technical specs documentation, Safety certs
- Fitting cargo on 747, could ventilators be stacked?
- Media Visibility requirement for 75% UCPM co-financing
An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Tweet
Irish Aid 🇮🇪@Irish_Aid - 27 Apr
Emergency medical supplies are currently being loaded for urgent transportation to India. Our thanks to@HSELive, @reisneailte, @DepHousingIli, and EU partners for their efforts in swiftly responding to this crisis. #IrishAidWorks

Susan Fitzgerald
@SusanF80994388
Replying to @Irish_Aid @HSELive and 10 others
Well done to all involved. No easy task bringing this all together.
9:47 pm - 27 Apr 2021 - Twitter for iPad

Don’t miss what’s happening
People on Twitter are the first to know.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Covid-19: Ireland sending 700 oxygen concentrators to India
PT/ April 27, 2021, 12:17 AM

UP NEXT
Covid-19: Ireland sending 700 oxygen concentrators to India
New School & Hospital to be built in Tullamore

Technical issues detected in tweet from user @Irish_Aid
TWO CHARTER FLIGHTS TO INDIA

1248 OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS
365 VENTILATORS
2 OXYGEN GENERATORS
60 NON INVASIVE MASK VENTILATORS
€9.25 MILLION
The Journey of 700 Oxygen Concentrators
Nepal Humanitarian Aid Donation

- 65 Oxygen Concentrators
- 5 Ventilators
- 400 Oximeters
- 50 Respiratory Monitors
- 50 Defibrillators
- 100 Thermometers
- 728 Oxygen Regulators
- 398 Air Regulators
- 2 Anaesthetic Machines
- 18 ICU Monitors
- 30 Infusion Pumps
- 56 Ventilation Circuits
- 4 Patient Trolleys
- 99,750 Personal Protective Equipment

Departed Shannon Airport on the 16TH June 2021
Brazil Humanitarian Aid Donation

- 47,520 Vials of ATRACURIUM delivered by temperature controlled container to Sao Paulo, which have the potential to save 55,000 lives in Brazil.

Departed Dublin on the 25th June 2021
Thank you

paul.rock@housing.gov.ie