About Us

Since 2014, HELP Logistics AG has been registered as a non-profit organisation in Schindellegi, Switzerland. It is a subsidiary organisation of the Kühne Foundation.

HELP Logistics provides supply chain consulting, training, outreach and operational research to aid organisations in strengthening their logistics capabilities and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian operations. Dedicated full-time logistics and supply chain management professionals operate from offices in Amman, Dakar, Nairobi and Singapore, providing support to the Middle East, West Africa, East & South Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions.

Kühne Foundation
Together with his parents, Klaus-Michael Kühne established the Kühne Foundation in 1976. The deed of the Foundation is support for training, further education, and scholarship in transport and logistics. It is also involved in Humanitarian Logistics and supports the “Global Free Trade” project at the University of Zurich. Furthermore, the Kühne Foundation has established a Medicine Campus in Davos, Switzerland, supporting two major research projects in the fields of allergology and cardiology, and runs the Hochgebirgsklinik. In culture, the Kühne Foundation supports European festivals, opera houses and concert halls.

Supply chains are the backbone of humanitarian responses and sustainable economic development. Mastering them should be acknowledged as a core competence across all sectors. Our ambition is to support humanitarian actors at the international and local level to save and improve lives in the short and long run.

Prof. Dr. h.c. Klaus-Michael Kühne
President of the Board of Trustees and Founder of HELP Logistics

Foreword

The past year has been a challenging period for organisations and communities across the globe. The global pandemic and the Ukraine war have brought unprecedented supply chain disruptions. As a foundation committed to shaping supply chains to benefit humanity, we have been at the forefront of championing supply chain data analytics in the humanitarian sector. We have also supported sustainability initiatives in the humanitarian sector, promoting the use of carbon accounting and food waste reduction.

We have leveraged our expertise in supply chain analysis and logistics training to support emergency, development and public organisations to navigate these disruptions and find practical solutions to optimise their operations. Our organisation has also become a strategic advisor to donors and cooperatives, raising awareness of the criticality of supply chains and the need for transformation through an evidence-based approach.

We are committed to continuing our efforts to promote these goals, fostering partnerships and supporting initiatives that can help build more resilient and sustainable supply chains. We will continue to be a trusted partner to organisations and communities, providing the analysis, training, and support they need to shape global and local supply chains to improve the lives of those in need and help countries become more economically resilient.

Looking ahead, we expect to see an increased focus on digitalisation and automation in humanitarian logistics and a greater emphasis on crisis preparedness and supply chain planning. The ongoing shift towards sustainable and resilient supply chains will continue to be a significant trend we will actively contribute towards. Furthermore, the collaboration between the private and public sectors and across the humanitarian and development communities will be vital in addressing the complex and interconnected challenges faced in the humanitarian logistics sector.

Seán Rafter
Managing Director
HELP Logistics AG

Our purpose is to shape supply chains to benefit humanity.

Our mission is to be a catalyst for transferring supply chain and logistics knowledge to improve the lives, and economic potential of vulnerable people and communities.

Our Values
Collaboration to share knowledge openly
Curiosity to learn and drive innovative solutions
Integrity to advocate responsibly based on data evidence
Resilience to pursue transformation based on judgment and passion

Prof. Dr. h.c. Klaus-Michael Kühne
President of the Board of Trustees and Founder of HELP Logistics
Our Reach

- Head Office: Schindellegi, Switzerland
- Middle East Regional Office: Amman, Jordan
- East Africa Regional Office: Nairobi, Kenya
- West Africa Regional Office: Dakar, Senegal
- Asia Regional Office: Singapore

- 5 Operational Offices
- 20 Full time consultants
- 36 Countries with active projects
We are a non-profit organisation that actively contributes to long-term sustainable impact in line with global initiatives, such as the Grand Bargain and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our mission is to shape supply chains to benefit humanity by working collaboratively with partners who share our vision. We work with more than 40 humanitarian organisations and actors from the private, public, and non-profit sectors to identify and address their most critical challenges. Together, we develop projects and programmes with a clear problem statement. We employ lean structures to manage projects creatively and cost-effectively to create lasting impact.

Marco Panigalli
Head of Capacities and Operational Support
Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO)

HELP Logistics is a recognised actor in the humanitarian community. It has a reputation as a neutral, professional, and leading organisation in progressive thought in humanitarian logistics and supply chain.

Our Work

The strategic partnership with HELP Logistics in the Philippines isn’t just valuable for the support provided to particular countries, but also for developing a method to measure the impact achieved when investing in preparedness. At IFRC, we aim to reproduce the measurement framework in other countries. We hope that other humanitarian organisations can do the same in their preparedness actions within the supply chain.

Invest Now, Save Later

The Benefits of Preparedness Investment over Funding Emergencies

In 2022, the Philippines faced at least 14 disasters across a country of more than 7,400 islands. The logistics challenges are frequent and often extensive. Additionally, a USD 19 billion shortfall in humanitarian funding sets very tight budgets for humanitarian operations.

Our ongoing partnership with the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), aims to strengthen the PRC’s supply chain response capacities ahead of time. Thus, enabling the PRC to respond effectively and efficiently to manifold disasters and save more lives.

HELP Logistics provided the resources for a supply chain preparedness investment and impact measurement project, including technical assistance and training. Through the intervention, the fulfilment rate of relief items achieved 100% after PRC adopted wall-to-wall inventory counting to eliminate discrepancies in their records. In addition, long-term agreements with suppliers achieved a 30% reduction in procurement lead time.

The project’s focus has now shifted towards measuring the long-term sustainable impact of the preparedness efforts.

Alka Kapoor Sharma
Head of Logistics and Supply Chain
IFRC Asia-Pacific

30% reduction in procurement lead time due to long-term agreement with customs brokers
Strategic Sourcing of Tarpaulins Leads to Faster Relief

Tarpaulins represent an essential shelter item that the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) commonly procures for affected communities in response to emergencies after natural or human-made disasters. Hence it is critical to assess the procurement strategies of tarpaulins to save time and money during emergencies.

HELP Logistics studied IOM's sourcing strategies for tarpaulins on a global level. The global prepositioning of tarpaulins is a critical buffer for disaster response operations to mitigate the loss of lives and is essential for preparedness and resilience. The objective was to identify and compare variations in the cost and lead time of procuring locally in-country versus sourcing from global stockpiles. By conducting an Advanced Spend Analysis (ASA), HELP Logistics identified tarpaulins as the most procured item of IOM's global stock, comprising approximately 60% of non-food items procured for prepositioning.

The analysis revealed that during the Ethiopia response in 2021, the transport lead time for global stocks was nine days, compared to project stocks, which were 41 days. The difference of 32 days is significant. IOM country offices were advised to leverage global stocks more often so that beneficiaries receive critical shelter materials earlier.

By analysing global spending, IOM thought more strategically about tarpaulin sourcing after the onset of a disaster and could make better-informed procurement decisions on where and how to source items. In the end, affected communities receive tarpaulins sooner, which can save lives. IOM wants to continue the analysis. Future studies will include other categories of essential relief items.

The analysis and recommendations are aiding IOM in optimising their tarpaulin procurement strategy by assessing the advantages and disadvantages of different procurement methods. This will save time and money when acquiring essential relief supplies and enable IOM to reach larger numbers of affected populations.

Takuya Ono
Senior Shelter and Settlements Officer
IOM Headquarters

Sourcing Life-Saving Kits in Chaotic Markets

Streamlining Supply Categorisation for Cost-Effective Procurement

Procurement and sourcing for World Vision International (WVI) Nepal have always been a unique challenge. The country is landlocked and mountainous, which makes it difficult for suppliers to reach certain areas. Procurement activities often take several days to source life-saving kits.

This situation worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic. International trade was restricted, and only a few local suppliers could provide sufficient core relief items. Such chaotic market conditions make WVI's mission of uninterrupted and efficient supply seem impossible sometimes.

HELP Logistics, in collaboration with Thammasat Business School in Thailand, WVI Asia Pacific, and the WVI Nepal procurement team, analysed the gaps that exacerbated supply disruptions. The analysis revealed that some sourcing strategies with key vendors required an overhaul. The team utilised the Kraljic Procurement Portfolio Model (PPM) to improve suppliers’ categorisation. As a result, procurement cost savings of 10% were achieved.

When supplies are classified correctly and prioritised, better risk mitigation actions and supplier relationship management can be implemented. Thus, the procurement team can mitigate supply disruptions and prepare better for the next disaster.

WVI Nepal had difficulty predicting advantages and obstacles related to procurement categories. However, HELP Logistics’ analysis enabled us to prioritise category management, leading to effective forecasting, planning, and managing of annual procurement targets.

Sumit Karna
Supply Chain Coordinator
WVI Nepal

Converting Complexity to Clarity

Procurement Standards and Practices to Support the Ukraine Crisis

The Russian-Ukrainian war has caused significant supply chain disruptions in Europe and the world. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is amongst the many humanitarian actors that were activated to source multitudinous supplies to meet the needs of those affected by the crisis. Strategic procurement and sourcing are vital focus areas as the chaos of a humanitarian crisis unfolds, and supply chains are disrupted.

Recognising this urgent need, HELP Logistics collaborated with the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) to strengthen procurement capacities by developing a certified training programme based on globally recognised procurement standards and practices adapted to the humanitarian context.

The training program was provided to selected staff from 17 different Red Cross Societies. The programme consists of 48 face-to-face learning hours and practical exercises assessed by industry experts. Assessments include, but are not limited to, market assessments on selected relief items.

This in-depth learning on global standard practices will enable procurement staff to enhance the collaboration between humanitarian organisations and commercial suppliers. The partnership with CIPS brings together knowledge and expertise to propel procurement preparedness forward.

20 participants from 14 IFRC National Societies in Eastern Europe

8 HELP Logistics Annual Report 2022

9 HELP Logistics Annual Report 2022
Our Performance

What we delivered

49 Training courses delivered

60% supply chain assistance increased

49 Projects managed

33 Projects completed

Who we reached

2,716 Total number of people trained

2,195 Practitioners

317 Students

200 Managers/leaders

4 Interns

How we performed

36 Client organisations

6 new client organisations

95% Client satisfaction

90% Client retention

17% Increase in new clients

How we engaged our community

6 new publications

50% increase

32% increase LinkedIn followers

6,199 followers (1,487 new)

27% increase Twitter followers

382 followers (82 new)

302% increase in most popular YouTube video

17,944 views!

38% increase YouTube subscribers

596 subscribers (164 new)
**Prepare, Plan and Respond**

**Enhancing Humanitarian Supply Chain Learning Through Play**

To simulate the interconnectedness and complexity of humanitarian supply chains, HELP Logistics launched a customised version of the Business on the Move board game for the humanitarian sector.

Through experiential learning, the board game aims to enhance students’, practitioners’, and industry professionals’ humanitarian supply chain knowledge, foster a greater understanding of humanitarian supply chain challenges and facilitate discussions on how to face them.

The global rollout of the humanitarian edition was a huge success. The game boxes were distributed to 10 organisations in 11 countries and utilised in 16 sessions for around 400 logistics professionals and non-logistics staff.

These sessions utilised the game to explore themes around sustainability in aid delivery, maximising utilisation for cost efficiency, and emergency response in remote areas. The players also experienced decision-making trade-offs and how intra-sectoral collaboration is essential to supporting humanitarian missions.

100 board games shipped to 11 countries, and 400 game-players

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Susan Hodgson
Head of Humanitarian Supply Chain
Save the Children

**Alleviating Smallholder Farmer Losses**

**Reducing Economic Losses and Increasing Productivity in Food Supply Chains**

In Sub-Saharan Africa, conversations on building sustainable food systems are gaining momentum. Specifically, attention is directed towards the upstream of food supply chains where economic losses to smallholder farmers are high due to issues such as poor coordination between them and traders and processors.

4% of produce is destroyed in transit on average

HELP Logistics developed a methodology to identify challenges and gaps in existing processes and operation structures. We improved supply chain management best practices in the food processing centres and reduced lead time and resource waste. We were able to redesign the food inspection process and eliminate illogical steps that misreported food quality data downstream. Furthermore, we redesigned the food processing centre’s food quality inspection forms to collect data on food loss in transit, providing visibility and accountability for the losses.

By repurposing this quality assurance process, time spent on the inspection process was reduced by one hour. Furthermore, new data on food loss revealed that, on average, 4% of produce is destroyed during transit, because of poor packaging materials.

1 hour reduction in inspection process time

In Kampala, Uganda, HELP Logistics worked with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on building the operational capacities of smallholder farmer produce outlets and off-takers, such as horticulture processing centres. The project aims to ensure that smallholder farmers are not only equipped to improve their productivity but also have reliable outlets to sell their produce. If these outlets are not efficient in their operation, then this critical linkage will most likely fail, and if this happens, so will farmers.

HELP Logistics collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Guinea, the regional Center of Excellence and Training against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), and WFP Guinea to identify and understand the logistic constraints.

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**Quantifying Post-Harvest Losses**

**Maximising Food Availability and Impacting Income Generation**

Despite the vast availability of fertile lands and a large community of smallholder farmers, the Republic of Guinea remains reliant on rice imports, a staple food commodity in Guinean households. In a drive to achieve self-sufficiency and be motivated by price increases in the international food markets, the Ministry of Agriculture called on organisations to support.

HELP Logistics collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Guinea, the regional Center of Excellence and Training against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), and WFP Guinea to identify and understand the logistic challenges in the rice value chain.

Our Food Supply Chain Assessment (FSA) methodology was applied to quantify post-harvest losses and identify areas for improvement across the value chain. The assessment revealed concerns regarding access to processing techniques like milling, parboiling and also logistic activities in the food supply chain.

The analysis identified five major areas for improvement, which could allow for a significant increase in food availability with a positive impact on income generation. The latter is especially true for female farmers. Whilst men can lose around 20% to 30% of their harvest before reaching local markets, women can lose from 50% to 60% of their crop in post-harvest logistic activities due to limited access to storage, packaging, and transportation solutions.

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HELP Logistics offered its Supply Chain Workforce Development for Health System Professionals programme. The programme challenges practitioners from the public and private sectors to deliver innovative solutions to benefit health systems at various supply chain nodes.

KADSHMA adopted lean, agile and just-in-time strategies in three product categories to optimise the allocation of resources for procurement. Over three months, KADSHMA staff were coached on collaborative planning, forecasting and replenishment. They applied ABC analysis to segment and categorise inventory based on its value, usage and criticality. The improvements resulted in 50% procurement cost savings and 4.6% inventory management savings due to a decreased out-of-stock ratio.

Ultimately, these supply chain improvements increased the availability of essential medicines at the health facilities for beneficiaries.

HELP Logistics Annual Report 2022

Inventory Segmentation Improves Essential Medicine Availability

The challenge for Nigerian healthcare practitioners is improving the availability of essential medicines for a growing population. A lean procurement budget coupled with increasing demands on health facilities amplifies the pressure on the supply chain. The Kaduna State Health Supplies Management Agency (KADSHMA) operates the state’s public health supply chain, managing the inventory of over 1069 health facilities and about 447 health Stock Keeping Units (SKUs). KADSHMA wanted an urgent review of their inventory management systems.

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4.6% decrease in the out-of-stock ratio

50% cost savings due to an improved inventory turnover ratio

Azuka Okeke
Chief Executive Officer
Africa Resource Center for Excellence in Supply Chain Management

Measuring Carbon Footprint

Reducing the Environmental Impact of Humanitarian Supply Chain

How can we make our humanitarian supply chain more environmentally sustainable? The United Nations Population Funds (UNFPA) requested The Center for Humanitarian Logistics and Regional Development (CHORD), a joint centre established by HELP Logistics and the Kühne Logistics University, to help them answer this urgent question.

The project was implemented over two phases. The objective of the first phase was to measure the environmental impact of UNFPA’s humanitarian supply chain. CHORD ran two studies. The first study focused on carbon emissions. Using the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, we estimated the carbon footprint of one of UNFPA’s most distributed medical kits. The results showed where in the end-to-end supply chain, the majority of carbon emissions were embedded and highlighted environmental pain points specific to the humanitarian sector.

The second study estimated the total annual waste volume, considering UNFPA’s entire kit portfolio. The results of this study highlighted how a lack of supply chain efficiency and transparency, as well as poor storage infrastructure, can lead to significant waste volumes. The objective of the second phase was to identify, prioritise, and plan actions to mitigate the environmental impact of UNFPA’s humanitarian supply chain. Based on the findings from the first phase, CHORD proposed more than 25 practical recommendations to reduce UNFPA’s carbon and waste footprints. The recommendations covered five key areas: supply chain network design and planning, procurement, logistics, collaborative action, and reporting and monitoring. UNFPA is now working on implementing the proposed recommendations. Some recommendations imply structural change and their implementation will take time. Other suggestions are operational, and change is happening, for example, banning single-use plastics, insulating warehouses and building cold rooms or installing refrigeration units running on solar energy. Additionally, the project team will continue to share the outcomes across the humanitarian sector and advocate for sustainable supply chain management.

30-40% carbon load of in-country kit distribution (including cold chain management)

43 mid-level employees of the Directorate for Pharmaceutical Activities and Laboratories (DAP) trained

From Learning Lessons to Knowledge Networks

West Africa Strengthens Resilient Supply Chains Against Pandemics

The COVID-19 pandemic unearthed the fragility and vulnerability of supply systems across numerous global sectors. Like many other regions, West African countries continue to learn vital lessons and good practices on resilient supply chains for the next epidemic or pandemic. HELP Logistics convened and contributed to sharing these lessons and good practices and augmented the response capacity of critical health actors.

The Directorate for Pharmaceutical Activities and Laboratories (DAP) is a department of the Ministry of Health in Côte d’Ivoire. Together with the World Food Program (WFP), DAP approached HELP Logistics to strengthen the knowledge of DAP staff on public health supply chain management. Forty-three specialised professionals from the DAP in Côte d’Ivoire attended the Medical Logistics in Pandemics (MLP) online training. In addition to the relevant and high-quality content of the training, a platform was provided for peer-to-peer exchange with private and humanitarian sector organisations. The combination of formal training and facilitated networking resulted in 100% participant engagement and 98% satisfaction by participants and the DAP.

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HELP Logistics Annual Report 2022
Learning in a Time of Crisis

A Case Study on the Largest Vaccination Campaign in Human History

In 2021, the world witnessed the launch of human history’s most extensive vaccination campaign. What appeared to be an impossible task when the pandemic began turned out to be a logistical tour de force – governments, private companies, and humanitarian agencies had to rapidly and massively ramp up their logistics to ensure life-saving vaccines were delivered to health facilities and patients.

In this race against time, the international freight forwarder Kuehne+Nagel (KN) has been one of the key players in the transportation and storage of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide. From January 2021 to February 2022, KN shipped approximately 763 million vaccine doses and 7 million kg of COVID-19 equipment to 169 countries. HELP Logistics and CHORD, with KN and other actors in the supply chain industry, embarked on a thorough study to tap into this wealth of operational experience.

The study aimed to capture lessons learnt and develop recommendations to improve collaboration in vaccine distribution as well as identify critical steps to strengthen the agility of future global health supply chains. This study aimed to illustrate the need for innovative and out-of-the-box action to overcome gaps – e.g., lack of cold chain infrastructure or limited access to remote areas – to promote equitable distribution, especially in developing countries.

The main recommendations included cross-sector collaboration and communication, establishing of supply chain systems and local networks, developing mechanisms (e.g. COVAX) to promote fair distribution, investing in local vaccine production and cold chain infrastructure, as well as an increased focus on reverse logistics.

763 million vaccine doses delivered to 169 countries

7 million kg of COVID-19 equipment (e.g., PPE, masks, therapeutics) delivered to 169 countries

Challenging Traditional Humanitarian Powertrains

Comparing the Environmental Impact of EVs vs. ICEVs

What are the environmental trade-offs of using Electric Vehicles (EVs) compared to Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles (ICEVs) in developing countries?

To reduce the environmental impact of transportation, attention to EVs is increasing in many regions of the world. However, this is largely unexplored in other regions, such as East Africa and the Middle East. CHORD collaborated with Fleet Forum to develop life cycle scenarios of EVs and ICEVs. The goal was to identify at which point (if ever) EVs are more environmentally friendly than ICEVs.

Fleet Forum deployed several EVs (Nissan Leaf) in Kenya, Lebanon, and Jordan. The organisations responded to regular surveys on use, maintenance, costs, fuel efficiency, and charging infrastructure over one year. The results were compared to the baseline ICEV cars: a small Toyota Corolla and a large Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4.

In the first phase of the project, CHORD modelled the life cycle of the Nissan Leaf (including production of the car, usage, and disposal of the car and batteries) for several energy sources: the national grid (for the respective countries), diesel generator, and solar panels and compared this to the ICEVs included in the study.

In the project’s next phase, CHORD plans to validate the model with the responses from the pilot study. The first results suggest that the EV is more environmentally friendly, but the degree to which this is the case depends on the energy source used. In particular, EVs charged with solar panels were the most environmentally friendly.

Buying Green More Important than Local or Global

Comparing the Environmental Impact of Local vs. Global Procurement

Is local procurement more environmentally sustainable than global procurement? The debate is ongoing in the humanitarian sector. CHORD ran an illustrative assessment to answer this question and explain the environmental dynamics.

CSB++ is a fortified food product composed of a blend of corn and soy and is commonly distributed by humanitarian organisations to communities to prevent malnutrition among children. One international humanitarian organisation predominantly sources CSB++ from two suppliers: a “local” supplier in Rwanda and a “global” supplier in Belgium. To find out which supplier is more environmentally sustainable to source from, CHORD performed a Life Cycle Assessment of CSB++.

The assessment covered the entire life cycle of CSB++, starting from the agricultural production of its ingredients to the consumption and disposal of CSB++ by beneficiaries in East Africa. The assessment results show that transportation does not contribute significantly to the environmental footprint of CSB++ relative to other stages in the life cycle. The step that contributes the most to the environmental footprint of CSB++ is the production of its ingredients.

Accordingly, what matters most to the environment, is not where CSB++ is procured but how it is produced. Regarding environmental sustainability, local procurement is not necessarily more environmentally sustainable than global procurement. There are many more factors to consider other than sourcing location.

So what does this mean for humanitarian organisations? Should this particular organisation engage with its global and local suppliers to help them improve the environmental sustainability of their value chain? What are the implications for the humanitarian sector at large? This case study will empower procurement leads with evidence to make sustainable sourcing decisions and supplier engagements.

60% carbon load of CSB++ agricultural production

25% carbon load of CSB++ packaging production and its subsequent disposal

6% carbon load of transport from farm to beneficiaries
The inside view...

...with Yogesh Jadhav

Yogesh is the leader of the procurement working group in HELP Logistics, where he focuses on improving procurement efficiency in the humanitarian sector. He offers strategic insights and technical visibility through global, regional and country assessments and collaborates with humanitarian procurement leaders to transform procurement services and improve key performance metrics. Yogesh has extensive expertise in spend analysis, category strategies, building strategic partnerships, supplier management and driving strategic sourcing initiatives.

Yogesh initially found working in the humanitarian sector a challenge after his experience in commercial consulting. However, he learned and unlearned many things and has since worked on various projects in various geographies, optimizing warehouses to support Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh or assessing procurement bottlenecks for the Sri Lankan population affected by the civil war. Yogesh’s growth as an individual has been largely shaped by being a part of HELP Logistics, a stimulating organisation developing innovative approaches to real-world problems in humanitarian operations.

In 2022, Yogesh led the investment in research and development of the ‘Certified Humanitarian Procurement Professional (CHPP)’ program adapted to the humanitarian context and using real-life case studies. The program was timely and relevant as it was delivered to several Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies to enhance procurement capacity and agility in the Ukraine crisis. Yogesh believes investing in such programs is crucial for forward-thinking humanitarian organisations.

Yogesh values his role in HELP Logistics, as it offers him a period of concentrated and productive work in a stimulating environment in a region prone to humanitarian disasters. He believes that in pursuit of a better future through efficient humanitarian operations, HELP Logistics has provided a concrete platform in an ever-changing humanitarian world.
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www.youtube.com/c/helplogistics
www.learning.help-logistics.org

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