

UDK 658.7

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LOGISTICS IN ORGANIZING AID ACTIONS

Й.В. Ярошинський. Логістика в організації допомоги. Висвітлено роль логістики в організації акцій допомоги (гуманітарних). Визначено сутність логістики гуманітарної акції та інтеграційну роль логістики в цій галузі. Розглянуто специфічні умови, за яких доводиться діяти гуманітарним організаціям, що надають допомогу на місці катастрофи, принципи, якими вони повинні керуватися, а також етапи організації акції допомоги. Представлено ланцюг гуманітарної допомоги, підкреслено провідну роль управління та обміну інформацією між усіма його ланками (учасниками), з метою поліпшення потоків і надання відповідної допомоги, завдяки отриманій інформації з місця катастрофи про нагальні потреби постраждалих.

Й.В. Ярошинский. Логистика в организации помощи. Освещена роль логистики в организации акций помощи (гуманитарных). Представляя суть логистики гуманитарной акции, выделена интегрирующая роль логистики в этой области. Рассмотрены специфические условия, в которых действуют гуманитарные организации, оказывая помощь на месте катастрофы, принципы и этапы организации акции помощи. Представлена цепь гуманитарной помощи, подчеркнута значение управления и обмена информацией между всеми его звеньями (участниками), с целью улучшения потоков и оказания необходимой помощи на основе полученной с места катастрофы информации о текущих потребностях потерпевших.

J.W. Jaroszynski. Logistics in organizing aid actions. The study is aimed onto presentine the role of logistics in organizing aid actions (humanitarian). Here is explained what the logistics of humanitarian actions is with the presentation of the integrative role of logistics in this area. Also the discussed subject were the specific conditions under which humanitarian organizations which bring help in the disaster area must work, the principles which they should observe and the stages of organizing aid actions. There is also presented a chain of humanitarian aid and emphasized the superior role in the management of information between all of its cells (participants), which aims to improve flows and provide adequate help through the acquisition of information from the disaster area of the current needs of victims.

Correct integration of logistic action in business sphere is leading to increase the profit and achieving the competitive advantage. Mentioned integration is regarding here the improvement of good flows and accompanying information in the company and between its partners — that is in the whole supply chain — from the suppliers of raw materials to the final customer. In this dimension the integration is directing logistic action on the efficient goods delivering to final buyers.

Such an approach can also be transferred to the managing of the aid chain. In this case integrating functions of logistics should as soon as possible ensure the reach of help to the victims of the disaster. Precisely, logistics can integrate the stages of organizing the aid action from planning, through acquisition of resources and its collection, sending help, storage and action protecting the aid means, to the correct sorting out of these materials for the victims.

Humanitarian logistics is not confined to give help only to the people affected by natural disasters, but it also covers victims of disasters caused by human activities. Humanitarian aid must always be characterized – in accordance with the general principle of humanity – with respect for others and aspiration to reduce their suffering, in correlation to disasters classification (fig. 1).

Humanitarian organizations operate in specific conditions – therefore logistics in this area is not a standard one. In humanitarian logistics there can be pointed several features which characterize it, such as:

- forced speed of action because of short time to organize the action,
- the lack of certain information needed for planning and performing the logistic operations,
- limitation of resources and infrastructure (may be destroyed or simple does not exist),
- an unpredictability of the demand and supply side,
- an unpredictability in the place of giving help,
- every disaster is different, what does not let to standardize the supply chain of humanitarian aid [1].

According to the rules of “Good Humanitarian Donorship” humanitarian aid should be provided according to certain rules (fig. 2), which take into account the primacy of bringing help, treatment of each individual human being humanely in all circumstances, giving help impartially and according to the needs, and all this should be realized in the possibly economic way and above all in the shortest possible time.

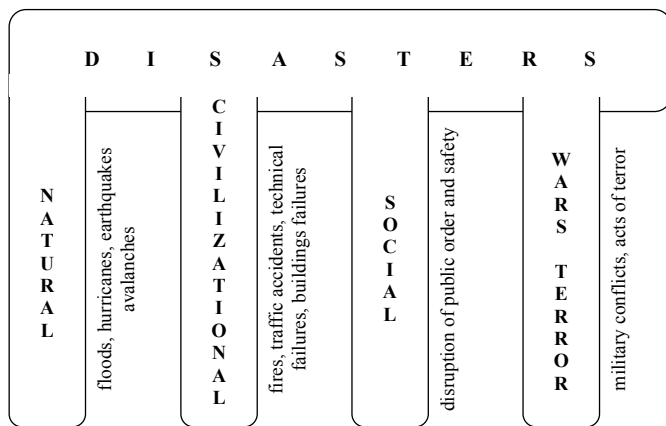


Fig. 1. Classification of disasters

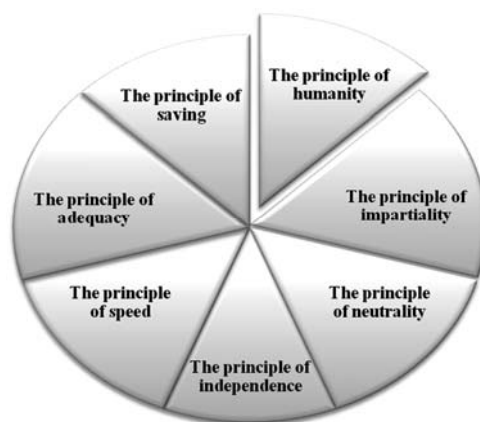


Fig. 2. The principles of humanitarian aid

The main tasks the humanitarian logistics is facing with relate to the promptest is as fastest delivering of aid means from the place of collection as possible to people in need, to which there usually belong supplies of food, water, medicines and ensuring the adequate sanitation and ensuring the shelter to the people affected.

In organizing humanitarian action at the management level it is possible to point three the most important stages (fig. 3):

- state of the alertness (preparation),
- reaction at the moment of the disaster,
- recovering and preventing.

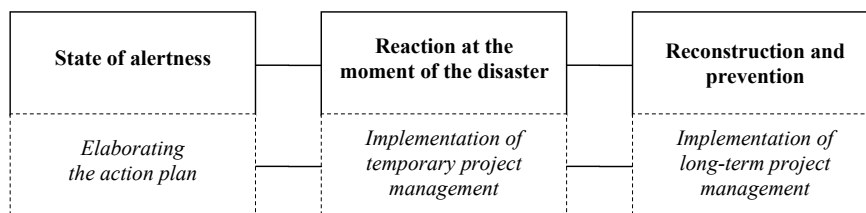


Fig. 3. Stages of humanitarian crisis management

The superior thing is the maintenance by a humanitarian organization the state of alertness – for this purpose there should be worked out plans of action in the case of occurrence of different kinds of disasters. These actions allow more efficient reaction at the time of the disaster. The next stage is occurrence of the disaster and implementation of the temporary management project.

The last stage is a reconstruction and preventing (purposely connected on account of the long-term nature) which should take place after the completion of an emergency help in the place of the disaster.

At this stage it appears legitimate to create a long-term management project, to be able to correctly perform all the tasks at this level.

A very important element in organizing humanitarian aid is an adequate flow of information (fig. 4). As in traditional supply chains, so as in aid chains the information increases the efficiency in the whole aid chain management by means of obtaining the current information from the disaster area — from there will come the most important data, which will influence aid organization.

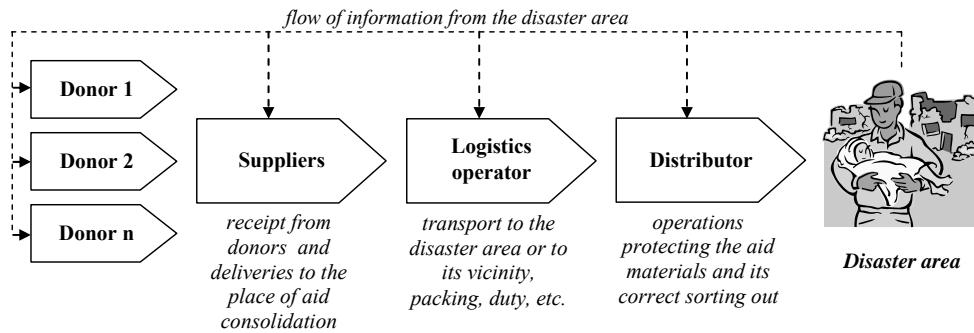


Fig. 4. The chain of humanitarian aid

Summary:

The application of all known logistic methods and tools to the area of aid actions resulted in existence of the humanitarian logistics, what contributed to the increase of effectiveness of giving aid. However, it needs to be remember, that the conception of humanitarian logistics is new and characterized by not-refining in certain areas. Therefore it is necessary to carry out case studies of organized humanitarian actions and attempt to elaborate models (schemes of actions) which will be characteristic and possible to use in given kinds of disasters.

The evolution of the conception of humanitarian logistics must also base on the cooperation between organizations, what mainly allow to exchange knowledge. For this purpose there helpfully appears information technologies, which can support an adequate flow of information – and moving further — it is possible to adepte the conception of virtual supply chains, already known from business logistics.

References

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Submitted for edition 29 November 2010.