

REACT Bulletin

June 2015

A monthly summary of activities by REACT members in Tajikistan

REGIONAL MEETING ON TESTING, REVISION AND UPDATING THE REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL ASIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

From 19 to 20 May 2015 Tajikistan hosted around 38 representatives from 5 Central Asian National Red Crescent Societies (NRCS), the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (DG ECHO), the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of Tajikistan, the Committee of Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan and representatives of the UN agencies including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations World Food Programme for an event organized as part of a DIPECHO VIII Project on Building Sustainable Community Resilience Through Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Systems in Central Asia funded by DG ECHO. The event included top-table exercises to review and update the Regional Contingency Plan of the 5 Red Crescent Societies of Central Asia, taking into account current developments, changes and new approaches in disaster preparedness

and response at the national and regional levels.



The Regional Contingency Plan was discussed and analyzed by the CA NRCS representatives and partners during the meeting. Gaps were identified and further steps to review and update the Contingency Plan were agreed by the parties. Standard Operating Procedures for response to a large-scale earthquake in Almaty, Kazakhstan, involving all 5 National Societies, partners and international disaster response mechanisms, were also tested in the top-table exercise.

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MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN TAJIKISTAN

On 30 May 2015, a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction meeting, with participation of 17 ministries, agencies and representatives of international organizations, was held in the Dushanbe Plaza.



The meeting was chaired by Mr. Khayriddin Abdurahimov, First Deputy Chairman of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations.

During the meeting, the National Platform members who were part of the Tajikistan delegation to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, 14 to 18 March 2015 reported on conference. In addition, the National Platform Action Plan for 2015 was reviewed and approved by the members of the National Platform. An update on the progress of the project on unified emergency communication center (111 Hotline) and Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between three main emergency services involved (Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defence, Ambulance and Fire Department) was a major agenda item of the meeting.

The National Platform was established as part of the State Commission for Emergency Situations of the Government of Republic of Tajikistan in March, 2012.

The Platform is a consultative and advisory body for coordinating the activities of organizations working on disaster risk management in Tajikistan. Capacity building of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is supported with funding of Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan and United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan.

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PROMOTING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT THROUGH DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Structural development and Disaster Risk Management planning go hand in hand. The concept of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) should be taken into account in all forms of development and structural planning, including large infrastructure, private housing and public buildings. The challenge is how to improve land-use management, increase disaster awareness and mitigate the risk to disasters to reduce the loss of life and property damage in communities.

To address this issue, Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS), in collaboration with the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP) of the Aga Khan Foundation is implementing the project

“Creating Opportunities in a Safe Environment Integrating Risk Management into Urban and Rural Development”, funded by Swiss Cooperation Office Tajikistan (SDC). The project objective is to build government and community capacity to integrate geo-hazard risk management into urban and rural development planning. The purpose of this meeting was to demonstrate the importance of integrating DRR into development and to promote a safer environment.

The integrated approach of the project was enhanced through a meeting which brought together approximately 150 stakeholders and beneficiaries, including Civil Society Organizations from 90 Village Organization (VO) and 10 Social Unions for Development of Village Organization, representatives from Shugnan and Roshqala district authorities and the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence. During the meeting, the group presented the working mechanisms of a VO and what encompasses a Village Development Plan, findings of integrated hazard assessments conducted through this project, and natural resource management and structural mitigation projects implemented in 2014 in Roshtqala and Shugnan Districts.



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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.*

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