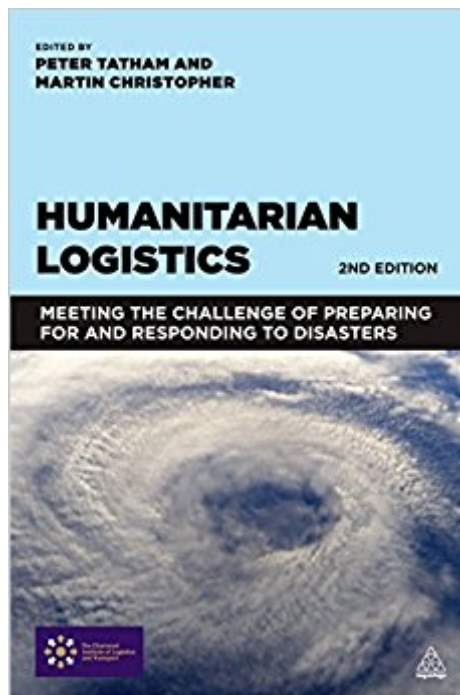




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Humanitarian Logistics: Meeting The Challenge Of Preparing For And Responding To Disasters



Synopsis

A range of recent disasters have demonstrated the critical role of effective logistics in disaster preparation and response in both developing and developed countries. Humanitarian Logistics provides thought provoking guidance and discussion of the core issues facing those who are involved in managing the logistics of disaster relief. Peter Tatham and Martin Christopher have assembled a broad ranging collection of thoughts, ideas, concepts and approaches contributed by both practitioners and academics that, together, provide an overview of some of the core challenges facing today's humanitarian logistician. With insights from world leading experts in the field, this multi-contributed book provides guidance for best practice and offers potential solutions for effective response in this crucial area. Each chapter of the 2nd edition has been updated to reflect the latest developments, improvements and emerging challenges that have been encountered in this important and rapidly-growing field. This new edition of Humanitarian Logistics also increases the level of input from the practitioner community and broadens the geographic coverage, by introducing new perspectives from Asia and Africa and a number of experienced field practitioners. There are also entire new chapters on: Quality and accountability; Lessons learned from the 2004 Thailand Tsunami and the April 2012 Tsunami warning; Emergency preparedness and the experience of international humanitarian organizations in South East Asia; What next for humanitarian logistics? It also includes chapters that focus on emerging areas of challenge that have attracted recent attention in both practitioner and academic circles, including training and education, inter-agency coordination and information systems management.

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Customer Reviews

Humanitarian Logistics: Meeting the Challenges of Preparing for and Responding to Disasters (Kogan Page, 2014), by Peter Tatham and Martin Christopher, provides a look inside the challenges faced by the people and organizations providing relief after disaster strikes. Don't let the title and subtitle fool you. Although the topic is targeted, there are benefits to be gained by more than one reading audience. As the authors and their team of contributors point out, there are many commercial sector best practices that humanitarian logistics can benefit from. I would add to this that there are just as many opportunities for return gains through new thinking and altered perspectives. As stated in the introduction, "One of the distinguishing features of modern supply networks" both in the world of business as well as in the humanitarian arena "is that they are characterized by uncertainty and, hence, unpredictability." (p. 5) Obviously, the concern associated with the loss of human life is more severe than stock-outs, but some of the same measures can improve both. One challenge faced by both sectors is the need to respond well to uncertainty. In commercial supply chains the uncertainty is usually associated with risks of disruption or quality. In humanitarian operations, it is the sheer unexpectedness of the event itself and its aftermath. Improved communication in the face of uncertainty can be the difference between success and failure. Imperfect flows of information (in and out) must be anticipated and overcome. For instance, for the first 1-2 weeks after a disaster, the response is likely to be a "push" effort where outside parties decide what to send in. After that, the people affected must be allowed to "pull" as requirements become more specific.

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