



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

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**Minutes of the REACT Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, UNDP Conference Hall**

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

Participants: REACT partners ([Annex 1 - attached](#))

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**1. Introduction**

Mr. Shomahmadov, Head of IMAC of CoES, had welcomed meeting participants and informed the participants that Mr. Latipov, the Chair of CoES was not able to chair the meeting, due to some excusable reasons and presented the agenda of the meeting, which was approved anonymously.

**2. Consolidated appeal:**

Mr. Charles Kelly, informed the participants that Mr. Michael Jones unfortunately left Dushanbe, due to the President's invitation to visit Penjikent and is not able to participate at the meeting. Meanwhile he requested Mr. Charles Kelly to present the Consolidated Appeal on his behalf.

Mr. Charles Kelly informed the participants about the **current status** of the Consolidated Appeal:

- Tajikistan Food Security Appeal has been drafted and is in the initial clearance process.
- Discussions with the GoT scheduled.
- A Donor review is scheduled for 16 Sept.
- The launch by OCHA is tentatively scheduled for 22 September.

**Outtake Options:**

- OCHA review of initial CAP indicated a food security-only document would be best.
- Three options for assistance not included in the CAP:
  - Improve and include in a CAP revision
  - Include in a more developmental funding package
  - Update with assessment and include in a locally-launched appeal.

Mr. Adam Yao from ECHO asked if the final version of Tajikistan Food security Appeal will be presented at the donor review meeting, which is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> of September. Mr. Charles Kelly replied, that it is not confirmed yet, because document is submitted to OCHA Geneva CAP section for review and finalization.

Mr. Ghazi Kellani from Oxfam GB, asked why inputs from other sectors were not included in the CAP document? Mr. Charles Kelly replied, that during the CAP workshop, which was held in July 2008, criteria for the projects and assistance to be included in the CAP document has been set. So, according to the criteria, projects should be dealing with the immediate life-saving issues and based on assessments and analyses. Unfortunately the projects submitted by other sectors, didn't meet the criteria. Mr. Kelly had noticed that more details have been sent out by Mr. Michael Jones earlier to clusters and he is referring to that message.

Mr. Matthias Anderegg from SDC asked if the Appeal includes only immediate life-saving needs and fully exclude longer term, developmental issues. Also, he wanted to get some clarification about the CERF fund allocations to Tajikistan to deal with Food Security needs.

Mr. Charles Kelly replied that CERF had allocated around 2 million USD to Tajikistan. Out of that 1.6 million dollars will be used to address the food assistance and another 0.4 million USD will be used for nutrition issues.

Mr. Zlatan Milisic mentioned that projects included in the Appeal, are addressing immediate life-saving needs. Also, he stated that there was no consultation with REACT on decision to go along with a food security appeal. He proposed that REACT should ask OCHA to reconsider their decision.

Mr. Matthias Anderegg, raised a concern, if all the humanitarian needs of upcoming winter in the country can be solved or addressed only by Appeal covering Food Security issues.

Mr. Charles Kelly, highlighted that negotiations with OCHA have been held by Mr. Michael Jones and he can not fully reply on behalf of him. He informed that he will take notes on the raised issues on this meeting and will forward them to Mr. Jones, but at the same time, he suggested that these concerns should be addressed to him via email.

Mr. Shomahmadov from CoES, indicated that REACT should plan more specifically for the coming winter. Mr. Adam Yao, proposed that considering that winter is approaching and more problems will be faced rather than just food security, REACT should develop Contingency Plan.

Mr. Matthias Anderegg suggested that document should reflect that there are other problems in the country rather than only food security.

### **3. Water crisis in Taboshar town, Sughd Province:**

Ms. Shahlo Rahimova from UNDP DRMP informed the participants, that earlier REACT secretariat had disseminated Open Appeal from Taboshar city authorities requesting for assistance in providing the population with water. Taboshar is located in dry north part of Sughd region. Existing water supply systems have been installed during Soviet times, and have not been maintained for last 15 years. Efforts to replace have not been sufficient (piece meal development response). Existing water supply systems, are able to provide water only to 15-20% of population. In order to have sufficient amount of water, people used to use alternative source of water (natural streams in the city). Due to dry weather conditions, available supplies drying up, leaving around 6500 people with very limited supply.

Response:

- Public appeal for assistance has been issued by city administration (can be found on web site/was sent out to REACT);
- At CoES request, UNDP provided 2 DFID funded 5,000 liter water bladders;
- Taboshar to rent water tanker and has started public water distribution;
- YGPE / Act Central Asia provided 50 water cans;
- Sphere minimum needs do not appear to be met.

Needs:

- **Short term:**
  - Assistance for water distribution (purchase/rent of water tanker and fuel);
- **Long term:**
  - Rehabilitation and repair of existing water supply lines;
  - Installation of new free-flow water supply line (7.2 km).

Also, she mentioned that details of the proposals are listed in the Open Appeal of Taboshar, which available at [www.untj.org](http://www.untj.org)

Mr. Adam Yao noticed that the problem at the site, was not caused by any disaster and the origin of the problem is more developmental and problem should be addressed and discussed at the REACT meeting, but should be addressed to Government Authorities.

Mr. Charles Kelly replied that one of the causes of the problem at the site is the lack of water in the country this year. According to the precipitation data provided by Hydro-metrological Agency for example in Dushanbe there was only 57% of rains compared to average norm. By this case we would like to drag attentions of all REACT to the problem of shortage of water, because these kinds of problems exist almost in all parts of the country.

### **4. Pyandj-Kumsangir earthquake 01.09.2008 :**

Mr. Farshed Karimov from Institute of seismology informed the participants after the earthquake occurred in the country on 1<sup>st</sup> of September group of specialists were sent over to epicenter site with the expedition.

Earthquake occurred on 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2008, at 09.24 of local time. Epicenter was located 125 km South of Dushanbe. Epicenter sties were: Ozodi 1 and Ozodi 2.

#### **Epicenter –Ozodi-1, 2 and 3 settlements**

- Sharp vertical heat, transferred to horizontal ones
- Underground rumble sound like of a blast
- Many people run out of their premises
- Unfixed items' falling down: TV sets, boxes, utensil, piled blankets etc.
- From 1 up to 3 Sept – more else weak felt earthquakes

### **6 Degree – Ozodi-1: №33 School**

- Built in 1970
- No basement
- Storey – 1
- Building design – adobe
- Wall cover – plaster
- Damages – in all classrooms
- Type of cracks – surface and through
- from 2 mm up to 5 mm width
- Building condition - alert

### **6 Degree - Ozodi-2: №38 School**

Two one storey corps 1), 2):

- 1) – adobe, no basement,  
Cracks, plaster collapse in all classrooms
- 2) – adobe bricks, concrete carcass  
Cracks, plaster collapse in all classrooms  
Walls-carcass junction open out

Both buildings are in alert

### **5-6 Degree - Ozodi-3: №9 School**

- Built in 70-80s
- No basement
- Storey – 1
- Building design – adobe
- Type of design – adobe
- Wall cover – plaster
- Damages – small cracks in plaster all classrooms
- School children run out
- Building condition – alert

### **Conclusions**

Main origin of dwellings and civic buildings' damage is violation of building codes for seismic regions:

1. Using adobe without seismic resistant undertakings;
2. Absent of basements;
3. Weak wall-carcass junction;
4. Light wall spans;
5. Building on weak, clay, grounds;
6. Weak building supervision;
7. Weak material base for the building

Participants of the meeting, expressed their concern and highlighted that seismic safety of public building, such as schools is very important. The last major earthquake in China and its impacts, proved the importance of the issue.

Mr. Farshed Karimov, noticed that agency he is representing, Institute of Seismology and seismic resistant construction is not directly responsible for controlling or monitoring the construction process and can not be responsible for seismic resistance of the buildings.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, mentioned that out of three earthquakes occurred in the country for the last week, epicenter of one of them was in Tajikistan and epicenter of two other earthquake was in Afghanistan, Hindu Kush region. Also, he highlighted that CoES is actively working on public awareness about the seismic safety among the local population.

## **5. Unified approaches of the First Aid Education in Disaster Preparedness**

### **Activity: NLRC/RCST Mandate and experience:**

Mr. Davron Mukhammadiev from Nederland Red Cross made a presentation on unified approaches of the First Aid Education of NRC/RCST, mentioning that First Aid is traditional type of Red Cross & Red Crescent activity from 1863.

- Community Based First Aid training programs are the main component of the community disaster preparedness;

- Differences between First Aid and Medical assistance:
  - First Aid can be provided by any person trained in the first aid courses, without special professional or educational background.
  - Medical assistance have to be provided only by health staff, received special medical education knowledge and skills International experience showed that local population of disaster area act first in disaster response.
- Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan only one national institution which have official statutory mandate for the first aid trainings;
- Resources:
  - Long – time experience on first aid programs from 1997
  - Developed Modules and training materials, adapted for local population
  - International Red Cross\Red Crescent experience
  - Professional trainers in the different regions of the country
  - Official Licence of the Ministry of Education
- Unified approach based on:
  - European guideline on International FA Center
  - Modern technology on Training of Trainers
  - Technical FA trainings (simulation of accidents). CPR (cardiopulmonary reanimation) demonstration.
  - Trainers are trained to the European standards of recommendation of the Guideline 2005
- Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan National Leader in the qualified First Aid service in the country:
  - Community based first aid trainings
  - First Aid in emergency
- Capacity:

In five region: Soghd, Khatlon, GBAO and Dushanbe city established and equipped 1 National, 4 Regional and 20 rayon CBFA centers.

#### **6. International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland:**

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov informed the participants on 23-29 of August in Davos, Switzerland an International Disaster and Risk Conference has been held. Tajikistan was represented by 7 delegates. SDC supported financially 3 delegates. He mentioned that delegates were not able to prepare a presentation for the current REACT meeting, and on next REACT meeting, a comprehensive presentation on conference context and outcomes.

#### **8. REACT Statement of Common Understanding – acceptance process review:**

Mr. Charles Kelly informed participants about the acceptance process, which was proposed by Committee of Emergency Situations.

##### **Proposed Process:**

1. Majority vote of those voting to accept the Statement as drafted.
2. Organizations who do not want to accept the Statement can opt out of being formal REACT members.
3. Organizations who are not present at vote can join REACT though a letter to the Secretariat indicating they accept the Statement.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov informed the participants document should be accepted as soon as probably. After the document will be accepted by REACT partners, document will be presented to Government of Tajikistan. After several proposals made by different partners, it was agreed that the final version of Statement of Common Understanding will be disseminated between all the REACT partners and a meeting will be conducted on coming week for voting. All the participants were encouraged to come to the meeting and participate at the voting.

#### **9. News from REACT partners:**

#### **10. Any other business:**



**Annex 1: List of participants, REACT meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2008**

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