



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

Minutes of the extraordinary REACT Meeting
Launch of Tajikistan Floods and Mudflows REACT Appeal
3^d of June 2009, UNDP Conference Hall

Chair: Mr. Jamshed Kamolov, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners (Annex 1 - attached)

1. Introduction

Colonel Jamshed Kamolov, head of population and territories protection department of CoES opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2. Launch of the Tajikistan Floods and Mudflows REACT Appeal

Mr. Kamolov gave an introduction on the appeal and the events that led to it. Over the past 2 months, floods and mudflows affected more than 40 districts of Tajikistan, damaging or destroying over 2000 houses and 40,000 ha of agricultural land and killing 26 persons, including 10 children. The total damage is estimated over 100 million USD. These figures are preliminary, as the CoES has not yet collected all data from all affected districts and provinces. The Tajik Government has requested emergency assistance from international organizations and countries.

Mr. Michael Jones, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, gave a general overview on the appeal. It was prepared on a 6 months basis, running from June to November 2009. The meeting should allow going into more details, answering any questions and identifying potential gaps in the appeal. In total, the appeal amounts to 1.3 million USD; it was issued as a local appeal, as this amount could be generated locally.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov from UNDP DRMP went on to give more details on the Appeal. The document was prepared in the shortest period possible and might not cover all the needs in the country, especially as some more disasters have occurred in the very last days. The appeal could be revised later if necessary. Assessment is still going on in several regions of the country, and the appeal is based on preliminary data from the Government.

Concerning response provided up to date, the major disaster site of Khuroson Province received good attention from the Government and international community; 2 tent camps were established to house affected population in need of shelter. The Government has allocated new disaster safe land spots to population and committed to construct 110 houses, but there is still an outstanding need in 230 houses. The construction works at the sites have already started. Most of these 230 families concerned will receive construction materials.

Less attention was devoted to the emergency situation in Pyanj, where a comparatively small tent camp consisting of 25 tents has been established. New land spots were allocated to heavily affected families, but assessments are needed to determine if it is exploitable for agriculture, or only reconstruction. Affected persons in Khuroson have received some cash assistance, which is not the case in Pyanj. Although immediate food and basic NFI needs are considered to be covered for most families, many people in less heavily affected regions have not received much attention. In addition, due to relocation of the families to new land spots, more needs in NFI may arise.

Some bilateral aid has been provided by Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, few tents and mainly construction materials for reconstruction of the destroyed houses.

The appeal seeks for 1, 1,352,894 USD to cover immediate needs of 12,000 people concerning the WASH, Shelter and NFI sectors and integrates 9 projects. Currently, mostly UN Agencies are participating, more participation from other REACT partners is hoped for. The appeal most focuses on most affected districts, such as Khuroson, Pyandj, Qumsangir, Nurobod, Rasht and Shahrinav and proposes interventions in various sectors.

Appeal proposes blow listed interventions:

- Emergency provision of safe water, promotion of sanitation and hygiene;
- Support to provision of primary health care;
- Prevention and surveillance of communicable and water borne diseases;
- Psychological support;
- Prevention of measles outbreak;
- Improvement of obstetric and reproductive health care;
- Provision of basic humanitarian non-food assistance.

REACT next steps:

- Reconstruction has started;
- Recovery Appeal expected within 1 month;
- UNDP BCPR allocated USD 100,000 to support Early Recovery Interventions.

3. Discussion on the Emergency Appeal

Upon a question by Mr. Jones about coordination of emergency work with the IFRC in shelter/NFI sector, division of tasks and geographical areas and sharing of information, Mr. Sharifov explained that it was calculated how many families the IFRC is covering, and remaining ones were included into the appeal. Nevertheless, the appeal does not go into details about the locations of the families in need of support. The appeal used all available information, calculating numbers of affected persons and their SPHERE needs and subtracting what has already been provided; thus, the Appeal, as far as possible, is based on outstanding needs.

Mr. Zlatan Milisic from WFP pointed that currently there are needs in food security sector, though they were not included in this appeal, as there is existing Tajikistan Humanitarian Food Security Appeal, which is still ongoing. Nevertheless urgent immediate food needs currently are being covered by existing emergency stocks within country. The ongoing food Tajikistan Food Security Appeal will be updated and maybe upgraded, as needs clearly exist. Mr. Sharifov added that appeals launched globally during last year, including Tajikistan Food Security Appeal, are expected to go through global revision by mid-June.

Ms. Nicole Stolz from Caritas Switzerland remarked that it was often difficult in the past for NGOs to be integrated into the cluster and be involved in appealing processes and requested to provide more opportunities for NGOs to participate. Often, NGOs' work falls under several different clusters, but they can't participate in all of them. It is easier for them to cooperate directly with REACT, but REACT meetings can not be sufficiently technical and operational. Maybe a particular working group would allow this kind of cooperation. Currently Caritas Switzerland is in contact with Mission East and Oxfam and looking for opportunities to get engaged in recovery process. Caritas Switzerland has fundraising ongoing and will engage in the recovery phase, but not in emergency.

Mr. Jones enquired whether emergency reserves had been drawn on and if yes, if they had been replenished. According to Mr. Sharifov, the availability of emergency stocks within the country allowed providing assistance immediately; most tents for Khuroson came from UN Emergency Reserve for Tajikistan and RCST emergency stocks. In Pyanj, tents were provided by the Government and RCST/IFRC. The UN emergency reserve was used in consultation with the UN Resident Coordinator and OCHA. Emergency cash grants were released twice by OCHA to provide tents for Khuroson. As the emergency reserve is located in nearby Kurgan-Tyube, tents could be provided and built up in 1 day. Mr. Jones emphasized that procurement for the replenishment of these stocks has to follow soon in order to be ready for the next potential emergency; Mr. Sharifov confirmed that this is already ongoing and that stocks are being replenished.

Mr. Matthias Anderegg from SDC congratulated REACT and main stakeholders on the quick reaction to the emergencies and on the appeal composed with the help of OCHA Almaty. He underlined that the series of disasters might continue; thus it must be emphasized in the appeal that more emergencies could come. Furthermore, he remarked that there was considerable investment from the Tajik

Government, which can be highlighted in the Appeal; it must be clear that the Government takes the main responsibility, and that the work of the international community is complementary to this.

Furthermore, Mr. Anderegg underlined that the combination of humanitarian work and long-term recovery, which is mentioned in the appeal, has to be emphasized to partners; otherwise, recovery might not get enough donor attention. It would be good to have a rough estimate of costs for recovery. Also, it would be interesting to know if any funds were already committed by donors for emergency response.

Mr. Anderegg also remarked that 100,000 USD were already mobilized from BCPR by UNDP as well as other contributions. He asked whether the CERF funds is relevant for relief operations for this particular disaster.

Mr. Zafar Teshayev from DG ECHO reported that Euro 300,000 were requested for relief operations for this particular disaster; as soon as requested is approved, funds will be released for sectors including NFI and WASH.

Ms. Nargis Artushevskaya from UNICEF reported that a WASH sector meeting had taken place just before the present meeting, with low participation, and emphasized that active participation of partners is requested. Representatives of WASH sector visited Khuroson disaster site yesterday. During the visit, it was found out that some WASH relief assistance was provided by ACTED and Save the Children, though the sector lead was not informed; she requested organizations to provide information for coordination purposes. Ms. Artushevskaya reported about a presidential visit planned to Khuroson district; at this stage this can not be definitively confirmed, but it highlights government attention to this area. Furthermore, assistance from UNICEF emergency stock is being discussed for Khuroson, Rasht, Pyanj and Kumsangir and will be provided this week. UNICEF has funded construction of WASH facilities in Khuroson district and construction should be completed by next week in the new settlements.

Mr. Jones restated that the international community must complement, not substitute the Government. It must be clearly shown in the appeal what the Government has done, and what complementary help was provided by the international community; if possible, items and support provided by the Government should be listed. Mr. Sharifov explained that point 2.1 in the appeal on "response to date" covers this, although maybe not with all details. A table of assistance was sent out and is also posted on the REACT website with information provided by the coordination center in Khuroson, represented here by Mr. Khushvaktov. Nevertheless, the appeal concentrates mostly on outstanding needs.

Mr. Anderegg suggested that the report could benefit from a more concise and transparent presentation and should underline that this is subsidiary to Government work, to avoid creating false expectations. Longer-term recovery planning should also be discussed from the start.

Mr. Ilija Todorovic from UNHCR asked why the appeal was limited to 6 months until end November. Is there sufficient confidence in the fact that allocation of land and reconstruction will be finished within this period? It is stated that early recovery projects will be put forward within 1 month. Have clear projects targeting the tent population started already, and will there be clear objective to accommodate all the affected people by end November? Mr. Sharifov, talking for UNDP, answered that this appeal is to cover immediate needs and that this is realizable in 6 months. Needs are quite straightforward concerning NFIs, if funds are provided, assistance is ready to go. A time limit was not defined for the early recovery appeal, which may extend beyond the winter. But the Government is placing a high priority on this issue, especially in Khuroson. As stated in Situation Report #8 from Khuroson, 110 houses are currently being rebuilt by different Tajik institutions on Government request. The recovery appeal will concentrate heavily on the reconstruction of homes for the rest of affected families.

Mr. Jones suggested that compressed block makers could be sent to produce bricks for reconstruction of houses. It would be good to introduce this in an early recovery context as an income earner, producing bricks for the reconstruction of houses. This could be discussed with WFP after the meeting.

Mr. Anderegg requested more details about the 110 houses to be provided by the Government. Are they being built out of the organizations' regular budgets, or particular budgets? Furthermore, the Government has a standard plan for all houses, is there room for adaptation, e.g. following recommendations from NGOs? Mr. Sharifov explained that the 110 houses are being built by presidential order and organizations and companies on the ground are competing to finish first; in this context, the source of the money is not

problematic. These first 110 houses could be built in 2-3 months; the problem are the 230 other families. Regarding the plans for the houses, it was confirmed by the Presidents' office and CoES chairman that REACT partners could use their own plans for houses, in coordination with the Government.

Mr. Ali Buzurukov from OCHA Almaty congratulated to REACT and the Tajik Government on the good and quick response to the emergencies. He explained that OCHA cash grants were used partly for response and partly to replenish existing stocks; Mr. Buzurukov called on donors and Governments to use the regular mechanisms to replenish these stocks. He further noted that the WASH sector needs to be strengthened as it is crucial in cases like floods, mudflows etc. There is a lack of expertise on the ground in this sector; more experts and regular and emergency funding are needed. He also commended the strong governmental presence on site in Khuroson, with quick response and high level of commitment. According to Mr. Buzurukov, there are reasons for optimism for the construction of the first 110 houses within 6 months, although it remains to be seen whether the current enthusiasm persists in 1-2 months.

Mr. Jones remarked that long-term solutions have to be looked at before starting early recovery, the aim being to provide people a better situation than they were in before. He suggested that the WASH sector could provide easy-to-build water filters to protect from diseases, etc. The present emergency could serve as a starting point for the use of such tools.

Mr. Craig Hampton from WHO reported that the Health sector strategy can rely quite well on the Ministry of Health, which is working effectively. The local hospital in Khuroson was destroyed, but the MoH worked well in initiating the response; it is now necessary to support them to gain the capacity they should have had before the emergency.

4. Closing of the meeting by Mr. Kamolov, CoES

Annex 1: List of participants, REACT Emergency Appeal meeting June 3, 2009

#	Name ФИО	Organization Организация	Contact details Контактная информация
1.	Brandy Westerman	Mercy Corps	brandy@tj.mercycorpsr.org
2.	Rastislav Vrbensky	UNDP	rastislav.vrbensky@undp.org
3.	Olga Stalinskaya	WHH/GAA	olga.stalinskaya@gaadwhh.tj
4.	Shamsidin Muhudinov	IFRC	shamsidin.muhudinov@ifrc.org
5.	Laura Kauppik	Finnish Red Cross	tj02@finrc.fi
6.	Nargis Artushevskaya	UNICEF	nartushevskaya@unicef.org
7.	Craig Hampton	WHO	craighampton.who@tajnet.com
8.	Sara Rijavec	CESVI	soghd@cesvioverseas.org , tajikistan_admin@cesvioverseas.org
9.	Ali Buzurukov	UNOCHA	buzurukov@un.org
10.	Nicole Stolz	Caritas CH	nstolz@caritas.ch
11.	Zainiddin Karaev	DFID	z-karaev@dfid.gov.uk
12.	Faroghat Mirzoeva	Save the Children	faroghat@savechildren.tj
13.	Asad Abdulnodiurov	FOCUS	aabdulnodiurov@focushumanitarian.org
14.	Firuz Jalilov	UNDP DRMP	firuz.jalilov@undp.org
15.	Firuz Huseinov	CoES	huseinov2007@mail.ru
16.	Shahlo Rahimova	UNDP DRMP	shahlo.rahimova@undp.org
17.	Jamshed Kamolov	CoES	jjk@list.ru
18.	Michael Jones	UN System	michael.jones@undp.org
19.	Ilija Todorovic	UNHCR	todorovic@unhcr.org
20.	Zlatan Milisic	WFP	zlatan.milisic@wfp.org
21.	Rustam Ubaidulloev	UNICEF	rubaidulloev@unicef.org
22.	Zafar Jeshayev	DG ECHO	echo@tajnet.com
23.	Anvar Sabzaliev	SDC	anvar.sabzaliev@sdc.net
24.	Matthias Anderegg	SDC	matthias.anderegg@sdc.net
25.	Afzalsho Nasibov	Mission East	afzalsho_PO@miseast.tajikistan.com
26.	Yormahmad Khalov	Caritas Tajikistan	yormahmad@gmail.com
27.	Shuhrat Gambadyev	FAO	935700702
28.	Gerd Rothenberg	UNDP DRMP	gerd.rothenberg@undp.org
29.	Khusrav Sharifov	UNDP DRMP	khusrav.sharifov@undp.org
30.	Bakhtiyor Ashunev	Mission East	DRR_POPU@miseast.tajikistan.com
31.	Abdugani Ganiev	FSD	935585072, bobojon72@mail.ru

32.	Abdusattor Khushvaktov	CoES	
33.	Shohin Rizoiev	UNDP DRMP	shohin.rizoiev@undp.org
34.	Sobir	UNICEF	
35.	Zeynal Hajiyev	IOM	935711607, zhajiyev@iom.int
36.	Ekaterina Chuprinenko	UNDP DRMP	ekaterina.chuprinenko@undp.org