



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

Minutes of the REACT Meeting
11th of June 2008, Conference Hall
of Civil Servants In-Service Training Center
Chair: Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, Head of IMAC, CoES
Participants: REACT partners (Annex 1 - attached)

1. Introduction

Mr. Shomahmadov, Head of welcomed meeting participants and presented the agenda of the meeting, which was approved anonymously.

2. A short opening on the compound crisis and the CAP/CHAP options

Mr. Charles Kelly, UNDP DRMP, made a presentation on Tajikistan Compound Disaster covering updates, projections, terminology and options.

Flash Appeal Funding Levels:

Sector	Funded %	Outstanding \$
Agriculture	26	3,376,038
Coordination	73	91,712
Economic Recovery	100	0
Education	26	492,729
Food	45	4,712,835
Health	51	1,442,732
SNFI	54	1,863,905
WASH	41	2,355,875
Total	52	13,050,842

Water and Energy

- Possible drought conditions
- Negative impact on agriculture
- Impact on human H2O supply unclear
- Expect 08-09 energy situation as in 07-08.
- GoTR Winter Plan; Limited Humanitarian Community involvement

Food Security

- 1.7 million (at least) rural residents in need of some level of assistance
- Situation may worsen but now moderated by remittances.
- Problems in Afghanistan; Other neighboring countries?

- Additional assessments planned
- Livelihood-Other Sector Links

CHAP: Common Humanitarian Action Plan

- Strategic plan for humanitarian response
 - Common analysis and assessment
 - Uses scenarios
 - Defines roles and responsibilities
 - Clear statement of longer-term objectives and goals
 - Monitoring Plan
- Not a funding channel but a planning process

CAP: Consolidated Appeals Process

- A "program cycle" "used by aid organizations to plan, implement and monitor their activities *together*"
- Steps:
 - Analyze context, Assess needs, Build scenarios, Set goals, Identify roles and priorities, Plan response, Appeal for funds, Implement coordinated programme, Monitor& evaluate, Revise, Report...
 - Usually through workshop)
- Not a funding document but an agreed program

Options

1. No Action
2. Wait for crisis, then new Flash Appeal
3. Specific individual emergency projects
4. Scenario Plans and specific emergency projects
5. Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP)
6. Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP)
7. Build your own

Mr. Matthias Anderegg proposed that taking into account experience from last winter season, in case of 4th option: "Scenario Plans and specific emergency projects", the option should be considered not only by REACT partners, but also by relevant Ministries and Governmental Institutions as well. Scenario Plans for the next winter will be very useful and outline the actions to be taken in advance.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov replied, that as far as to preparation to next winter season Government of Tajikistan will consider developing of scenario plans and actions plans and will be used during the next winter season. Also, he mentioned that soon these plans will be provided to attention of REACT partners.

Mr. Michael Jones, highlighted that the situation has a recurrent nature and usually the same response activities are carried out recurrently. So he advised that organizations should mobilize attention to capacity improvement of the parties, involved in enhancement of the situation.

2. Feedback from Cluster Heads on a need for further disaster response and type of response needed.

Food security cluster:

Ms. Anne Marie VanDenBerg informed the participants that food security situation in the country is worsening. According to the recent food security assessment carried out by UN WFP, UN FAO and Save the Children, every third household in the rural area of Tajikistan is in need of some level of assistance. Out of them 1 000 000 people are food unsecured. Most of the population are using their food for daily consumption and will not be able to stock any food for the upcoming winter season.

As to response options, Ms. VanDenBerg had mentioned that cluster members are still in discussion process and have not agreed on any final decision yet. Though she pointed that a it will be strange if

no actions will be taken following the last Flash Appeal, specially taking into consideration that food security situation in the country is worsening. So far, it is known that there is need for some long-term programs and need for some short-term program, which will need immediate response.

Ms. Nadia Benani, expressed concern if different level of food assistance provided to population will not affect their existing coping mechanisms and also, she proposed that more focus should be made on improving food production in the country.

Ms. VanDenBerg replied that last food security assessment carried out in rural areas, show that the only coping mechanism of the population is reducing number of meals or limiting consumption of food variety.

Health cluster:

Ms. Rozina Merali from WHO made a short presentation on future options of response to compound crisis and mentioned that current needs reflect ongoing deficiencies in Health sector, namely infrastructure, access to care, provision of medicines and medical commodities, disaster preparedness, mitigation and response planning, surveillance and early warning. Health sector is planning to adjust or reorient (development) programs to reflect new conditions. Preferred approach for health cluster for the time being is – contingency planning.

Mr. Santino Severoni from WHO, added that for the time being Health sector has to support Government Healthcare administration in providing some basic medical services to population, since healthcare institutions are not able to provide them by their own means and they are very much dependent on electricity supply.

Mr. Mathias Anderegg expressed concern if it is possible to report on response activities, which have been carried out according to current Flash Appeal, in order to identify the gaps, which has been left out of the current Flash Appeal and institutions which are not ready for the upcoming winter period.

Ms. Ronzina Merali from WHO replied, that during the lat winter period and energy crisis, cluster had prioritized the most vulnerable areas and healthcare institutions in those areas were provided with some aid, like generators and etc. These institutions are ready for the upcoming winter period. But it is still planned to carry out monitoring activities and identify the areas, which were not covered by current Flash Appeal and fill out the gaps as a next step response to current compound crisis.

Education cluster

Ms. Ruth Leano, UNICEF representative had informed the participants that basing on the previous discussions with all the cluster members, it was agreed that more attention should be paid to provision of schools with coal and winterization of the schools should be carried out in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Health and Social Protection. Also, in cooperation with Save the Children, Operation Mercy some food programs will be carried out as well. Some food supplements will be provided to lactating women.

WASH Cluster

Ms. Ruth Leano, UNICEF representative informed the participants that discussions on further response to the crisis has been carried out at Cluster meeting, though no final decision has been achieved. But it is commonly agreed that joint preparedness plan should be developed in order to be able to respond to crisis on early stages. For development of the above mentioned preparedness plan, it is necessary to have some scenario plans. As to the projects under the Flash Appeal, implementations of almost 30% of the projects have been completed and some of the projects will be completed by August 2008.

Assessments of water supply systems in several hospitals have been carried out and it is planned to start the recovery of the water supply system in 3 district of Khatlon region.

Ms. Marydean Purves representative of Mission East pointed that during the cluster discussions different NGO's-members of the clusters had expressed their opinions, but it was not mentioned at today's WASH Cluster presentation and expressed concern that consultations with different NGO's are not considered during the decision making process.

Mr. Michael Jones highlighted that CAP/CHAP or any other process is not only UN initiative, but it is inter-agency initiative and opinion of all the members and stakeholders should be considered.

Logistics cluster

Mr. Sharifbek Sohbnazarov representative from WFP had informed the participants that for the time being a logistics capacity assessment of the country is on-going. So far the transportation capacity, storage and road capacity assessments have been carried out. As soon as assessments will be finalized and data gathered, the report will be shared among all REACT partners.

NFI/Shelter cluster

Mr. Charles Kelly from UNDP DRMP informed the participants that last cluster meeting was held on last week and he was requested to represent NFI/Shelter cluster. During the last cluster meeting it was pointed that UNHCR expresses need to request some funds for refugees, since the number of refugees is dramatically rising.

Early Recovery

Mr. Michael Jones introduced Mr. Brian Donaldson who has been appointed as Early Recovery cluster Advisor.

Mr. Brian Donaldson had mentioned that his main aim is to assist the REACT on developing early recovery strategy. Moreover, he will be working on development of Early Recovery programs. Also, he mentioned that he would like to meet with all the Clusters and get general information about the Clusters and identify the ways of cooperation.

Open Discussion:

Mr. Michael Jones highlighted that preliminary the list of the needs in every sector/field (for ex. Food security or Health) should be compiled. Taking into consideration the existing needs in every sector, future response steps and type of response to current compound crisis should be identified.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov noticed that energy crisis, which had occurred in the country had affected not only energy sector, but all other sectors as well. The history shows that impacts of all kinds of the disasters can be reduced if all the preparedness measures have been taken. Government has already taken some steps toward the preparedness measures for upcoming winter season and had even launched some preparedness programs. He suggested that some assessments should be carried out by every cluster in month of September.

Mr. Mattias Anderregg proposed that some analysis/assessments of the completed response activities to the compound crisis should be carried out and matched with the activities to be taken. He pointed that donors would be very interested in this kind of analyses.

Mr. Michael Jones reminded once again that very short period of time is left till the next winter period and it is very important to conduct assessments and identify the needs as soon as possible. Moreover, he pointed that cluster should link to Global Clusters to support the capacity of the local Clusters.

Mr. Charles Kelly from UNDP DRMP underlined that Food Security Cluster had already carried out assessment in rural areas and started the assessment in urban areas as well. He suggested that existing capacity of the clusters to carry out the assessment at all the sectors and basing on the results propose the projects to be included to CAP or CHAP.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov proposed Clusters to carry out joint assessments with CoES during the coming month.

Mr. Michael Jones assumed that Clusters should continue internal discussions about the need for further disaster response and type of response needed and come up with final decision on upcoming Cluster Heads meeting, which is going to be held on 18th of June 2008.

3. Presentation on the first results of rapid risk assessment implemented in 160 villages of Tajikistan by Mission East, CARITAS and OXFAM:

Mr. Crisptophe Belperron representative of Mission East, made a presentation on Comparative Risk Assessment Tool, a joint initiative of Caritas, Mission East and Oxfam in close cooperation with CoES, Khatlon East, Tajikistan and under guidance of Charles Kelly, Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre. Initiative was financed ECHO and SDC.

Purpose of the Tool:

- Identify RISK, a function of HAZARD and VULNERABILITY take into account:
 - Over past 30 years worst disaster to assess impact of potential hazard events (H) and

- factors increasing or decreasing vulnerability (V): exposure, value, coping capacity, resilience
- Produce comparative table, as a basis for decision making for DRR agencies and CoES
 - Allowing comparison of communities at national level
- Simple and efficient in order to enable large coverage
 - Minimal training needed

3-Step-Procedure

- Step 1: Rapid Community Assessment
 - Rapid method to assess vulnerability/coping capacity and potential hazard of a community
 - Producing comparative results: basis for pre-selection
 - Input: 0.5 day per village including data entry, maxi 4 people
- Step 2: Household Vulnerability Assessment
 - In-depth assessment of vulnerability at household level for the selected villages after step1
 - Producing comparative results for evidence-based decision making
 - Input: approx. 1 day including data entry, team acc size of village
- Step 3: feedback to communities and devise DRR action plan
 - Distribution of factsheet and maps to CoES, Jamoat and Village leaders
 - Use of tools as part of an action plan for DRR at village level

Results: Comparative Rapid Community Assessment

- Results from 177 villages in Kulyab and Zerafshan zone with the following indicators:
 - # of households in hazard zone (HH)
 - # of population in hazard zone (Pop)
 - % of household in hazard zone compared to whole community (%H)
 - Community vulnerability score (V)
 - Type of hazards per community and per households
- Possibility to analyse result such as:
 - $%H * V$ give an indication of the impact of a natural event on the village
 - $Pop * V$ give a indication of the risk of population
- -Experimentation of step 2 (household interviews) in 3 villages of Vose, Kulyab and Muminabad

Further Specific Data Analysis:

According to the assessors' purposes, a variety of specific results can be extracted from the Data Base and compared, e.g. number of:

- Female headed households (woman responsible for caring for family)
- Disabled persons living in hazard zone
- Households/persons depending on bridge for evacuation
- Households with members in social/community group
- Households with connection to water/electricity grid

Lessons Learned and recommendation:

- Issue in terminology (EN, RU, TJ) for hazard type
 - Produce illustrated sample (video, photo) to population to identify proper hazard
- Challenge of valuation of houses/buildings
 - Establish standards per size, volume, type of construction based on engineering estimation

- Balance between amount of data collected and rapidity of the process. Tendency to look for more information
 - Decide for optimum ignorance: more data will bring few additional information.
- Comparison requires standardisation of the tool
 - RAT and results will be handed over to CoES
 - CoES should review and decide for a standard at national level
- RAT not adapted for earthquake hazard

Conclusions:

- Simple, effective and efficient tool
- Ideal for first assessment and decision making with large coverage (comparing communities)
- Adaptable to needs of user: can do only step 1 and 3, skipping step 2.
- Additional expertise and/or GIS technology possible according to demands of user and budget / before planning of activities
- Vulnerability-Capacity assessment is objective
- Planning and response basis for CoES and Heads of Mahalla (Fact-Sheet and mapping)

Annex 1: List of participants, REACT meeting dated 11th of June 2008.

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