



Committee of Emergency Situations & Civil Defense, ECHO and UNDP Tajikistan
Project "Strengthened Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan"

Minutes of REACT Meeting September 14, 2011, UN Conference Hall

Chair: General Abdusattor Khushvaktov, first deputy Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners (Annex VII - attached)

1. Introduction:

The Chairman of the meeting, General Abdusattor Khushvaktov opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He briefly went through the agenda of the meeting and highlighted the following upcoming events:

- International Conference on Sarez Lake scheduled on 26th of September. List of participants already identified and all necessary preparation activities for the conference in progress. Chairman informed participants that those willing to attend the conference should inform the organizers.
- Preparations are underway for the upcoming meeting of Sanghai Cooperation Organization on Emergency Situations on 28th September 2011. Chairman informed the participants that list of invitees has been prepared and all relevant agencies are already invited to this event;
- Preliminary meeting on establishment of CoES Operations Centre was organized on 25-26th of August 2011 and by the end of September second meeting is organized providing ground for exchange of information among parties involved in this project.

2. Presentations:

- *Impact Study of Mission East's Activities by (Mission East):*

Presentation on the study of the Impact of Mission East via its DRR related projects was delivered by Shane Stevenson from Mission East. Providing general information on the objectives of this study, methodology used and target areas/population the main achievements of the study were highlighted such as assessment of population view of REACT activities, preparation and distribution of information leaflets on EC, and a conference for women organized in Panjakent. The information brochures are particular helpful as they contain contact details of all major organization in each areas, particular those agencies which are responsible for safety and security issues.

Among the issues revealed by the study the major concerns are the following which require further actions;

- The time limit of 15 months for the project is too limited and full achievements of all objectives are not realistic.
- The number of villages and households in dangerous areas prone to natural disaster is very high. In many areas implementation of preventative measures is too costly and evacuation of such areas is more realistic and cost effective.

- Some major activities accomplished in terms of distribution of materials and tools for DRR, however the difference among the distributed materials and tools is enormous and it would be more effective to standardize everything and distribute identical materials and tools.
- The capacity of CoES staff in the remote regions is too fragile, in the sense that not enough people are available and lack of adequate resources makes their task difficult.

Chair of REACT meeting, General Abdusattor Khushvaktov emphasized that CoES employees in the regions are doing some major works which is generally not known, therefore staff working on the ground in remote areas should be encouraged to participate in REACT meetings to present some of the practical activities which they are accomplishing.

Rano Mansurova from ACTED mentioned that some of the issues brought up by Mission East are important, particular the timeline of implementation of the report and this issues should be brought up to the attention of DIPECHO. Thus DIPECHO should combine all field studies for further analyses and actions in the future.

Malika Baimatova from ECHO added that considering the timeline of DIPECHO 6, additional 3 months were added to the implementation period. She also mentioned that a better coordination of REACT meetings should be done, as WFP Food Cluster meeting was scheduled on 14th as well, which makes it difficult to attend all the meetings.

REACT Secretariat comment regarding coordination followed that REACT meetings are always planned on the first Wednesday of each month and this month was exception due to major events in the capital and unavailability of CoES staff, who chair the meetings. Message on postponing the meeting was distributed a week ago.

National Disaster Risk Management Strategy: Reporting System by UNDP DRMP

Mr. Islom Usmanov, UNDP DRMP National Consultant briefed the participants about the reporting system on the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy which should be used by all government agencies, NGO's and INGO's dealing with DRM issues. There are mid-term reports due on July and January of each year and annual report which should be submitted in February each year. Until the initial deadline set for 15th July 2011 only 3 organizations delivered their report, therefore all REACT partners are urged to respect the new deadline which is due on 15th of September 2011.

The primary objective of the report is to collect information on activities, outcomes, challenges and recommendations on the implementation of the NDRMS which will be done by relevant institutions and submitted to the Government of Tajikistan as a consolidated report. Both hard and soft copies of the report templates were distributed among REACT partners.

Outcomes of the review of the national legislation on Disaster Response/Acceptance of international emergency relief and its compliance with the International Disaster Response Law by UNDP DRMP

Ms Gulnora Gaibova informed the participants regarding the “Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance” (IDRL Guidelines) based on which she reviewed Tajikistan legislation and its compliance with IDRL. She emphasized that this legislation are necessary in case of major disasters when involvement of other states of international relief organizations is inevitable. Main components during relief intervention from outside such as visa requirements, recognition of qualifications, exemption from taxes, communication, currency, transport, rescue animals, food, extended working hours, medicines, legal status of foreign entity were reviewed individually by the presenter, quoting and comparing the articles from IDRL relevant to each component. The presenter identified a great number of problems which are not foreseen by the legislation of Tajikistan and which can serve as a major obstacle for provision of relief in case of major disaster.

Rano Mansurova noted that collaboration of Tajikistan with neighboring states in terms of DRM is really weak and some major works should be done in this sector. She informed the participants that ACTED considering this factor is promoting dialog among Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, a gathering which is scheduled on 21-22 September in Isfara and signing of several agreements is expected.

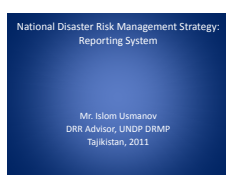
Regarding what further actions will be taken after the research which revealed such a big gap in terms of involvement of international relief Gulnora Gaibova responded that her task consist of reviewing regulations which can serve as an obstacles during international relief intervention and her report will be provided to CoES. Most of the laws which are subject to change can be discussed at ministerial level and this will be promoted by UNDP and CoES.

Annexes:

1. Annex I: Power Point: "Outcomes of the evaluation of the Mission East project activities"



2. Annex II: Power Point: "National Disaster Risk Management Strategy: reporting mechanism"



3. Annex III: Power Point Presentation: "Outcomes of the review of the national legislation on Disaster Response/Acceptance of international emergency relief and its compliance with the International Disaster Response Law"



Annex VII: List of participants, REACT Meeting, September 14, 2011

#	Name ФИО	Organization Организация	Contact details Контактная информация
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