



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

---

**Minutes of the REACT Meeting**  
**19 August 2009, UNDP Conference Hall**

Chair: Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, Head of IMAC, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners (Annex 1 - attached)

---

**1. Introduction**

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov (CoES) opened the meeting, welcomed all participants and presented the agenda.

**2. Disaster updates**

- Landslide in Ayni district:

Mr. Mukhtor Hasanov (UNDP DRMP) gave a short presentation on the landslide that occurred on 8 August in Aini district, 3 km away from the village of Vashan. Fortunately, there were no casualties. Damage includes 1,5 km of road connecting the village with the rest of the district and 1,5 km of electricity and communication lines. An irrigation canal was blocked as well, leaving 45 ha of productive land without irrigation. In terms of response, the Hukumat of Sughd province provided 4000 liters of diesel for cleaning the damaged road. Road access to the village has been assured. The local CoES provided machinery and manpower to establish the bypass road and temporary power supply. As the landslide is still moving, 4000 more liters of diesel and 500 liters of machine lubricants are still needed for cleaning activities. Power supply and communication have not been entirely reestablished.

Ms. Shahlo Rahimova (UNDP DRMP) added that REACT Zeravshan led an assessment in the field, and a report is expected soon. Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov (CoES) underlined that landslides in this region are an important problem; Vashan was already hit by a mudslide in 2002, and a part of the population was resettled. More precise assessments should be considered.

- Cases of Congo-Crimea Hemorrhagic fever:

Ms. Liduvina Gonzalez (WHO) gave an update on the outbreak of Congo-Crimea hemorrhagic fever that occurred in the last weeks. Hemorrhagic fever is endemic in the region; Tajikistan has an average of 20 cases per year, with 30% mortality. In comparison, thousands of cases are registered every year in Turkey. An outbreak or epidemic is defined when doctors and medical staff acquire the disease. Cases have occurred since May in the DRD and Khatlon provinces, but the situation is not exceptional. The disease hits rural areas; even though some cases were detected in Dushanbe on people coming from outside, there is no transmission of the disease in the city.

The outbreak in Tursun-zade started from one case in July. Because of a misleading suspicion of pneumonia, the patient wasn't treated fast enough and died. The doctor who treated him was contaminated by accident and didn't survive. 5 more cases were confirmed in Tursun-zade, with a total of 3 fatalities. A WHO team has not detected any more cases in Tursun-zade. There is now a total of 14 cases for this year scattered over several areas. There is no particular reason for alarm.

**3. Sector updates**

**Water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Ms. Hongwei Gao, UNICEF**

Concerning the funding status of the Early Recovery Appeal for the WASH Sector, 2 of 5 projects included in the Appeal have received funding, concerning water supply in Khuroson (UNICEF) and Rasht (German Agro Action). 53% of the total WASH appeal is thus funded. Sector members have been very active in reaching out to donors. In terms of implementation, the UNICEF project in the village of Shohruhkh (Khuroson) will start at the beginning of September; consultation is ongoing with Government agencies

on design, infrastructure, etc. The German Agro Action project was announced to start at the beginning of August, and will be finished by the end of the year. These 2 projects are funded by ECHO and DFID.

UNICEF is also leading education campaigns on WASH, which were completed in Pyanj and Khuroson and are ongoing in Nurobod. UNICEF has started as well to replenish emergency stocks in warehouses to prepare for future emergency response from the WASH cluster.

### **Education, Ms. Hongwei Gao, UNICEF**

UNICEF co-leads the Education sector with Save the Children. The UNICEF project for improvement of schools and equipment in Kuhistoni Mastchohi is fully funded. Other projects by Save the Children and CESVI have not been funded, but relevant organizations will actively reach out for funding. UNICEF received 500,000 USD for education in emergency situations. This will partly be used to cover projects included in the Appeal. In addition, UNICEF will cover emergency stock build-up for the education sector and provide additional support for 20 priority schools in the area of safe water, health, ECD and girls' education in emergencies. Stock build-up includes water filters for schools, water facilities, procurement of school tents and heating facilities; this will take place in the next months.

Ms. Gao raised drew attention to the case of School no. 38 in Ozodi village of Pyandj District, which was completely destroyed by the spring disasters and is not included in the Early Recovery Appeal because of a last minute change; about 200 children need schooling there by September. This question has to be raised in the Education cluster meeting to brainstorm about reconstruction possibilities.

Mr. Cédric Charpentier (WFP) added that the World Bank and European Commission have been preparing a large-scale assessment of the education sector and the social safety net provided by it. The assessment will start soon and last 18 months.

Ms. Nancy Snauwaert (UN) announced that if the concerns raised by UNICEF were about School No. 38 in Qumsangir district, this is included in the Save the Children project in the Appeal. But the issue remains open, as the project has not received funding yet.

### **Shelter and NFI, Mr. Khusrav Sharifov, UNDP DRMP**

UNDP has agreed to lead the Shelter and NFI sector because no other partner volunteered; this is not UNDP's usual work. A meeting was held before the Appeal launch with a few sector members to discuss proposals. In particular, additional construction of homes was discussed, as the Government seems to be hoping for help from the international community to complement houses built upon Government initiative. The shelter project was upgraded to cover practically all outstanding needs, reaching a high total. For the Government, homes have priority over other reconstruction. There has been no information about donor funding to this point. The project is planned to be implemented by an NGO consortium.

Mr. Ole Ramsing (Mission East) announced that some funding was promised from SDC to build seismic-resistant housing; a consultant is in the country this week to advance this issue and give recommendations. It is hoped that this will show the consortium's capacity to build houses in line with earthquake resistance norms. Mr. Sharifov added that a sector meeting will be held on 20 August to see what should be built following the recommendations from the SDC.

### **Health, Mr. Craig Hampton, WHO**

In the context of the hemorrhagic fever outbreak and the threat of influenza H1N1, Mr. Hampton announced that the WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and SESS led activities on infection control and disease management. Personal protective equipment will be distributed. Also, a SESS laboratory is now functional to conduct analyses on influenza-type diseases. Screening tests can now be done in-country, but confirmation testing still needs to be conducted outside.

Concerning the Early Recovery Appeal, there was no funding commitment up to now. However, Mr. Hampton extended special thanks to Ms. Nancy Snauwaert and the Health Sector for revising and improving the projects, with help from the MoH. In the disaster-affected area of Khuroson, temporary medicals were closed while the local hospital is working only partly. Health kits funded by DIPECHO will be provided to rebuild contingency stocks.

Ms. Gonzalez (WHO) raised the concern about the transport of virus samples for analysis in and out of Tajikistan. This important work faces serious problems: dry ice for the transportation samples can not be found in the country, and can not be imported. Another problem is the transport of the samples themselves, which airlines refuse to take into charge. There might be a need to change national regulations on this; any support or ideas are welcome. A machine to produce dry ice could be acquired for 7000 USD and be used for various types of viral samples, but this alone will not solve the problem.

Mr. Shomahmadov (CoES) suggested talking to MoH and SESS. According to WHO this was done but didn't bring results. CoES underlined the necessity to directly address the Head of MoH. CoES should also be involved to talk to Government partners.

#### **Food Security, Mr. Cédric Charpentier, WFP**

Up to now, no new funding is known of for the Food Security Appeal revised in June. Results from a crop assessment conducted by FAO over the 2 last months should be available in a few days; the data is currently with Goskomstat. A national nutrition assessment planned by UNICEF with the Swiss Tropical Medicine Institute should take place in October, instead of July as originally planned.

According to FSMS data, the food situation in late July and early August is quite good, which is normal in this season thanks to harvest and good weather. But chronic insecurity is expected to return by September-October. Food distribution activities are going quietly because of the favorable agricultural season. In September, school feeding and cash/food for work efforts will take up again.

Two workshops will be held on 28 August and 11 September on integrated phase classification, a methodology for classifying food security and general security in a way that facilitates inter-country comparisons. This initiative includes 20 organizations and partners, UN agencies, NGOs, universities, etc. Most organizations in the food security sector were invited, and their participation would be very profitable.

#### **4. Outcomes of the Workshop on National Platform, July 31, Dushanbe, Alisho Shomahmadov (IMAC CoES)**

A workshop was held on 31 July concerning the National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction. It was attended by members of the Government, international organizations, the Academy of Sciences, NGOs and media representatives. Mr. Shomahmadov presented main points from the agenda. He reported that not all questions could be solved, but will be raised again. He shared the definition of a national platform as well as the conceptualization scheme of this structure, including the National Commission on Emergency Situations, REACT and a Permanent working group (the platform).

Mr. Sharifov (UNDP DRMP) added that this issue has been under discussion for some time. This workshop was a major step and produced a concept on what the platform should look like. Crucial now is to receive feedback from partners: partners are requested to examine the guidelines, what exists in the country, the conceptualization scheme presented, etc., and give their feedback on whether such a Platform is needed in Tajikistan or not. If the answer is positive, there will be extensive work, including with Government, as this must be an official structure. If the answer is negative, concrete reasons should be given. REACT will send out the concept and ask for feedback.

#### **5. REACT/UNCG Media Database**

Mr. Gerd Rothenberg (UNDP DRMP) briefly presented the new Media Database developed by the UN Communications Group and expanded to REACT. This is meant to be a simple tool for use by all partners in order to facilitate access to mass media. It includes contact information for various types of national and international media. The purpose of the database is to more easily attract media, public and donor attention to the situation in Tajikistan and work being done in disaster management, relief and development. The database was shown in its current state. It needs to be updated regularly, and will always be a work in progress. Next steps are receiving data from REACT Partners to complete the database, and putting the database online for general use.

Mr. Charpentier (WFP) suggested sharing contact data with relevant media to confirm their validity. Mr. Shomahmadov (CoES) mentioned a seminar held recently with media representatives from Tajikistan and suggested to contact the participants.

## 6. News from Partners

Mr. Sharifov (UNDP DRMP) announced that a UNDP BCPR mission would be coming from Geneva in the first weeks of September to help elaborate the UNDP DRM strategy for 2010-2013. This is a crucial mission which will lay the foundations for UNDP's future work. The mission will last one week. There will be meetings with partners according to possibilities. Partners were requested to give their opinion in a frank and open way during the meetings to contribute to UNDP's strategy for the future.

Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky (UNDP) added that crisis prevention and recovery is a worldwide key area for UNDP, and BCPR is strongly supporting our region. Tajikistan was selected with 4 other countries for reinforced strategy partnerships with BCPR; priorities will be agreed on for the coming 3-5 years. There is a long-term commitment by BCPR to Tajikistan, including systematic work, a systemic approach and more predictable funding. 4 priority areas are DRM, Early Recovery, Mine Action and Conflict Prevention. This mission is important not only for UNDP, and contributions and support from partners are hoped for.

Ms. Annemarie Schneider (SDC) announced that a SDC headquarters mission will be arriving in the country next Monday from Kyrgyzstan and will visit project partners, Government agencies, donors, etc. to draw up possible scenarios for SDC's strategy after 2010. Central Asia and Tajikistan are priority areas for SDC. Partners will be kept informed. Ms. Schneider then introduced Ms. Mansura Nazaramonova, SDC's new National Program Officer for DRR.

Mr. Shomahmadov (CoES) briefly told about the international conference on the Lake Sarez problem to be held from 2-4 September 2009 in Nurek. An organizing committee, working group and secretariat were established by the Government. Materials are currently being prepared. Invitees include experts and scientists from over 20 countries as well as international organizations, Government, scientific organizations and relevant ministries from Tajikistan and other Central Asian republics. For more information, see [www.sarez.tj](http://www.sarez.tj)

## Annex 1: List of participants, REACT Meeting, 19 August 2009

#	Name ФИО	Organization Организация	Contact details Контактная информация
1.	Khusrav Sharifov	UNDP DRMP	<a href="mailto:khusrav.sharifov@undp.org">khusrav.sharifov@undp.org</a>
2.	Munisa Vahobova	UNDP DRMP	<a href="mailto:munisa.vahobova@undp.org">munisa.vahobova@undp.org</a>
3.	Annemarie Schneider	SDC DRP	<a href="mailto:annemarie.schneider@sdc.net">annemarie.schneider@sdc.net</a>
4.	Craig Hampton	WHO	<a href="mailto:craighampton.who@tajnet.com">craighampton.who@tajnet.com</a>
5.	Gerd Rothenberg	UNDP DRMP	<a href="mailto:gerd.rothenberg@undp.org">gerd.rothenberg@undp.org</a>
6.	Hongwei Gao	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:hgao@unicef.org">hgao@unicef.org</a>
7.	Nigina Shamsova	GTZ	<a href="mailto:nigina.shamsova@gtz.de">nigina.shamsova@gtz.de</a>
8.	Alisho Shomahmadov	CoES	<a href="mailto:Alisho.shomahmadov@mchs.tj">Alisho.shomahmadov@mchs.tj</a>
9.	Alberto Bigi	CESVI	<a href="mailto:soghd@cesvioverseas.org">soghd@cesvioverseas.org</a>
10.	Rustam Ubaidulloev	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:rubaidulloev@unicef.org">rubaidulloev@unicef.org</a>
11.	Alisher Shabdolov	UNDP DRMP	<a href="mailto:alisher.shabdolov@undp.org">alisher.shabdolov@undp.org</a>
12.	Farrukh Kasimov	IFRC Tajikistan	<a href="mailto:farrukh.kasimov@ifrc.org">farrukh.kasimov@ifrc.org</a>

13.	Vladimir Fedotov	GAA	<a href="mailto:vladimir.fedotov@gaadwhh.tj">vladimir.fedotov@gaadwhh.tj</a>
14.	Asad Abdulnodiroy	FOCUS	<a href="mailto:aabdulnodiroy@focushumanitarian.org">aabdulnodiroy@focushumanitarian.org</a>
15.	Shahlo Rahimova	UNDP DRMP	<a href="mailto:shahlo.rahimova@undp.org">shahlo.rahimova@undp.org</a>
16.	Ekaterina Chuprinenko	UNDP DRMP	<a href="mailto:ekaterina.chuprinenko@undp.org">ekaterina.chuprinenko@undp.org</a>
17.	Anna Smeby	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:asmeby@unicef.org">asmeby@unicef.org</a>
18.	Cédric Charpentier	WFP	<a href="mailto:cedric.charpentier@wfp.org">cedric.charpentier@wfp.org</a>
19.	Liduvina Gonzalez	WHO	
20.	Rastislav Vrbensky	UNDP	<a href="mailto:rastislav.vrbensky@undp.org">rastislav.vrbensky@undp.org</a>
21.	Nancy Snauwaert	UN	<a href="mailto:nancy.snauwaert@undp.org">nancy.snauwaert@undp.org</a>
22.	Ikrom Soliev	German Red Cross	<a href="mailto:grc.soliev@gmail.com">grc.soliev@gmail.com</a>
23.	Malik Ajani Jr	FOCUS	<a href="mailto:majani@focushumanitarian.org">majani@focushumanitarian.org</a>
24.	Mansura Nazaramonova	SDC	<a href="mailto:mansura.nazaramonova@sdc.net">mansura.nazaramonova@sdc.net</a>
25.	Mukhtor Hasanov	UNDP DRMP	<a href="mailto:mukthor.hasanov@undp.org">mukthor.hasanov@undp.org</a>
26.	Lilia Tverdun	Caritas CH	<a href="mailto:ltverdun@caritas.ch">ltverdun@caritas.ch</a>
27.	Yodgor Odinamamadov	ECHO	<a href="mailto:echo@tajnet.com">echo@tajnet.com</a>
28.	Zafar Mahmudov	UNISDR	<a href="mailto:zafar.mahmudov@undp.org">zafar.mahmudov@undp.org</a>
29.	Andy Baker	OXFAM	<a href="mailto:abaker@oxfam.org.uk">abaker@oxfam.org.uk</a>
30.	Ole Ramsing	Mission East	<a href="mailto:oramsing@miseast.tojikiston.com">oramsing@miseast.tojikiston.com</a>
31.	Afzalsho Nasobov	Mission East	<a href="mailto:afzalsho_PO@miseast.tojikiston.com">afzalsho_PO@miseast.tojikiston.com</a>
32.	Hamida Ashurova	ADB/SFPR	<a href="mailto:hashurova@gmail.com">hashurova@gmail.com</a>
33.	Zubaidullo Karimov	OXFAM	<a href="mailto:zkarimov@oxfam.org.uk">zkarimov@oxfam.org.uk</a>
34.	Farshed Karimov	Institute of Seismological Construction	<a href="mailto:fhkarim@mail.tj">fhkarim@mail.tj</a>