



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

Minutes of the REACT Meeting

5 May 2010, UN Conference Hall

Chair: Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, Head of Information Management and Analytical Center, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners (Annex III- attached)

1. Introduction

Mr. Shomahmadov opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants. He briefed the participants on agenda of the meeting and passed the floor to first presenter.

2. Disaster updates

- *Overview of disasters in Tajikistan, April 2010*

Mr. Jamshed Kamolov from CoES, briefed the participants about the natural disasters occurred on the territory of Tajikistan during month of April 2010. Overall 15 cases of natural disasters have been registered by CoES, which lead to death of 2 persons. Calculation of economical damage caused by occurred disasters has not been finalized at this stage. Currently local State Commissions on Emergency Situations are finalizing the figures on damaged caused. He noted, that most floods and mudflows occurred in Khatlon province, affecting in total 7 districts and towns of Kulyab and Sarband. As for GBAO province, the landslide blocked water stream of Roghob river. Currently situation have stabilized, nevertheless, there is still a high risk of further movement of landslide. Experts from CoES and Main Department of Geology have been deployed to the site for assessment. He also mentioned that bridge over the small river Obiniyob, which located in Shurobod district, on the main road Dushanbe-Khorog has not been destroyed, due to the floods and was not restored up to now. Therefore, movement on Dushanbe-Khorog road is currently restricted. Similar floods and mudflows, due to the heavy rains and in addition strong winds affected population and caused damage to the districts in Sughd province and Districts of Direct Subordination (DDS). In total throughout the country around 2800 houses have been affected, including 216 totally destroyed houses. Other social and state infrastructure has been damaged as well. At this stage Government of Tajikistan has allocated 150 tons of diesel fuel for liquidation of consequences of natural disasters, as well as implementation of river bank reinforcement activities in disaster affected districts of Kulyab zone of Khatlon province and DDS. For more detailed information please refer to Annex I.

In addition, he added that recovery process in Vanj district, following the earthquake of January 2, 2010 are on-going. Currently 57 households have started the construction of new houses at newly allocated land. CoES has provided transportation for delivery of construction materials allocated by Government of Tajikistan to the site.

- *Polio outbreak*

Mr. Craig Hampton from WHO briefed the participants about the polio outbreak occurred in Tajikistan and on-going response measures. Tajikistan was announced as "Polio Free" country since 2002. This year around 200 suspected cases of acute paralysis have been identified in Tajikistan

Ms. Nancy Snauwaert, Humanitarian Affairs Officer of UN, added that estimated resources required for the response to the polio outbreak, including improved surveillance, treatment of ill children and the immunization campaign, amount to \$2.2 million. So far, WHO and UNICEF mobilized \$600,000, both in contributions and pledges. This leaves a resource gap of \$1.6 million. A proposal has been submitted to CERF, but more in-country support and contributions from other donors are required.

Ms. Marydean Purves from Mission East added that currently role of NGOs as observers of the immunization campaign is not very clear. Currently Mission East with the agreement of NGOs

involved in immunization campaign has developed "Quick training materials". Developed training programme is intended for around 2 hours only and supposed to be trained to staff members of the mentioned NGOs. She noted that Ministry of Health provided similar training materials, however provided materials are not self-explanatory. Training materials have been finalized and any interested organization can obtain those from Mission East and use them for free.

In terms of deployment of field teams to the communities for social mobilization, there is a need for better coordination to avoid overlapping and gaps. Therefore a special scheme has been developed by Mission East, which will allow tracking the coverage of social mobilization teams in the field. Developed scheme should be filled out by involved NGOs and returned to UNICEF for further consolidation and coordination.

In addition, a contact list of representatives of Ministry of Health

In terms, of deployment to avoid overlapping and: several teams in one place and none in another, we have developed a scheme for coverage of monitoring and observation, which can be filled out by partners and returned for coordination.

List of contact persons of MoH for printing materials. The list is available, however materials are limited, so you can consider the re-printing of the materials at your own cost.

Package of scheme, training and list of contacts available with me. Those who are interested, can get those from me and then return them to UNICEF for coordination. Maybe we should meet at some point, to discuss who is going where.

Craig, Coordination is always difficult at countrywide campaign. We should clarify who is doing monitoring side and others social mobilization. UNICEF is currently working on tracking the monitoring site.

Mr. Kholiqnazarov announced to participants that National Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2010-2015 (NDRMS) has been approved by the Government of Tajikistan on March 30, 2010.

He highlighted that approved NDRMS is the result of over 1,5 years of intensive cooperation and collaboration of numerous state ministries, agencies and international partner organizations. He added that NDRMS was developed with financial support of UNDP and ECHO in frames of DIPECHO programme and expressed gratitude to all the involved organizations and funding agencies. He mentioned that interested individuals, can find the outline of the development process of NDRMS is outlined in the NDRMS document. The content of the NDRMS has been presented to all interested organizations, including REACT partner organizations several times, while it was in draft version. However, if REACT member organizations are interested in thorough presentation of the content a special meeting might be called for this purpose. In addition, he added that the final approved version of the NDMRS is available in Russian and Tajik languages and will be shared with REACT partners.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov, from UNDP DRMP added that currently the final version of NDRMS is being translated into English and once it is ready will be shared with REACT partners accordingly.

Mr. Malik Ajani, from FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance, congratulated CoES and all REACT partners with the approval of the NDMRS and inquired about the existing plans of NDMRS at this point.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, from CoES, replied that along with NDRMS, National Action Plan on it's implementation has been approved by the Government, where it is clearly outlined the tasks/activities to be implemented and responsible parties. He added, that in line with the Governmental Decree on approval of NDRMS:

- CoES is responsible for overall coordination of implementation process of NDRMS;

- Specific state ministries and agencies are responsible for implementation of relevant tasks/activities indicated within the Action Plan, using the relevant state budgets and donor funding.

3. Overview of floods forecasts on main river basins of Tajikistan:

Ms. Natalia Mirzokhonova, from Information Management and Analytical Center of CoES informed the participants that current presentation is prepared using the forecast issues by Tajik Hydro-metrological Agency. Further on, she presented preliminary forecasts of floods on main river basins of the country, including: Pyanj, Gund, Vakhsh, Kafarnigan, Varzob, Zeravshan, Sir-Darya, Isfarinka, Yakhsu and Kizilsu rivers. Settlements along the abovementioned river basins and being under the risk of the flooding were indicated on the maps and presented to the participants. For more information please refer to **Annex I – Power Point Presentation**.

Mr. Cedric Charpentier, from UN WFP inquired if any follow up actions are foreseen upon the provided forecasts, as development of lists of settlements and preparedness plans?

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov replied that lists of settlements have been prepared earlier and shared with partners during the special REACT meeting, held on April 2, 2010 and devoted to floods forecasts. The electronic version of the lists will be uploaded to REACT website (www.untj.org) for public use.

Ms. Natalia Mirzokhonova added that every local office of CoES has its own preparedness and response plans. Warnings on weather conditions are regularly forwarded to local CoES offices. In addition, current overview will be forwarded as well.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov added that current overview is prepared using the forecasts prepared by Hydromet on water levels in main river basins for the vegetation period. Current forecast is very important for the agriculture, however does not allow clearly forecast the flash floods. To enable proper forecasting of flash floods, it is necessary to forecast the river water levels specific for the period of April-May, which requires additional funding (additional helicopter flight, which is estimated around 10,000 USD). Currently Hydromet does not have enough capacity to undertake additional forecasting exercise for the period of April-May.

Ms. Gabriella Waaijman from OCHA inquired about the existing reserves and response mechanism within CoES.

Mr. Kholiqnazarov replied that there is Search and Rescue division with CoES on central and regional levels, which is ready to be mobilized where necessary. Overall, response to any disaster is coordinated through State commission. As for state emergency reserve, they exist under the auspices of Ministry of Trade and Economic development and therefore, he cannot provide the full information.

4. Update on Recovery in Vanj

Mr. Mario Samaja, recently contracted Early Recovery Adviser, briefed participants on recovery process in Vanj district. The presented update on recovery in Vanj, was prepared mainly basing on the field trip conducted to the site on March 30 - 31, 2010.

Situation:

- District Authorities have one list with 134 families whose houses are declared unusable (classified as >60% damage)
- Second list of 286 families whose houses are in "emergency situation" submitted to National Government for approval
- Tremors continue daily
- Inadequate construction techniques played major role in damage
- Some families use the tents, others still use the damaged buildings, others use tents at night and buildings during the day.

Response:

- Authorities have planned and initiated relocation of affected HHs
- New site selected, 13.5 km from District center

- 4 houses under construction by Government, 9 by Global Partners.
- Health, education, market, water, electricity and erosion-control infrastructure planned.
- Risks on new site seem comparable with other parts of Vanj valley

Open issues:

- Not clear why reconstruction, repair or retrofitting on site were not considered (relocation appears less cost-effective and presents extra challenges)
- Standards for damage classification of building not entirely clear, as well as criteria for eligibility for assistance/new plot or house
- Construction standards and costs vary
- Policy regarding damaged buildings and relative land plots still evolving; not clear if people can stay and at what conditions.
- Overall costs ?

Mr. Mario Samaja added that a meeting with the Governor of GBAO is planned to brief him about the plans of REACT partnership in recovery process of Vanj district. Therefore, UNDP/REACT Secretariat will be approaching individually some partners, donors bilaterally on this issue.

Mr. Kholiqnazarov added that on a week of April 12, 2010 a visit of Prime Minister and Chairman of CoES to the Vanj district is planned. The main purpose of the meeting is monitoring of the recovery process in Vanj, and therefore, currently an overview of all the undertaken activities is being prepared. In general, he noted that responsibilities delegated to state ministries and agencies are being implemented smoothly and it would be good if REACT partnership could present its plans as well.

Mr. Malik Ajani, informed the participants, that education cluster has conducted a rapid assessment of damaged schools in Vanj district. Further on, experts from FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance have completed more in-depth assessment of the damaged schools in Vanj district. Currently results of the assessment are available and can be shared with all interested partners. In addition, damaged irrigation channels in Vanj district have been assessed by FOCUS as well and rehabilitation of those planned. Currently the issue is pending the approval from FOCUS board of directors.

Mr. Andy Baker from Oxfam GB inquired whether all the population of earthquake affected area will be relocated or only those whose houses were damaged?

Mr. Kholiqnazarov replied, that considering the limited amount of land appropriate for housing construction in the district, only limited number of households will be relocated, the number which fit in the allocated land. Nevertheless, in future issue of populations relocation can be considered.

Mr. Rustam Ubaidulloev from UNICEF requested if more clarification could be provided on the issue of the funding allocated for social infrastructure.

Mr. Mario Samaja replied, that for majority of the planned social infrastructure funding status is clear. However concerns are raised relevant to construction of electricity supply system, because it is not clear if funding has been allocated or not.

Mr. Kholiqnazarov added that at this point, electricity supply is considered as an open issue since the funding has not been allocated neither from Government side, nor from Pamir Energy.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov added that during the meeting Governor of GBAO it is planned to present plans of REACT partnership, as well as discussed other options, such as: possibility of reconstruction of the houses on the same location or retrofitting partly affected houses.

5. Results of seismic vulnerability assessment of social facilities in Dushanbe

Mr. Farshed Karimov from Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, briefed the participants about the results of seismic vulnerability assessment of social facilities in Dushanbe. Current assessment

was undertaken in frames of project: "Strengthened Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan – phase II" of UNDP. Project is co-funded by UNDP and ECHO, in frames of DIPECHO V programme. The details of the presentation can be found in **Annex II – Power Point Presentation**.

6. News from partners

Mr. Dominique Feron, announced that following the DIPECHO VI Call for Proposals for Central Asia, selection process of the submitted proposals has been completed. He mentioned, that large number of different and interesting proposals have been submitted, however due to budget constraints only 8 proposals have been selected. Namely, selected agencies are:

- 2 UN Agencies (UNICEF and UNDP);
- 1 IFRC;
- 5NGOs (Oxfam GB, Save the children, ACTED, Mission East and Focus).

At this point final commenting process is on-going between DG ECHO and abovementioned agencies.

Ms. Rubina Bhaskar from UN WHO, informed the participants about the current project of WHO "protecting health from climate change" which has been funded by the German Federal ministry on environment for a period of two years. The project began during the last half of 2009. Under current project WHO is planning to prepare a National Health adaptation plan and has begun the vulnerability assessment on climate change and its impacts on the people of Tajikistan. The results of the assessment are planned to be finalized by September 2010.

The second major activity of the project is safe drinking water in pilot hospital and this has been chosen in Rudaki district. This month consultants from the world plumbing council will arrive to Tajikistan to assess the hospital and later establish a "water safety plan". WHO also subsequently intend to install a cost effective water filtration plant in the same hospital that is based on electro chlorination.

Thirdly WHO plans to build capacity of the local health system including provision and response to early warning.

7. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

Annex I: Power Point Presentation: "Overview of disasters, April 2010"



Annex II: Power Point Presentation: Results of Seismic Vulnerability Assessment of Social Facilities in Dushanbe.



Annex III: List of participants, REACT Meeting, 7 April 2010

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