



Minutes of REACT Meeting

6 June 2012

Crisis Management Center of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense

Chair: Col -General Khairiddin Abdurahimov, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners (Annex V - attached)

Introduction:

A welcoming introduction was delivered by the chairman introducing the agenda of the meeting followed by short speech by UNDP Resident Coordinator (RC), Alexandr Zuev. Mr Zuev informed the participants that UN country team following recent meetings with the government of Tajikistan is working on a report for the President of Tajikistan on UN response to disasters in the country. He also emphasized that the country office reached UN head quarters for financial support due to recent emergency situations. As for the Rasht earthquake, around 500 000 somoni has been allocated to deal with the outcomes of the emergency situations.

Disasters in May 2012: Impact, response, needs. Maruf Kandikov, Emergency Officer, UNDP DRMP

The presentation provided an overview of disasters for May 2012 highlighting the type of disasters and main areas that were affected. The volume of damage in Sughd and Khatlon was described caused by torrential rains and floods and second part of the presentation was looking at an earthquake affected the country on 13th of May. The response operations were described as joint action by government, IFRC, WHO and others involved after the earthquake. At the end of the presentation recommendations were proposed that foremost the population needs construction materials and if construction materials are provided, trainings should be delivered to population on construction of seismic buildings. It has been also suggested that other projects designed to support the income generation activities could help to support the affected population in a long term.

Commenting on the presentation Anvar Sabzaliev added that in case of response characteristic of the area should be taken into account, as construction works in the area are possible till the beginning of autumn, after which weather conditions might disturb any construction related activities.

The Chairman stated that despite assessments conducted by local commissions, there is intense discontentment among affected population in relation to response operations and the tendency is to demand similar response provided after floods in Kulyab. Therefore second assessment will be conducted in the area, which might exclude larger number of families which are on the list of



families entitled to humanitarian assistance (construction materials). The Chairman also confirmed that the government is providing construction materials to affected households.

Craig Hampton, refereeing to the health facilities affected by the earthquake noted that WHO along with the Ministry of Health prior to the earthquake conducted assessment of more than 15 hospitals revealing that the majority of them are not in a very good condition. According to him, methodology of assessment is available and any other agencies willing to work in the area and assess health facilities, can borrow this methodology.

Earthquake in Rasht Valley: Impact and Consequences. Farshed Karimov, Head of laboratory, Institute of Geology, Earthquake Engineering and Seismology

Mr Karimov informed the participants on the findings of the expedition deployed to the area affected by an earthquake on 19th of May. Introducing the audience with the history of earthquakes in the area, the specification of earthquake on 13th May, the presenter also demonstrated map of potential areas prone to earthquake. The main reasons for high volume of damaged houses, according to the specialist are negligence of construction norm and lack of knowledge on seismic resistant construction. He pointed out that, seismic risks in the territory of Tajikistan are very high, and earthquake of even higher magnitude might strike. Therefore it's absolutely imperative to follow the strict rules of seismic resilient construction, conducting assessment and provision of maps of seismic risk and provision of trainings on seismic safe construction to population concluded the presenter.

Mr Zuev added that in 1988 he was member of commission for an assessment of earthquake in Armenia where 30000 people died. The majority of buildings damaged in Armenia also were private residential houses during construction of which the owners did not use necessary construction materials and techniques; therefore in case of Tajikistan the government must somehow enforce seismic safe construction.

Statement followed from Mr Nashir Karmali, Head of Focus that Focus has done retrofitting of schools in Vanj and currently introduction of masonry courses are underway in collaboration with the University of Central Asia. To his question, how donor organizations should inline their projects with each other and with responsible government agencies Mr Zuev replied that all projects should correspond with the maps provided by the institute of seismology.

Rapid Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment in Rasht Valley, Brian King, Country Director, Mercy Corps

An assessment was conducted by Mercy Corps between 16-20 April 2012 covering Rasht, Nurabad, Jirgatal, Tavildara and Tojikobod districts interviewing 136 households. The assessment mainly focused on production/loses of wheat, potatoes and live stock. The following conclusions were drawn by the assessment team:

- Food insecurity remains a major challenge for many households in the region, and was exacerbated by the long winter (many areas are acutely food insecure);
- Chronic food insecurity will require sustained support rather than continued reliance on emergency programming.



To alleviate immediate food insecurity the assessment provided the below recommendations were proposed:

- Direct cash transfers and targeted vouchers for food and asset replenishment as most effective method to deal with food shortages;
- Targeted nutrition support activities should be implemented alongside any cash or voucher programming to ensure that increased childhood malnutrition due to acute food shortages is mitigated to the extent possible;
- Targeted livelihoods assistance should prioritize improved household potato storage support (training, voucher eligibility of materials, etc.) to help household better prepare for next winter and prevent further heavy losses of seed potatoes.

Weather overview for May and forecast for June 2012; Parvina Saidjamolova, Head of Meteorology and Forecast Department.

High level of precipitation is normal for May in Tajikistan and this year was no exception. Intense rain with thunderstorm has been recorded in May 8, 10-11 countrywide. The most intense rain was in Rasht when in 24 hours the precipitation totaled 24 mm, in Muminabad in May 8th the precipitation totaled 42mm, Khovaling – 34mm, Chormagzak – 30mm, Busunabad – 26mm, Yavan in May 11th – 25mm, in May 10th in 9 hours in Muminabad and Penjikent the precipitation totaled 21-28mm; and in May 17th in Yavan in 3 hours precipitation totaled 38mm, in Muminabad in May 20th the precipitation in six hours totaled 31mm. Increase of temperature and decrease of precipitations is forecasted for June.

Sectoral Updates:

WFP, Gulchehra Usmonova, Program Assisstan

WFP is conducting quarterly food security assessment and in March the following areas were identified as most vulnerable where population faced lost of crops and cattle due to cold winter exhausting their firewood and food savings:

Rasth valley: Rasht, Nurabad, Jirgatal, Tavildara and Tojikobod districts

Sughd province: Mastjohi Kuhi, Istaravshat and Ayni districts

Khatlon province: Temurmaliq district.

In May 2012, WFP had covered approximately 90,000 beneficiaries in Tajikistan, distributing wheat flour, vegetable oil, salt and nuts. The food distributed was purchased with donations from Japan and Russia. In addition to Vulnerable Group Feeding distributions, WFP run Food for Work projects, and community asset creation projects such as digging irrigation canals or extending supply of drinkable water to homes thus improving people's livelihoods. WFP also stated that in case of provision of construction materials for reconstruction activities in Rasht valley, the organization is ready to support such project with their food for work programs.

WHO, Craig Hampton, Health Cluster Officer:

Craig Hampton provided brief information on complain on immunization for diphtheria in Tajikistan which is conducted in several stages. Main funding for the first phase was provided by



the government of Tajikistan (1 million USD) and the remaining funds must be covered by donors. Evaluation of the first phase was quite positive indicating 98.8% coverage of target population. Main problems were identified informing population about the campaign and communication between doctors and patients which must be addressed during the second phase. Mr. Hampton also mentioned that communications are ongoing with the government of Russia which is planning to act as a donor and more likely the document will be signed soon.

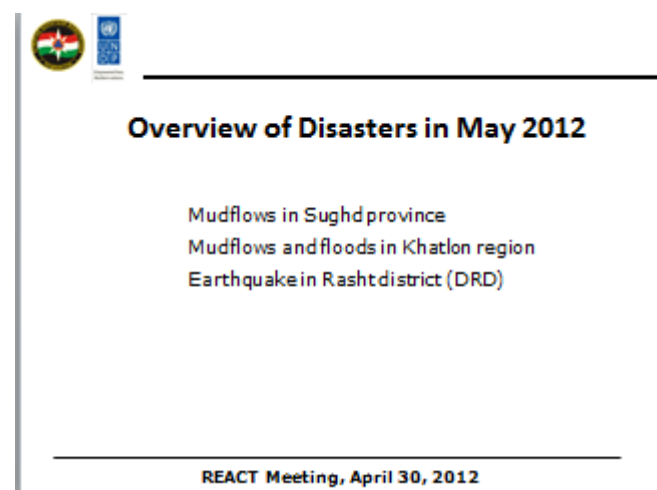
FAO, Takhmina Turaeva, Assisstan FAO Representative

The statement from FAO was on detection of pneumonia case in Yavan district in a local farm which owns 185 goats and 320 sheep and 45 cows. As revealed by the specialists on 21 of May the disease began and since then 22 goats were affected 10 of which died. Outbreak of pneumonia among animals is seasonal and can be triggered by dramatic changes in temperature and climatic conditions. Assessment by FAO revealed that 4 somoni are required for treatment of each goat a sum which local population can hardly afford therefore support with supply of medication is required. The owners were recommended that the goats should be shaved and sent to summer pastures. In case of detecting new cases antibiotics should be used.

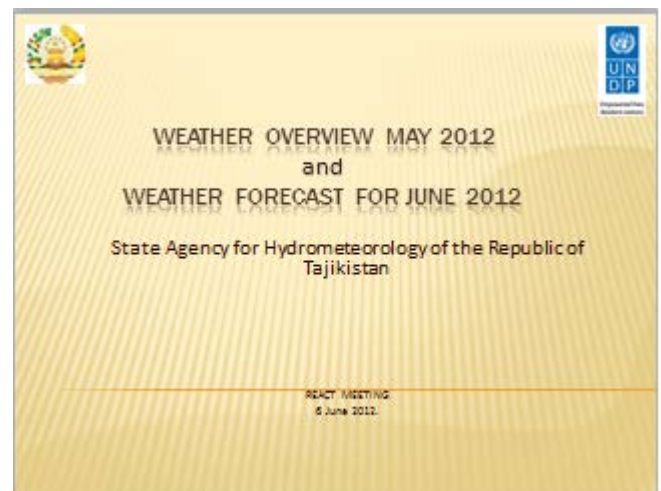
As per FAO statement in Tajikistan more concerns are caused by spread of brucellosis which is transmitted from animals to people and in most cases detection of infection of people is difficult as during 6 month of infections no symptoms are shown. This issue is particularly alerting in Rasht valley where FAO revealed increase of this disease due to lack of necessary amount of vaccines. The issues related with brucellosis will be presented in more details during next REACT meeting.

Annexes:

I – Overview of Disasters in May 2012



II – Weather overview for May 2012 and Forecast for June 2012





III – Mercy Corps Rasht Valley

Mercy Corps' Rasht Valley
Rapid Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment

Presented to the REACT Secretariat
6 June 2012
Dushanbe, Tajikistan



IV – Emergency and impact of Tavildara

Academy of Science of the Republic of
Tajikistan
Institute of geology, seismological construction and
seismology

REACT, 6 June 2012:

**Emergence and impact of Tavildara Earthquake on
13th of May 2012 in Tajikistan**

**Expedition (19-23 may 2012) Mamadianov Y.M,
Ibraev R. U, Olimov B. K, Murodkulov Sh. Y and
Sanginov A.**

Annex II – List of Participants:

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Tajik Committee of Emergency Situations & Civil Defense and UNDP in Tajikistan
Disaster Risk Management Programme



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