

## 10th anniversary: Deutsche Post DHL Group and UNDP team up to Get Airports Ready for Disaster

- To date, GARD workshops have been held at more than 45 airports in 23 countries around the globe
- The program has been continuously scaled up with the launch of GARD plus and the Train the Facilitator GARD workshop

**Bonn, February 7, 2019:** Deutsche Post DHL Group (DPDHL Group) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) celebrate a decade of successful Get Airports Ready for Disaster (GARD) Program. A trained team and a customized surge response plan is vital when a disaster strikes - that's why the world's leading logistics company DPDHL Group and the UNDP team up with airports and conduct GARD workshops. Over the years, GARD has developed constantly and has made a lasting impact on the humanitarian community. This is the result of hard work and a great public private collaboration. Many volunteers and partners have played an important role and prepared over 45 airports and personnel on disaster preparedness in 23 countries.

GARD is the result of experiences gained from supporting logistics at airports in the wake of disasters. For experts both at UNDP and DPDHL Group it became increasingly clear that disaster response is more effective if airports are well prepared for these situations. "As a global logistics company we have the resources, skills and networks that can save lives after natural disasters," explains Chris Weeks, DPDHL Director for Humanitarian Affairs. "We can show airports how to prepare for the surge of incoming response teams and relief goods."

DPDHL Group and UNDP are great partners for the Get Airports Ready for Disaster program. They jointly set up multi-day workshops that bring together numerous stakeholders at airports in high risk areas. "Those facing development challenges often lack the vision to join forces together and make the best use of individual strengths," explains Patrick Gremillet, Partnership Advisor Disaster Risk Reduction at UNDP. "Combining our capabilities in strong partnerships harbors enormous potential to solve complex problems."

Over the years, DPDHL Group and UNDP have learned a lot and have continuously refined the approach. For example, they have taken steps to ensure the sustainability of GARD: In 2012, the GARD plus format was introduced. This is basically a refresher course that ideally takes

place within 6 months of the initial workshop. The latest example for scaling up is the Train the Facilitator GARD workshop. Airport operations experts gather for a five-day training to learn how to make their airports disaster-ready, and to become national trainers for GARD workshops. So far, 45 airports in 23 countries around the world have been prepared. Among these countries are: Armenia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, India, Mauritius, Nepal, Panama, and the Philippines.

“Looking back we are proud to see what we have achieved. GARD workshops have been held at more than 45 airports in 23 countries around the globe. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary we discuss how we can continuously improve the program. We look forward to continuing our partnership,” explains Ralf Dürrwang, Vice President Corporate Citizenship at Deutsche Post DHL Group. “Going forward, I also hope that our successful example will inspire even more companies to enter into such public private partnerships themselves. Because the more we manage to combine our strengths, the more can we make the world a better place.”

– End –

You can find the press release for download as well as further information on [dpdhl.com/pressreleases](https://dpdhl.com/pressreleases)

You can read more about our CR activities in our latest [CR Report](#).

## About GARD

In 2009, GARD was developed by Deutsche Post DHL Group in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the aim of preparing airports in disaster-prone areas to handle the surge of incoming relief goods after a natural disaster occurs. It also enables the various organizations and aid agencies to better understand the processes at the airport in the aftermath of a disaster, which will help facilitate relief efforts and enhance overall coordination.

To date, GARD workshops have been held at more than 45 airports in Armenia, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Macedonia, the Maldives, Nepal, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Turkey.

GARD trainers and training materials are provided free-of-charge by Deutsche Post DHL Group while UNDP leads the project implementation and facilitates the coordination with the national authorities and governmental ministries. GARD training workshop arrangements and logistics costs are fully covered by UNDP with funding contribution by the government of Germany.

GARD is an integral part of Deutsche Post DHL Group's GoHelp program in which the Group pools all of its activities related to disaster preparedness and management. As a form of crisis prevention, GARD workshops are used to prepare airports for coping with potential natural disasters. Should a disaster strike, Disaster Response Teams (DRTs) provide emergency aid and ensure that relief supplies can be accepted in a coordinated manner and passed on to the correct aid organizations.

The DRTs were established in cooperation with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). They encompass a worldwide network of more than 400 volunteers, all specially trained employees of Deutsche Post DHL Group.

## Media Contact:

Deutsche Post DHL Group  
Media Relations  
Hannah Braselmann  
Phone: +49 228 182-9944  
E-mail: [pressestelle@dpdhl.com](mailto:pressestelle@dpdhl.com)

On the Internet: [dpdhl.de/press](http://dpdhl.de/press)  
Follow us at: [twitter.com/DeutschePostDHL](https://twitter.com/DeutschePostDHL)

**Deutsche Post DHL Group** is the world's leading mail and logistics company. The Group connects people and markets and is an enabler of global trade. It aspires to be the first choice for customers, employees and investors worldwide. The Group contributes to the world through responsible business practice, corporate citizenship and environmental activities. By the year 2050, Deutsche Post DHL Group aims to achieve zero emissions logistics.

Deutsche Post DHL Group is home to two strong brands: Deutsche Post is Europe's leading postal service provider. DHL offers a comprehensive range of international express, freight transport, and supply chain management services, as well as e-commerce logistics solutions. Deutsche Post DHL Group employs approximately 520,000 people in over 220 countries and territories worldwide. The Group generated revenues of more than 60 billion Euros in 2017.

Die Post für Deutschland. The logistics company for the world.