



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

Minutes of the REACT Meeting

7th of November 2007, UNDP Conference Hall

Chair: Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, Head of IMAC, CoES

Participants: REACT partners (Annex 1 - attached)

1. Introduction

Chair of the meeting, Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov greeted the participants and announced the Agenda of the meeting.

2. Disaster information and updates:

a. Earthquake in GBAO (6th of November, 2007)

CoES and UNDP DRMP presented a brief overview of the earthquake in GBAO region, on the 6th of November 2007, mentioning that there were no damages or human losses caused.

	Info source: USGS
Magnitude	5.0
Date	November 06, 2007
Time (UTC)	2:15:47
Time (DYU)	7:15:47
Location	38.291°N, 73.104°E
Depth	122.4 km (76.1 miles)
Distances	375 km E of DUSHANBE, Tajikistan 160 km ENE of Khorugh, Tajikistan

Mr. Farshed Karimov, IEEET informed that the data in the table is not very accurate, as the earthquake's magnitude was 5.1, with the epicenter 40 km away from Sarez, with the tremors equaling to 3.0 in Dushanbe. The depth of the epicenter was 70 km.

b. Earthquake in Rasht district on the 22nd of July 2007

CoES and UNDP DRMP presented brief overview of the reconstruction process and remaining needs in the Rasht district, affected by the earthquake on July 22nd, 2007. The update is below:

Reconstruction progress (as of 06/11/2007):

Jamoat	Damage (no of houses)		Under reconstruction	Completed	Not started
	Completely destroyed	Partially destroyed	Completely destroyed houses		
Kalai Surkh	145	553	23*	120	2
Nusratullo Mahsum	66	663	8	56	2
Total	211	1,216	31	176	4

Out of 23 houses under reconstruction 16 are postponed until spring (foundations laid only).

School in Host village – finishing work

School in Kuloba village - finishing work

School in Kadara village – roofing in process

c. Earthquake in Qumsangir District (29th of July 2006)

Situation update (02/11/2007):

Persons killed	3
Population affected	20,560
Jamoats affected	12
Completely destroyed houses	1,107
Partially destroyed houses	1,464
Houses reconstructed (completely destroyed)	624 (56%)
Tents distributed by REACT partners	1,019
Tents collected back	524 (51%)

3. Presentation of Risk assessment tool (Oxfam, Mission East and Caritas);

Ms. Rafoat Gozieva (Mission East), in joint efforts with Mr. Matthias Kempt (Caritas LX) and Ms. Nadja Benani (Oxfam) made a presentation on the preliminary results on development of the Risk Assessment Tool. Ms. Gozieva noted that the tool had to be quite basic and easy to use, hence the final draft of the tool considers the following four parameters, namely human and physical vulnerability, social and economic vulnerability and social and economic coping/resilience of the communities.

The tool had been applied in three villages of Muminabad district (Gheshi poyon, Guldara and Mehnatobod) and the preliminary results of the assessment can be used to identify communities with higher risk indicators based on analyzing data collected on "population at risk", "crude vulnerability – capacity score" and possible "financial damage".

Mr. Kempt also presented a one pager "fact sheet" which can be filled in for each village consisting of the following sections: 1) contacts and response; 2) geographic information; 3) people and infrastructure; 4) history of disasters; 5) hazard and risk assessment. The fact sheet is quite simple, which can be used at any level. The presentation and the fact-sheet is available on www.untj.org

4. Outcomes of the preparatory meeting for DIPECHO Regional Consultative Meeting

Mr. Zafar Teshaev, informed that ECHO in joint efforts with CoES is arranging the first DIPECHO Regional Consultative Meeting on 14-16 November 2007. Before the RCM, ECHO has organized a series of preparatory meetings, in different regions of Tajikistan, as well as a National Consultative Meeting, held in Dushanbe on the 25th of October, 2007. Apart from that, preparatory National Consultative Meetings have been organized in Bishkek, Astana and Tashkent, except for Turkmenistan (due to some logistics issues). The National Consultative Meetings helped to identify needs and priorities in the field of DRM, and participants had a chance to learn about the existing DRM strategies and plans in each country. The results of the National Consultative meeting will be presented at the Regional Consultative meeting. Mr. Teshaev also added that it will be possible to see how DIPECHO programme has been contributing to disaster risk reduction in Central Asian region, what initiatives have been undertaken and which of them have been successful within the 4 last DIPECHO programs. The idea was to help the national Governments and the CoES of Tajikistan as well as MoES of other CA countries to prepare the presentations on National Disaster Preparedness Plans, as well as their DRM strategies. The government representatives have been invited to also share their ideas and vision of future DIPECHO programs.

5. Inter-Agency Contingency Plan update progress

Mr. Anvar Sabzaliev informed about the current status on updating the IACP. So far, three meetings of the Working Group have been held in Dushanbe. Additionally, the Second Central Asia Preparedness Planning Meeting held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on the 19-21st of September, gave a chance to the Tajikistan delegation to learn more on the new IACP guidelines developed by UN OCHA. Currently, the IACP update process in Tajikistan is being carried out with the help of the Sectoral Groups, who are also part of different cluster groups in case of disaster response. Thus, their involvement in updating their relevant sections of IACP together with other REACT partners is important. The leading role on updating

the IACP has been handed over to the UN Coordination Unit, who has been organizing the WG meetings. Once final draft is ready, the document will be presented to the regional office of UN OCHA in Almaty for further comments and feedback. Next week, the Regional Disaster Response Advisor from UN OCHA's office in Almaty will arrive to Dushanbe, and will take part in the Regional Consultative Meeting, and also meet with some of the DRM stakeholders, in order to discuss the issues related to disaster preparedness and response coordination.

6. Presentation of DRM Glossary

Mr. Kenjaev, Head of the CoES Population Training Department, gave a presentation on the newly developed DRM Terminological Glossary (covering both emergency situations and civil defence). He added that the purpose of the development of the glossary was: creation of unified system of terms and definitions on the issues related to Emergency Situations and Civil Defense; and development of terms and definitions that are conformed to the normative and legislative acts of the Republic of Tajikistan related to the ES and CD. The potential users of the glossary are: CoES staff at all levels; other national institutions; any other interested parties, including DRM stakeholders. The Glossary contains - 419 words, terms and definitions, and consists of 2 parts: "Emergency Situations" and "Civil Defense". Development of this glossary, as well as other DRM manuals has been possible thanks to a project generously supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, implemented by UNDP DRMP. This glossary will soon be available on www.untj.org as well as the committee website www.khf.tj

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov commented, that the glossary is only in Russian at this moment and will soon be translated into English. He also noted that this is the first edition of the glossary, and therefore, any comments are welcome, which will be considered in developing the 2nd edition in 2008.

7. Briefing on the outcomes of the International Conference on Seismology

Mr. Farshed Karimov gave a brief overview on the outcomes of Republican Scientific Conference On «100 years of Karatag Earthquake and contemporary challenges of earthquake engineering and seismology», which was held in Dushanbe on 19-20 October, 2007. The conference was organized by the Institute of Earthquake Engineering & Seismology. More than 80 participants, including scientists and specialists from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Austria, Germany, Kazakhstan, Russia and France took part in this conference. Several resolutions have been made at the end of the conference, and one of the most important resolutions, that has to be considered is: to realize measures on seismic risk reduction the participants underlined necessity of closer interactions of the seismological organizations with the ministries and establishments on emergencies and civil protection on seismic hazard assessment, seismic risk, enlightening and training people toward proper ways of seismic protection. The presentation is available on www.untj.org

8. Sectoral Groups update;

a. Health /WHO:

Mr. Eugene Zheleznyakov, from WHO noted that in the past few weeks WHO DPR activities were mainly focused on the three following issues:

1) GIS: Under DIPECHO project WHO started installation of GIS system of MoH, carried out by a GIS technical expert Mr. Ola Nordbeck. The purpose of his visit was to install GIS equipment and software at the MoH as well as to train several MoH staff for their further independent work in DPR in health sector. So far WHO has successfully trained two persons who are now able to work independently on using GIS equipment and software to create geographical maps and enter the data regarding health sector in Tajikistan.

2) HOSPITALS SURVEY ANALYSIS: Within the DIPECHO project WHO in the last few months conducted a health sector capacity assessment for emergencies and major disasters using 6 mobile assessment teams all over the country. In total 102 major district hospitals were surveyed and the results were presented at the workshop last week to a technical expert in health sector capacity assessment. After the data analysis is reviewed by the expert, we will be able to draw the recommendations for improving and reforming the health sector disaster preparedness and response potential. WHO is also planning to organize a workshop on development of the National Policy Framework on Health Crisis Management which will supplement

the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy. Three working groups and MoH expert committee will participate in the workshop.

3) RCST: RCST, as a co-partner of WHO on DIPECHO project, has started implementation of their activities on community level after the funds have been received. It includes local capacity building and training both for community leaders, MoH and CoES staff, district hospital staff and disaster management team members. Also it includes advocacy and public awareness raising activities.

b. *Education and Water and Sanitation /UNICEF.*

Ms. Nargiz Artushevskaya, UNICEF, updated the participants about the activities of UNICEF. She mentioned that the last WES REACT Sectoral group meeting was held on 31 October in UNICEF Dushanbe office. The major discussion of the meeting was around urgent need of updating IACP WatSan and Education sections. At the meeting, the following steps were agreed upon to be taken in November:

- Update the membership list of REACT WES and Education group (e-mail from UNICEF will be sent out with the request to member-agencies to update the list);
- Update the IACP, parts for WatSan and Education (UNICEF will send out the update format and will consolidate the information);
- Update of REACT database (<http://www.untj.org/react/?page=database>) – each member-agency of the REACT Sectoral group for WatSan and Education has to update the website independently (login and password can be requested from UNDP DRMP Team);

UNICEF is considering a possibility of organizing the round table in Dushanbe on Lessons learned with regard to Qumsangir earthquake response. The round table will be conducted with participants of all REACT stakeholders, and will include such issues, as revision of rapid assessment tools for emergencies, IACP, etc. Ms. Artushevskaya has also informed that UNICEF is expecting in Nov-Dec the international consultant BB. Samanta, who will support UNICEF Country Offices of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to analyze situation in the water and sanitation sector as well as develop strategies and plans for UNICEF as the cluster lead covering coordination and response role in a potential emergency situation.

c. *Non food and Shelter /UNHCR.* – there were no updates reported.

d. *Food /WFP*

Mr. Zlatan Milisic, WFP, informed that Food Coordination Forum continues to hold regular monthly meetings. The meeting for this month will be held during the last week of the month (exact date still to be decided), at WFP office in Dushanbe. The partners participating in this forum have already met on some specific issues during October. WFP is also preparing a distribution of two-months food packages for the 211 households in Rasht who lost their houses during the earthquake in July this year. The distributions are planned to take place this week and will follow earlier WFP and Government distributions to the earthquake victims in Rasht. Mr. Milisic has mentioned that WFP is also currently discussing with UNDP DRMP and Habitat for Humanity a possibility of implementation of a joint project to construct houses for those victims of the earthquake in Rasht who have been unable to otherwise organize for the rebuilding of their homes. The project will also cover reinforcement of houses which have been re-built without any seismic resistant measures.

Other projects supported by WFP in the field of disaster preparedness, mitigation and response continue, as per the list regularly shared with REACT partners. Construction of houses for the victims of earthquake in Qumsangir has been delayed due to inconsistent availability of labor during Autumn.

Mr. Milisic has also pointed out that the Food Coordination forum partners, including WFP, continue to closely monitor food prices at the Tajikistan markets. The prices of basic foods such as wheat and oil are 100% or even more expensive compared to July at most markets. This is making the food much less accessible to the poorest groups of population. While no emergency situation has been reported due to high food prices, some reports have been received that in certain areas the population has started selling productive assets, such as livestock, to buy food. An assessment will be done in Kulyab to follow up on such report.

9. News from REACT partners;

- 1)** Mr. Farroukh Nazarmavloev, UNCU, made an announcement on the workshop called "Land Degradation Assessment using Geospatial Tools" and a training on "Awareness Creation on GIS",

organized by Center for Development and Environment, University of Bern, during 27-29 November 2007 in Dushanbe.

The workshop will be conducted in Dushanbe, on Tuesday 27 November 2007 at Poitaht Hotel. The workshop will cover the following topics:

1. Demonstration of open source geospatial tool Quantum GIS
2. Identification of typical GIS workflows
3. Analysis of geospatial data included in the elaborated land degradation database
4. Project planning and monitoring based on the land degradation database
5. Discussion on the next steps in designing the capacity development effort for land degradation assessments

The last two days will be a training to introduce principles of open source GIS software (Quantum GIS) and provide the necessary skills to get started in using this software. The participants will be enabled to handle geospatial data from the CAWMP land degradation assessment database (raster and vector) with Quantum GIS, with special emphasis on data analysis for project planning and monitoring.

For more information please contact Bettina Wolfgramm at Bettina.Wolfgramm@cde.unibe.ch

- 2) Mr. Parviz Mahmudov, UN ISDR has informed the participants about the Workshop on "Schools Resilience to Earthquake", which was jointly organized by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Secretariat for Central Asia in cooperation with UNICEF Office in Tajikistan. The workshop took place on November 1-2, 2007 in Dushanbe. The target audience for the workshop included 29 school head-masters from all the four districts of the city of Dushanbe, as well as 4 representatives of district and city level departments of education, 3 representatives from the State Committee of Emergencies and Civil Defense, including 2 from headquarters and 1 from Dushanbe City command staff. Present at the workshop were also 2 representatives from the Ministry of Education. The workshop goal was to promote the concepts of Seismic Safety in secondary schools and raise the importance of the subject among the stakeholders in Tajikistan. The key workshop objectives were to increase the awareness of school administrators on school resilience to earthquakes; provide them with basic knowledge and skills on how to act before, during, and after an earthquake, and to initiate a constructive dialogue between school administrators, government officials, and international organizations on schools seismic safety matters in Tajikistan.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 12th of December, 2007.

You may email your suggestions for the upcoming agenda and any information (in English and Russian) on upcoming events for the monthly bulletin to anvar.sabzaliev@undp.org

Annex 1: List of Participants, REACT Meeting: 09 October 2007

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