



Minutes of REACT meeting

Kurgan-Tube.

12 September 2012

10:30– 11:30 Conference Hall of Khatlon Region CoES

Chair: Mr. Hotamsho Sharifov, Head of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan in Khatlon Province

Participants: REACT Kurgan-tube partners (Annex I)

Overview of disasters in August, Hotamsho Sharifov, Chairman of REACT Kurgan-Tube

The Chairman welcomed the participants and started the meeting with overview of disasters registered during August and at the first decade of September. He stressed that throughout August, challenges related with people swimming in prohibited areas continued and CoES had to deal with 11 cases of drowning in August. Drowning of 10 people happened due to swimming in local rivers and one case was registered as suicide, when a woman tried to drown herself and two of her kids followed by some family conflict. Luckily the kids were saved by some people nearby, whereas the woman was found dead and her body was recovered the next day. The search and rescue operations of dead bodies are quite risky and time consuming due to the fast stream of local rivers and long hours of stay in freezing waters.

Mr Sharifov also reported of a tragic case which emerged on 6 August in Aivaj village, Aivaj Jamoat of Shaartuz District. While working on fixing a water pump 14 meters deep underground, a local representative ignored basic safety rules and lost consciousness due to gas poisoning. Trying to save the person two other people went into the hole as well and all three died immediately. Search and Rescue Team arrived at the site when not much could be done apart from recovering the dead bodies from the hole. The Chairman noted that most of these tragic cases could be easily avoided if basic safety rules would be adhered to or consultation of CoES specialists would be sought.

The Chairman also mentioned the case of relocation of 45 affected families from Tavildara District as the result of an earthquake on 13th May 2012, to Kumsangir (37 families) and Panj (8 families) districts of Khatlon Regions. He pointed that the relocation process is coordinated by Hukumat of Tavildara districts in cooperation with CoES of Tavilda, however despite that he himself was ordered four times to visit the new sites to help to deal with the relocation challenges. The Chairman mentioned that there are problems at both sites since the new arrivals do not have electricity and they facing some challenges with drinking water.

Discussions

Mr Safarov from the ministry of Education responded to the question of status of winter preparation works, raised by Mr Sharipov and mentioned that 96% of schools in Khatlon region were provided with

coal for heating of classrooms. In terms of centralized heating system only one recently built school in Bokhtar district is equipped with heaters working with gas. These heaters were purchased with the financial support from the Railway Department of Tajikistan.

Ms Khvosnenko from OSCE stated that heating of schools is a major problem in Khatlon district which is suffering from electric power supply during the winter and she doubts that 96% of schools are provided with necessary fuel. Besides in most schools maintaining the heat is a real challenge due to old buildings of schools most of which lack proper doors and windows.

Mr Gadoev from the department of Public Utilities pointed that the Public Utilities are becoming self funded services which are operating based on contracts signed with the local population. Provision of centralized heating system is a real challenge as none of the Thermal Power Stations (TPS) constructed during soviet times operate. There are only two TPS currently working in Vose and Temurmalik districts which are supplying heat to a boarding school and a nursing home. The rest of TPS are not functioning due to the absence of fuel of because most of the supply pipes were looted over the time.

Concerns were raised by Ms Alizoda from UNICEF referring to the recent fire on 5th September in Korvon, one of the largest wholesale markets of Dushanbe. She mentioned that this market was the main supply center of goods to Kurgan Tube market and this already is leading to increase of prices and deficit of various items in Kurgan Tube.

At the end of the session Mr Kandikov from REACT Secretariat informed the Chairman of his recent meetings in Dushanbe with the staff of IFRC/RCST which expressed readiness to support REACT secretariat in Kurgan Tube. Since there are only three meetings left to be conducted till the end of 2012, RCST representatives in Kurgantube will use this period to familiarize themselves with the responsibilities of REACT secretariat and will take over this responsibilities from the January 2013.

Annex I: List of participants

| # | Name & Surname | Organization | E-mail/phone |
|----|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Rustam Nugmanov | Save the Children | Nugmanov.rustam@mail.ru |
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| 8 | Khvosnenko Svetlana | OSCE | 918 421943 |
| 9 | Alizoda Zarrina | UNICEF | 918310082 |
| 10 | Sharifov Hotamsho | CoES | 938802888 |
| 11 | Mirzoev Safarali | Hydromet | 918867620 |
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