



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

Minutes of the REACT Meeting
1st of July 2008, UNDP Conference Hall

Chair: Mr. Latipov, Chairman of CoES

Participants: REACT partners (Annex 1 - attached)

1. Introduction

Mr. Latipov, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, welcomed meeting participants and on behalf of the Government of Tajikistan and introduced:

- Mr. Bobozoda Gulomjon, Ministry of economic development and trade of Tajikistan;
- Ms. Cory Udovici, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director/**RBEC**;
- Representatives of SDC Head-Quarters.

Mr. Latipov gave a brief overview of REACT group, mentioning that REACT has been established in 2001 by OCHA. Preliminary REACT was acting as a coordination and information sharing mechanism amongst all actors in the field of disaster management, however for the time being it has developed into a full fledged disaster risk management partnership, involving over 65 different government and specialized national agencies, (I)NGOs, donors and the UN system. Also, he added that it worth to mention that Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Emergency Situations and Kyrgyzstan UN Country Team are interested in establishing REACT in Kyrgyzstan as well and had organized several study tours, to gain some experience form REACT in Tajikistan.

2. Update on current situation following Flash Appeal:

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov from UNDP DRMP had gave a brief overview of current situation in the country following Flash Appeal covering three major points: compound crisis, floods in Sughd region and Earthquake in Sughd region.

Compound Crisis:

- Unseasonably dry weather has affected parts of Tajikistan since March;
- Barqi Tojik (national electrical company) lifted electricity rationing on 18 May 2008;
- During the 2nd quarter of June, Nurek contained 95% of the volume of water as at the same time last year;
- 1.7 million rural population of Tajikistan is moderately or severely food insecure.
- Government had issued a winter preparedness plan: Infrastructure repair & upgrades, Funding, Strategic storage
- The UNHCR Office in Tajikistan has observed an increase in the arrival of refugees;

Flash Appeal Funding up to 1st of July 2008 (according to Financial Tracking Service of OCHA):

SECTOR	Revised requirements A	Funding B	% Covered A/B	Unmet requireme nt A-B	Uncommitted pledges
AGRICULTURE	4,538,516	1,162,478	26%	3,376,038	0
COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES	339,947	248,235	73%	91,712	0
ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE	1,800,000	1,800,000	100%	0	0
EDUCATION	670,000	177,271	26%	492,729	0
FOOD	8,503,043	3,790,208	45%	4,712,835	14,000

HEALTH	2,944,470	1,500,738	51%	1,443,732	0
SECTOR NOT YET SPECIFIED	0	1,245,983	0%	-1,245,983	0
SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS	4,094,586	2,230,681	54%	1,863,905	75,643
WATER AND SANITATION	4,023,570	1,667,696	41%	2,355,874	0
GRAND TOTAL	26,914,132	13,823,290	51%	13,090,842	89,643

Cluster updates:

- **Food Security Cluster** members have begun planning for assistance to address expected increases in food insecurity and negative impacts on agriculture;
- **Shelter/NFI Cluster** is reviewing options for sector assistance during the 2009-2010 winter period, possibly focused on a "one-warm-room" concept linked to livelihoods support;
- **Early Recovery Cluster** is focusing on integration of recovery issues into humanitarian operations and also longer term developmental efforts;
- **Health cluster** is planning to adjust or reorient (development) programs to reflect new conditions, preferably in frames of contingency planning;
- **WASH cluster** will engage personnel for the desk review of available secondary data and information identifying and prioritizing the needs.
- **Logistics Cluster** has completed an updated Inter-Agency Logistics Capacity Assessment, providing essential information related to emergency operations logistics;

Floods in Sughd region:

On 23-26th of May 2008, heavy rain caused flash flooding with debris flows and localized minor landslides in Isfara, Spitamen, Kayrokkum, Zafarabad, Istaravshan and B.Gafurov districts of Sughd region. The flood caused 7 million Somoni (\$2.0 million) in damage to residences, public buildings, roads, vegetable, fruit and cotton crops and livestock. No human casualties were reported. Total of 256 households were affected. Six households were registered as a totally / partly destroyed.

Earthquake in Sughd region:

Date/Time: June 24, 2008. 23:26 Dus time

Location: 40.148°N, 70.762°E

Magnitude: 5.0

Distances: 95 km (60 miles) E of Khujand (Leninabad), Tajikistan

180 km (110 miles) SE of TASHKENT, Uzbekistan

There are no human casualties or damage to property caused by earthquake.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov had also, added that preliminary it is planned to held a CAP workshop on 23-24th of July 2008, which will be facilitated by regional OCHA representatives.

3. Update on Government's winter preparedness plan and overview of current energy situation in the country:

Mr. Bobozoda, minister of economic development and trade of Tajikistan and chair of Republican Commission on energy crisis, had informed the participants that Government had developed a detailed winter preparedness plan for the upcoming winter. Implementation of the plan is currently carried out by all the relevant ministries and reports are provided to the Government on monthly basis. Also, he pointed that Tajikistan had received bi-literal assistance to reduce the impacts of compound crisis in the country out of Flash Appeal including the financial assistance with the total sum of 2 099 000 USD, which was used to cover the external debt of Tajik Gaz (State gas supply company). Moreover, bi-literal technical assistance has been received from different countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Russian, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Algeria and others including: generators, pipes, electrical cables, warm blankets, different types of tractors, mineral fertilizers and others. Saudi Arabia is one the major donors providing assistance with the total amount of 10 000 000 USD. Provided assistance was mostly distributed through:

Ministry of agriculture;
Barki Tojik (national electrical company);
Housing and communal services.

Mr. Bobozoda highlighted that problems have not been solved yet and there are still problems existing, especially considering that country additionally had faced the problem of lack of water. As the main indicator of this problem can be considered the level of water in Nurek reservoir, which is stands 7 meters below the same period of last year.

Continued efforts are carried out by Government of Tajikistan to plan and prepare for the coming winter. Mr. Bobozoda had listed few of the measures which have been undertaken and planned to be implemented in nearest future:

- Second turbine of Sangtudda turbine was putted in commission;
- 6 non-operating boilers in Dushanbe city have been rehabilitated and will function during upcoming winter period;
- Maintenance and rehabilitation works are carried out in Dushanbe and Yavan heat and power stations;
- The stock of liquid gas has been increased up to 2.5 times. Recommendations were given to service sector to use, liquid gas for their activities instead of electric power;
- Aluminum factory (one of the major consumers of the electricity in the country) is identifying a different supplier of electricity (one of the neighboring countries);
- All the hospitals in the country have been provided by electric generators;
- Majority of the largest schools in the country were provided by electric generators;
- Project of construction of 100 mini hydro-electro-stations has been developed;
- The proposal of reducing the tax rates for import of wheat and tax rates for wheat procession from 20% down to 10%, was approved by Government of Tajikistan;

Mr. Bobozoda also mentioned that rational use of electricity by population is one of the crucial moments in planning to coming winter. Since the internal price of electricity is lower than external purchasing price of electricity it was decided to raise the electricity rations up to 50% in the beginning of May 2008 and to another 50% by the beginning of January 2009. He also, pointed that this will be additional tool to enforce the population for rational use of electricity.

Mr. Bobozoda informed the participants that despite the crisis the increase of GDP in the country for the last 5 months composed 5.3%.

Mr. Matthias Anderegg from SDC pointed that despite the growth of GDP of the country the inflation rate is raising as well. Inflation growth usually hurts the vulnerable population of the country.

Mr. Bobozoda replied that according to preliminary data the expected inflation rate for the last year is around 8%, but the real income of population had increased up to 18% for the same period of time. As a respond to the increase of prices and inflation, the Government had increased the salaries, which are paid from country budget up to 50%. It should be considered that the increase of prices had occurred mostly due to world price increase to fuel and wheat flour. So, this situation had affected not only Tajikistan, but almost all other countries. Considering such a sharp increase of prices in the world market, 8% of inflation in the country is a positive achievement.

Mr. Zlatan Milisic asked mr. Bobozoda if there is a strategic stock of Wheat Flour in the country and what is it's capacity?

Mr. Bobozoda replied that there is a stock of wheat in the country. The stock will cover the amount of wheat equal to 3 months import of wheat to country. It worth to mention that funds for creating the stock from county budget has been increased up to 2 times this year, and also some additional funds were allocated as well. During the harvest season, Government will purchahse the highest quality wheat from local farmers, for cultivating it during the next season, to ensure good harvest during next harvest season. Mr. Bobozoda, mentioned that he would like to use this opportunity to request the humanitarian community to support the Government to increase the food production in the country. Because food security in the country mostly depends on world market, and the amount of import of the country is lot higher than GDP. For increasing of food production in the country there is a need in: machinery, high-yielding seeds of wheat, fertilizers, fuel. Only shortage of tractors in country, composes around 13 000 pieces. Irrigation works should be carried out. Due to the shortage of irrigation only this year, harvest on 60 000 Ha of sown lands has been lost.

Mr. Abdul Haq Amiri, from regional office of OCHA in Dubai asked Mr. Bobozoda if all the expected needs for coming winter are covered by current plans. Are there any gaps and what kind of assistance is needed from humanitarian community?

Mr. Bobozoda replied that Government had identified the urgent needs by sectors and was disseminated between Government structures. These needs can be provided to humanitarian community as well. Once again he mentioned the need in assistance to increase the food production in the country and reminded about the needs listed above. Also, he mentioned that according to the needs identified in energy sector power transmission line Lolazor-Khatlon has been putted in commission, which will improve Khatlon districts power supply. Power transmission line South-North, which will improve the power supply in Sughd region. The maintenance works have carried out in Nurek Hydro Power Stations, with the support of Germany, Asian Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank.

4. The current weather and water situation in the country:

Ms. Djamilla Baidulloeva from Hydro-meteorological Agency informed the participants about the weather conditions of last few months in the country.

March: Average temperature during the month was around 3-7 degrees higher than usually norm. The sum of precipitation was 6-50% of usual norm.

April: Average temperature on the larger territory of Tajikistan was higher than climatic norm up to 1-30%. Only on eastern part of Gorno Badakhshan region an average temperature is lower than usual down to -1 degree. The precipitation level throughout the country was less than norm, only 25-95 % compare to usual norm.

May: On the larger part of territory of the country the average temperature was higher than climatic norm up to 1-30%. Precipitation level in the country is during the indicated month is lower than usual norm, in Khatlon region 5-55% of usual norm, in mountainous and piedmont areas only 38-60% of usual norm. Ms. Baidulloeva, highlighted, that the main source of water is usually compiled at mountainous and piedmont areas, so such a low level of precipitation will create shortage of water recourses in country.

Water situation: During the months of April and May the level of water content did not raise much. Only during the second half of May the water content of Vakhsh and Obikhing rivers was higher up to 10-20%. During the second half of June the water content was lower, 30-90% of usual norm.

5. News from REACT partners:

There was no news from REACT partners.

Annex 1: List of participants, REACT meeting dated 1st of July 2008.

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