Minutes
REACT Meeting
19 June 2017, 10.00-12.00, UN Conference Hall

Co-Chairs:
Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)
Ms. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Tajikistan (UNRC)

Summary of discussion:

Welcome remarks:
The co-chairs opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. Following a brief overview of the disasters occurred in the country during the first half of 2017, the co-chairs highlighted the Government’s leading role in response and its efforts in strengthening overall national disaster risk management capacities in Tajikistan. It was highlighted that REACT being an integral part of country’s overall disaster risk management structure should also ensure appropriate emergency response preparedness measures.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, the Chairman of CoES stressed that due to hot season, number of drowned children and teenagers in the water ponds, rivers and canals increased, requiring widespread awareness raising campaign among the population.

The co-chairs proceeded with introduction of agenda and participants.

Emergency Response Preparedness initiatives

Inter-agency contingency plan
Ms. Shahlo Rahimova, OCHA ROCCA National Disaster Response Advisor briefed the participants about the final draft of Tajikistan Inter-agency contingency plan for 2017. She described the planning process and mentioned about the scenario, planning assumptions and status of response planning at sector level. Session extensively discussed the draft plan, highlighting a need for further inter-sectoral alignment, consideration of other individual agency contingency plans, especially of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, closer engagement of relevant Government entities at sector level, and mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues, such as protection. The Chairman of CoES expressed preparedness to facilitate identification of designated Focal Points within relevant ministries/agencies to be engaged in the planning process. The session did not endorse presented IACP and agreed that further revision is required to reflect an inter-sector alignment of the planned response operation.

Tajikistan Inter-agency needs assessment (TIANA)
Ms. Rahimova continued with an update on the development of the Tajikistan Inter-agency needs assessment – TIANA tool. She briefly outlined the purpose of the tool, history and timeline of its development, distribution of key roles and responsibilities for needs assessment and outstanding issues. It was highlighted that for completion of the process, it is necessary to establish Assessment and Information Management Working Group (AIMWG) and REACT Rapid Response Team (RRT). The testing of the developed TIANA is tentatively planned to be organized in frames of the Simulation Exercise planned by Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in Zeravshan valley in early August 2017. Session concluded with an agreement that REACT member agencies should provide nomination to the AIMWG and RRT membership to enable finalization of the tool.

Unified emergency call – center “112”
Mr. Vosiev Farhod, the Deputy Head of Management Center of CoES presented to participants recently established unified emergency call – center “112” within CoES. Mr. Vosiev briefed the participants about the background, goals and features of the system. The system currently connects emergency call center of CoES, emergency ambulance and fire-fighters on test mode and works only in Dushanbe. Upon full operationalization of the system in Dushanbe, it is planned to expand the system gradually to cover the largest cities of the country. Mr. Vosiev highlighted that CoES is open for cooperation and requests international partners to consider a possibility for financial support of the initiatives. Participants congratulated CoES with establishment the system and acknowledged its importance for ensuring effective and on-time emergency assistance to the population.

Information Management and Analytical Center (IMAC) of CoES

Mr. Khakimov Firdavs, the Head of IMAC of CoES briefed the participants about the purpose, functions and opportunities of IMAC. It was highlighted that IMAC has established cooperation with the all the relevant state services, which provides access to the information and data required for effective analysis and forecasts of disasters. However, at this point due to the insufficient human and technical capacities, IMAC operations have rather statistical character and with minor analytical elements. Mr. Khakimov stressed the outstanding needs of IMAC, which include provision of specialized hardware and software, specialized long-term trainings to staff and access to satellite communication system. The session continued with a discussion, where WFP reported about the capacity assessment of IMAC conducted by WFP earlier in the year. Representatives of other REACT members expressed their readiness to share available disaster related information with IMAC for its compilation and consideration of IMAC staff, while organizing information management related trainings and workshops. The session concluded and agreed to conduct a survey of surveys to conduct an inventory of available information within different agencies to be shared with IMAC, to share the results of IMAC capacity assessment by UN WFP and to seek opportunities to support strengthening capacities of IMAC.

Any other business

a) In response to the question of Mr. Paolo Mattei, UN WFP Country director, Mr. Vaessen, Head of OCHA ROCAA informed the participants that global re-structing of OCHA is still on-going. It is confirmed that OCHA ROCAA office will close down by end of 2017, however there is no final decision, which OCHA regional office (Bangkok or Cairo) will continue support to Tajikistan. The final decision on OCHA’s representation in Tajikistan is expected by mid August – early September 2017.

b) Mr. Ruslan Bobov of AKAH suggested to undertake resources mapping exercise among REACT partners.

c) Mr. Jamshed Hasanov, Emergency Officer of UNICEF informed the participants that upon request of Ministry of Education and in cooperation with CoES, UNICEF delivered its education-related emergency supplies to ensure the continuity of educational process for children of primary school # 56 of Qaraliq village of Lyaksh district.

Upon discussion of the meeting agenda points, following key decisions has been taken:

1. To consider the information provided by CoES on “Unified emergency call center “112” and “Information Management and Analytical Center of CoES”, as well as information provided by WFP, WHO, UNICEF, FOCUS and CoES;

2. Organization of joint meetings of REACT sectors to ensure inter-sectoral alignment of Tajikistan Inter-agency contingency plan.

3. Expansion of REACT membership to relevant line ministries and agencies and ensure their engagement in sectoral contingency planning process.

4. To Secretariat of REACT:
   • To finalize REACT IACP by August 1, 2017 with consideration of REACT member organizations inputs.
   • Conduct simulation testing of Tajikistan Inter-agency needs assessment tool (TIANA).
   • Disseminate information on results of IMAC CoES activities.

To REACT member organizations:

• REACT member organizations to nominate relevant staff members to REACT Assessment and Information Management Working Group and Rapid Response Team.
• Provide information to CoES on available relief stock (food and non-food).
• Seek opportunities to support strengthening capacities of CoES Information management and analytical center (IMAC) in line with the results of IMAC capacity assessment conducted by UN WFP.

Closing remarks

• The co-chairs adjourmed the meeting by thanking the participants.

Signatures:

REACT Co-Chair
Rustam Nazarzoda
Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situations under the Government of Tajikistan

REACT Co-Chair
Pratibha Mehta
UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan