



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

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**Minutes of REACT Meeting**  
**6 April 2011, UN Conference Hall**

Chair: Mr. Sultonnazar Kholiqnazarov, Head of Staff, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners (Annex VII - attached)

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**1. Introduction:**

Chairman of the meeting, Colonel Kholiqnazarov opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants. The chairman introduced and welcomed newly appointed UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Alexander Zuev.

Mr. Zuev briefly mentioned that currently he is representing several UN agencies in the country, such as: UNDP, UN Women, UNV and UNFPA. He noted that he has 21 years of experience working with UN and was directly involved in emergency response operations in 2004 in Haiti, in apposition of Senior Coordinator. He highlighted that previously in 2003, he had a chance to visit Tajikistan to conduct rapid assessment.

**2. Energy and food situation in Tajikistan**

Mr. Charles Kelly representing the Risk Monitoring and Warning System provided a brief update on energy and food security situation in the country. The analysis of the prices of 1st grade Wheat Flour from march 2008 up to March 2011 on main markets of the country: Dushanbe, Khujand, Kurgan-tyube, Khorog and Gharm has indicated that wheat flour prices in March remained unchanged in Kurgan-Tube and Khujand markets compared to February and fluctuated in Dushanbe market. Prices in all three markets remained above or close the highest level since January 2008. Wheat prices in Khorog and Gharm remained at historical highs in March. Prices in Khorog remained unchanged compared to February 2011 and higher than the average in three large markets. Prices in Gharm increased slightly, but remained below the average price for Dushanbe, Khujand and Kurgan-Tube markets. The similar analysis was provided for fuel prices as well.

Further on, data (for 2010-2011) on level of water, its inflow and outflow in Nurek HEP compared to 6 year average has been provided. The provided data analysis and comparison indicated that in February the water level in Nurek HEPS reservoir decreased by 14.2 meters to the 868.41meters above sea level. Total volume of the water in the Nurek HPP reservoir in late February was reported to be 6,800.7 million m3. The volume of water in the reservoir remained above the 6 years averages until mid of February then dropped and leveled with the 6-year averages. During the first 10 days of March 2011, inflows dropped compared to the last 10 days of February, and were below six year average. During last 10 days of March the water inflowkitoring & Warning Report – March 2011 increased and leveled with the 6-year averages. Reduced inflows have been attributed to cold temperatures at the end of February and beginning of March. Releases from Nurek were above average from January to mid-February and then dropped as Barki Tojik began to conserve water due to the rapidly dropping level of the reservoir. Outflow as of end of March is below the 6-year averages.

The low inflow in the Vakhsh River combined with depleted reserves resulted in a reduced production of electricity during March. Outflows were 676.2 m3/sec in February and then dropped to 463.7 m3/sec in mid-March for Nurek HEPS, but tended to remain above average for most of March. All the mentioned charts can be found within **Annex I**.

Mr. Peter Ko, inquired why the electricity limits have been lifted during the winter, while there was no exact forecast of availability of snow pack and water reserve during the spring period.

Mr. Kelly replied that unfortunately, RMWS cannot provide any official explanation to the situation. RMWS analysis the existing data and provides the analysis of the situation.

**3. Forecast of floods on the main river basins of Tajikistan, spring 2011:**

Ms. Natalia Mirzokhonova from Information Management and Analytical Center of CoES, provided an overview of preliminary forecast of the possible floods on the main river basins of Tajikistan. She highlighted that forecast have been prepared in cooperation with Tajik Hydromet. During the presentation, the high water period for all the covered river basins has been presented, as well as the number of the communities, population and number of households being under the risk along the river basin. In addition, the level of floods risk has been presented as well. The details for every river basin can be found within **Annex II**.

Mr. Mukhtor Hasanov from GIZ, requested if the list of settlements under the risk of floods along the mentioned river basins can be provided, so the agencies working in those communities could undertake some preparedness actions. Ms. Mirzokhonova replied that the lists of the mentioned settlements are available within IMAC, DPTP and other departments of CoES. Moreover, these lists are constantly updated. However, she pointed that the number of households indicated in the presentation is the total number of households within the community and currently there is no exact information on households under the risk within each community.

#### **4. REACT Statement of Common Understanding:**

Mr. Charles Kelly, international consultant of UNDP DRMP, who has been involved in the process of development of the REACT Statement of Common Understanding, provided brief overview of the mentioned document to the participants. He noted that based on the questions, which were raised by some partners, REACT Secretariat would like to summarize the content of the document and highlight some statements within the document, which might require some revision. The whole document can be found in **Annex III**.

The main principal of the document is the state that all the conditions stated within the document are not compulsory. Partners agree on those conditions, however if partner organization does not agree on any of the listed conditions, there is no provision, which implies any sanction towards partner organization for not following the conditions.

It should be highlighted that some updates (no principal changes) are required throughout the documents, such as with the description of regional RACT groups, where GAA is no longer the Secretariat for Rasht REACT and etc.

Mr. Kelly listed some principles on which all the partners have agreed, at the stage when the Statement has been accepted, as following:

- Majority of the provision/statements agreed by the partners with the given documents are already accepted/recognized by the global community as a best practice/lessons learned;
- Recognition of information sharing and agreeing the activities, does not mean forcing any of the parties to follow set rules/procedures/etc, but rather just to ensure that all the partners are mutually aware of each others activities;
- Coordination with the CoES has been stated in the document, since the CoES is the main state body responsible for all the DRR and relief operations in the country and therefore, awareness of CoES about the relevant initiatives within the country is its responsibility;
- Provision of logistical support to CoES is not a compulsory statement. Moreover, if there is no possibility to provide assistance, than none of the partner organizations are forced to do so;
- There is no clause or provision for any organization, which declines several/selected clauses of the statement. The idea at the development process was, that if any organization disagree with some clauses, they will just ignore or will not follow those clauses.

Ms. Madina Aliberdieva from Oxfam GB proposed that is the Statement is to be revised then some procedures for situational reporting should be included in the revised document.

Mr. Jeff Lehrer representative of USAID, inquired if the provided explanation confirms the legally non-binding nature of the document and does not obligate any REACT partner to contribute funding to any program or activity.

Mr. Alexander Zuev suggested that currently there is a need to revise the document, since he noted some inconsistency in goals, objectives and other clauses of the document. As for the binding or non-binding nature of the document, Mr. Zuev recalling from UN experience, suggested that if any partner organization considers some clauses of the statement as binding, then document can be accepted with a special reference/statement that organization does not agree with specific clause of the document.

Mr. Kholiqnazarov added that during recent years REACT has improved significantly and existence of the given Statement is one of the crucial aspects of the mentioned improvement. However, he highlighted that if there is a need for any changes, revision in the document, then CoES is ready to support the process.

#### **5. International scientific-technical conference "Sarez Lake – 100 years of existence, solution of the existing problems and way of rational usage of its water resources"**

Mr. Mirzoev Saadi, from Sarez Department of CoES informed the participants that with the initiative of Government of Tajikistan it is planned to hold an International scientific-technical conference "Sarez Lake – 100 years of existence, solution of the existing problems and way of rational usage of its water resources" during 27-29 of September 2011. It is anticipated that conference will bring together scientists and experts from different countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan, different UN agencies, international organizations and other scientific institutes.

**Annexes:**

**Annex I:** Power Point Presentation: "Food and energy situation in Tajikistan"



**Annex II:** Power Point Presentation: "Flood forecast 2011"



**Annex III:** Power Point Presentation: "DRR integration into education"



**Annex IV:** Power Point Presentation: "Establishment of REACT Working Group on "Safe Housing""

**Annex VII:** List of participants, REACT Meeting, April 06, 2011

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