

REACT Bulletin

March 2015

A monthly summary of activities by REACT members in Tajikistan

EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER IN PANJ DISTRICT

On the evening of 18 January 2015 a wall at School #31, Panj District, Khatlon Province, collapsed. Fortunately, no children were in the building at the time. School # 31 is a primary school for grades 1 – 4 with approximately 260 students.

The exact cause of the incident remains unknown and the event underscores the need for structurally sound buildings. The collapsed wall destroyed teaching and learning materials in the early childhood education (ECE) centre, previously established by UNICEF.



Classroom destroyed as a result of wall collapsed, ECD center in School # 31 in Panj district, Khatlon province, January 2015

The Centre is one of the 180 ECD centres established by UNICEF in 12 districts throughout Tajikistan since 2009 with an initial investment in teacher training, school furniture and educational supplies and a commitment from district education authorities, complemented by parents' contributions, to cover the operational costs.

This approach demonstrated a sustainable model for scaling up within the existing education system to increase access to early childhood education.

Subsequent to the event in the School # 31, joint monitoring was undertaken by UNICEF and local education officials on 4 February 2015 to assess the scale of damage. It was determined that much of the ECE supplies could not be repaired due to extensive damage.

Upon the request of the District Education Department, Panj District, UNICEF will replace the destroyed furniture and materials in order to ensure that the Centre will remain operational. The local District Education Department will be responsible for the physical repairs of the school.

For more information, please contact Ms. Parvina Muhamedkhojaeva, UNICEF Communication Officer: pmuhamedkhojaeva@unicef.org

REACT PARTNERS REVIEW NEEDS ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The UNOCHA Regional Office for Caucasus and Central Asia (ROCCA), in collaboration with the REACT Secretariat, organized a half-day stakeholder meeting to review REACT Needs Assessment Templates on 25 February 2015. Based on the recommendations made and challenges identified during past field-testing of the Needs Assessment Tools, key members of REACT's Assessment and Information Management Working Group discussed

ways improve practicality of the existing tools. By the end of the meeting feedback was collected to revise the tools. ROCCA and the REACT Secretariat agreed to facilitate the revision process in close collaboration with REACT partners through additional bilateral and multilateral meetings.

In addition, partners agreed to clarify roles and responsibilities of REACT's Rapid Response Teams during the needs assessment process. ROCCA and the REACT Secretariat agreed to collaborate in near future to define these roles and responsibilities and as necessary, conduct refresher trainings to members of REACT's Rapid Response Teams.

REACT's Damage and Needs Assessment tools were initially developed by REACT with UNDP's support in 2008. These tools were used during a number of emergencies from 2009 to 2012. In 2012, REACT partners, with support of UNDP and UNOCHA, revised the existing tools to align them with principles of the then launched Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA). Following field-testing of revised tools in the 2013 Vahdat Earthquake and the 2014 Shuroobod floods and the cross-border simulation exercise in 2014, REACT partners identified a number of challenges with the existing tools.



Meeting on REACT Needs Assessment Templates, Dushanbe, 25 February 2015

For more information on the process of revision of needs assessment tools, please contact Mr. Valijon Ranoev, ROCCA Tajikistan National Disaster Response Advisor: valijon.ranoev@undp.org

SENTINEL ASIA WORKSHOP ON UTILIZATION OF REMOTE SENSING AND GIS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The workshop took place on 26 February 2015 at the Ismaili Center in Dushanbe. The Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES) collaborated on holding the workshop.

The main goal was to provide participants with essential insights into utilizing remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) for emergency response and risk assessment and specific best practices and techniques, so they would be able to apply them in their daily work.

The workshop brought together almost 30 senior experts and decision-makers from disaster management and emergency focal points in Government agencies, UN agencies, international and local NGOs involved in disaster preparedness and response in Tajikistan.

Participants gained essential insights into Sentinel Asia and an understanding of the application of satellite images and GIS data to preparing value-added products for emergency response purposes.

Participants acknowledged that the workshops increased their awareness of space applications including remote sensing, GIS and for risk assessment, for disaster risk reduction and management. They commented that the workshop was useful for promoting open discussion, for effective exchange of information, good practices and lesson learning.

Participants recognized that the workshop bridged the needs in capacity building in the use of space applications including GIS and

remote sensing for disaster risk reduction and management of country programmes and initiatives. Information on opportunities for capacity building and technical assistance by regional initiatives and bilateral technical cooperation with countries with more advanced capabilities is also useful.

Participants suggested that a combination of information from satellites together with information from other sources like local GIS data producers/holders, would more effectively support disaster risk reduction and management.

Participants expressed the views that a country may have specific problems/issues on the application of space technology for disaster monitoring which need to be addressed by experts for better and speedy solutions. The JAXA Sentinel Asia initiative should continue to arrange expert group meetings on the disasters prevailing in the region to facilitate information exchange between experts so that the experts in the region have a forum to discuss their specific problems and issues and gain up-to-date knowledge on how to address the issues.

Participants also articulated that the best way of strengthening regional capacity development efforts and to facilitate support in the application of space technologies, including GIS for disaster risk reduction and management, is through trainings and workshops. Participants also suggested that it would be useful to explore actions that promote further investment in DRR and emergency preparedness through use of Remote Sensing and GIS for information management.



Sentinel Asia Workshop Participant, Dushanbe, 26 February, 2015

For more information, please contact Mr. Erkin Huseinov, GIS/VAM specialist WFP: erkin.huseinov@wfp.org .

REACT Bulletin

Please send short reports on project activities or events, up to 200 words, with a picture, to REACT Secretariat in Dushanbe react.dushanbe@undp.org *Items should be submitted by the first working day of the month for the **Bulletin**, which is issued on the 7th working day of the month.*

REACT **Bulletins** can also be found at http://untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=132&Itemid=565

The **REACT Bulletin** is supported with funding from the UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and technical support of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The REACT Secretariat, UNDP or OCHA do not take responsibility for the accuracy or details of the information reported in the **Bulletin**.

Questions and comments should be sent to react.dushanbe@undp.org.