



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

**Minutes of special REACT Meeting devoted to DIEPCHO projects
12th of December, UNDP Conference Hall**

Chair: Mr. Khaibullo Latipov, Head of Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense (CoES)

Co-chair: Mr. Adam Vinaman Yao, Head of Central Asian office of DG ECHO

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

1. Introduction

Mr. Latipov, Head of CoES, had opened the meeting and welcomed the participants of the meeting. Mr. Yao joined Mr. Latipov in welcoming the participants and highlighted that this meeting is very important for further coordination in field of Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan.

2. Project presentations:

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Mr. Abdurahim Muhidov from UN ISDR presented new UNISDR project, which is funded in frames of DIPECHO V program:

Project title: "Strengthening capacities for disaster risk reduction and the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action in Central Asia 2008-2009" (3rd project in CA)

Geographically project covers all Central Asia. UNISDR is active in Central Asia since 2004.

ISDR system partners: UN system, national governments, international & local NGOs, scientific & educational institutions, media, private sector.

Objectives:

- Contribute to the efforts of the national governments of Central Asian republics in building disaster resilient societies through risk reduction initiatives addressing increased level of vulnerability and hazards
- Identify and assess seismic risk, to create a basis of monitoring and undertake preparedness measures
- Ensure a widespread geographic contribution to the thematic platforms and enhance DRR knowledge in Central Asia through expanding partnerships with universities, technical entities, academic institutions, and other national and international stakeholders by providing access to DRR related information, forums and networks
- Build partnerships with the mass media to improve coverage of DRR-related issues, and promote DRR to the public

Results:

- Increased political commitment at local, national and regional level with a stronger institutional basis for implementation
- Seismic risk identified and assessed
- Strengthened culture of safety and resilience at all levels, built through knowledge, innovation and education

Approach:

- Multi-stakeholder approach
- Enhanced awareness of all sectors of society of risk and its reduction
- National capacity building
- Regional coordination and collaboration; inter-governmental organizations
- Introduction of experience in implementation of HFA in other regions of the world

Netherlands Red Cross

Mrs. Sacha Bootsma from NLRC presented a new project of NLRC, which is implemented with partnership with Tajikistan Red Crescent Society and called: "Scaling up disaster preparedness and response"

capacities of local communities and schools of Central Asia". Project covers Central Asian countries, in particular:

- **Kazakhstan** - 40 schools in Almaty;
- **Kyrgyzstan** - 74 LDMC and 68 schools in Osh, Jalalabad, Batken oblasts;
- **Tajikistan** - 46 LDMC and 118 schools in Soghd oblast;
- **Turkmenistan** - 48 LDMCs and 48 schools in Lebap, Balkan, Dashaguz, Ahal and Mary veloyats;
- **Uzbekistan** - 80 LDMC and 202 schools in Andijan, Ferghana, Kashkadarya, Namangan, Navoi, Syrdarya and Tashkent oblasts.

Total number of beneficiaries covered by the project is 989,956 people from below listed groups:

- Vulnerable communities prone to earthquakes and landslides, floods and mudflows (*village leaders and community members*)
- Schoolchildren (aged 7 to 17) and school teachers
- General public from vulnerable communities and cities
- Staff and volunteers of government institutions, NGOs and international organisations involved in disaster management/disaster risk reduction.

Disaster risk reduction activities of the project include:

- Community Disaster Management;
- School-based Disaster Preparedness;
- Public awareness raising;
- Institutional strengthening;
- Regional cooperation;
- 8 mitigation projects in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan;
- Propositioning of supplies.

Overall aims of the project:

- Increased coordination between all actors working in Disaster Management in the region
- Find sustainable ways for LDMCs to continue existing
 - Long term incentives
 - New niches
 - Formalize / legal structure
- First Aid and Disaster Preparedness part of school curriculum

UNICEF

Mrs. Nargiz Artushevskaya presented the DIPECHO V funded project of UNICEF. She informed the participants that project covers three countries of Central Asia, namely Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. In Tajikistan particularly project will cover— 500 schools, 25,000 students and 1,500 teachers. She listed summary of project activities as below:

- Established education platform for HFA
- Preparedness and risk reduction Action plan in education sector
- Baseline survey of current knowledge and skills of apx 25,000 students and 1,500 teachers (500 schools in Tajikistan)
- Integration of DRR into school curricular
- Guidelines for DRR in school and out-of-school, training materials
- Training of teachers, education and health specialist, representatives of local authorities
- Training of students, parents
- Establishment of school emergency brigades
- Documentation and reproduction of best practices across Central Asia

Mr. Nurul Islam from UNICEF also added that, during presentation of ISDR and NLRC he noted that both organizations are planning to work with schoolchildren and schools within the frames of DIPECHO V projects as well. He proposed to these organizations and any other organizations, which are planning to work with schools to discuss their activities in more details and coordinate them.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov informed the participants that UNDP has supported Training Centers of CoES in frames of different project supported by SDC. In frames of this project school curricular has been already revised by specialists of Training Centers and expanded the existing curricular to natural disasters rather than only civil defense. Revised school curricular has been submitted to Ministry of Education by CoES for approval.

Mr. Adam Yao added that all above mentioned activities and initiatives should be coordinated and existing coordination mechanisms such as REACT and REACT Sectoral Groups can be used.

FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance

Mr. Mustafa Karim from FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance informed the participants that FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance is operating in Afghanistan, Canada, Europe, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan and the U.S. In Tajikistan in particular FOCUS is operating since 1997. He continued with the presentation of new project funded DIPECHO V.

- **Title of the project:** "Fostering Disaster-Resilient Communities in Isolated Mountain Environments".
- **Timeframe:** 2003 – present (DipECHO 1-5)
- **Geographic Location (s):** Dushanbe, Gorno-Badakhshan, Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan
- **Partners:** CoESCD, Head Agency of Geology, Institute of Geology, Hydro-meteorological Observatory, Avalanche Station, Institute of Seismology, TojikKohinot, ADPC, Russian Academy of Sciences, UCA and CAIAG, Tajik Southern Hydro-geological Expedition and Tajik GIINTIZ.

DRR Activities Description:

- Conducting hazard, vulnerability, capacity and risk assessment in 40 communities.
- Providing disaster awareness and preparedness workshops & trainings in 40 communities.
- Implementing 14 community-based small-scale structural mitigation projects.
- Installing 5 two-way emergency communication systems (CODAN Radios).
- Providing disaster awareness-raising and preparedness trainings for children in 8 summer camps and 12 schools.
- Providing capacity building for 4 key local institutions.
- Providing capacity building for 25 local earth scientists.
- Providing awareness-raising and preparedness messages through the media.
- Implementing a cross-border project in 4 at-risk border area villages of Shighnan district, Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan.
- Conducting monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of all activities and documenting all lessons learned and best practices.

ACTED

Mrs. Sadikova Nigina from ACTED presented project: "Cross Border Community Based Disaster Preparedness and Risk Mitigation for Vulnerable Rural Populations of the Ferghana Valley" funded by DIPECHO V and implemented by ACTED. Project has started in July 2008 and will be completed by September 31st covering overall 116 949 beneficiaries and geographically Sughd region (15 villages) of Tajikistan and Jalalabad, Osh and Batken regions (25 villages) of Kyrgyzstan. Project partners: Tajikistan CoES, Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Emergency Situation, Local NGO "AMAL" and RSCT, Osh branch of "KyrgyzGIIZ" Institute, "Eco-GIS", Liege University of Geological Branch (Belgium), Institute of Seismology and Kyrgyz Academy of Science.

Project goal:

- Improvement of capacity/preparedness of communities and social structures to respond to natural disasters
- Decrease of vulnerability of rural population, risk reduction to natural disasters in communities of Ferghana Valley through improvement of their capacity to respond to disasters

Disaster Risk Reduction Activities:

- Creation of Voluntary Rescue Team (VRT) in Kyrgyzstan and Disaster Preparedness Committees in Tajikistan
- Training sessions on preparation, response, and risk reduction at ES in cooperation with the Kyrgyz MES and the Tajik CoES
- First aid training in cooperation with RSCT of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- Participatory vulnerability assessment
- Drawing of village risk maps
- Elaboration of response plans to improve preparation and response of local community to natural disasters
- Support for self-implemented projects and 4 rural structural projects on mitigation
- Demonstration on building earthquake-resistant constructions
- Conduction of non-structural mitigation in schools
- Demonstration of earthquake resistant constructions with "shake tables",
- Organization of training for masons and builders.

- Awareness-building and organization of company on safety in schools through training for teachers and school children (ToT)
- Organization of competitions on drawing and school simulations.
- Creation of international interdisciplinary survey team (MES KR, Academy of Science of KR, Prague University, Kyrgyz University, Liege University, Kyrgyz Institute on Technological Surveys)
- Technical support for MES in elaboration of response plans on ES in Osh city and participation at REACT meeting
- Elaboration of methodology for monitoring through Eco-GIS training and management at natural disasters
- Facilitation of cooperation regarding mechanisms of preparation and response between Batken and Sughd regions
- Organization of simulations in communities.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov from CoES, noted that ACTED is planning to support development of cross border disaster preparedness plan and suggested to consult with CoES on national level to ensure it's correspondence with National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan.

Welthungerhilfe / German Agro Action

Mr. Vladimir Fedotov presented a new project named: "Capacity building for disaster preparedness in Rasht Valley, Tajikistan", funded by DIPECHO V and implemented by German Agro Action. Project will be implemented in partnership with Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), state institutes and local communities and will cover Central Tajikistan, 6 districts of Rasht valley – Rogun, Nurobad, Tavildara, Rasht, Tajikobad and Djirgatal.

Main objective of the project:

Increase preparedness of local communities and institutions in Rasht Valley for natural disasters through enhanced capacity, communication, and coordination

The main objective includes the following:

Objective 1 Analyse existing guidelines and standards on disaster preparedness and response. Assist REACT Rasht in developing generalized guidelines, decision models, and standards for disaster preparedness and response;

Objective 2 Based on existing disaster preparedness plans on district level, develop and test a general scheme/ template for disaster preparedness and response plan on village level;

Objective 3 Develop existing early warning system. Link the communication chains with the disaster response plans of the target villages.

Summary of the project, results:

- Collect and analyse any existing guidelines and standards on disaster preparedness and response at local and national level.
- Define with REACT Rasht and local partners a common terminology and the required types of guidelines, decision models, and standards to be elaborated.
- Assist REACT Rasht in developing and elaborating identified guidelines, decision models, and standards for disaster preparedness and response.
- Test the elaborated guidelines through simulations, field visits, and emergency exercises. Adjust them according to new findings.
- Compile the guidelines in a handbook and present this at national REACT as recommended directives for other disaster prone areas in Tajikistan.
- Assist CoES in developing a feedback mechanism for regular up-grading of the guidelines.
- Facilitate CoES in conducting regular REACT meetings.
- Based on existing disaster preparedness plans on district level as well as newly elaborated guidelines, develop together with CoES a general scheme/ template for a disaster preparedness and response plan on village level. Select two pilot villages and exercise the elaboration of a specific preparedness and response plan together with CoES. Adjust the general template according to new findings.
- Set up and train new disaster response groups on village level where not existent.
- Investigate the potential of private investors to actively participate in the implementation of disaster preparedness and response plans and realisation of its technical components on village level.
- Assist CoES' in elaborating the disaster preparedness and response plans for the target villages.
- Support target villages in implementing first steps of their disaster preparedness and response plans. Conduct trainings and awareness raising campaigns on disaster preparedness and response at target villages with special focus on school children and women.

- Recognize particular gaps in existing communication structures in six districts together with CoES and other stakeholders.
- Up-date and extend the existing climate and river flow monitoring system in the six districts, including technical equipment and training of CoES and volunteers.
- Based on newly established guidelines, elaborate together with CoES, local partners, and villagers horizontal and vertical communication chains and define clear responsibilities between stakeholders. Link these communication chains with the disaster response plans of the target villages. Test the communication chains through emergency exercises. Adjust them according to new findings.
- Assist CoES in developing regular check-up and exercise plans for the communication chains.
- Facilitate the extension of the communication network to more villages by CoES.

UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov manager of UNDP DRMP, presented a new DIPECHO V funded project implemented by UNDP DRMP and called: "Strengthened Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan-phase II". He mentioned that this project is a logical continuation of earlier project, which was funded by DIPECHO IV and implemented by UNDP DRMP. Project will be implemented in partnership with Government of Tajikistan, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Dushanbe Mayor's Office, Agency on Hydrometeorology and REACT partners covering all Tajikistan.

Result-oriented approach:

Through a complex disaster risk management approach national planning mechanisms supported, interagency coordination strengthened and modern technologies integrated into the national Disaster Risk Management initiatives:

- National strategic priorities and solutions in DRM identified;
- Government effectively coordinates DRM initiatives in Tajikistan;
- Modern technologies applied in DRM in a harmonized manner;
- Risk of major earthquake in Dushanbe analysed;
- Flash floods forecasting models developed and tested.

Project objective:

Disaster Risk Management priorities streamlined into planning and development interventions at national, regional and local levels.

Expected project results:

1. National DRM planning developed and integrated through development:
 - National Strategy Disaster Risk Management 2008-2015;
 - National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan 2008-2010.
2. The international Disaster Risk Management partnership in Tajikistan is improved:
 - Strengthening of REACT partnership
3. National GIS practices brought in line with international standards and promoted among DRM actors;
4. Available seismic vulnerability analysis of Dushanbe city expanded to include prioritized social buildings;
5. Modern and updated forecasting models of flash floods created for selected river basins and early warning system on flash floods of CoES is improved.

UN World Health Organization

Mr. Crag Hampton presented the project called: "Strengthening disaster preparedness, prevention and response activities at all levels of the health system in the Republic of Tajikistan", which is funded by DIPECHO V and implemented by UN WHO. Project duration is 15 months and geographically will cover Khatlon oblast and Rasht valley. Project will be implemented in partnership with Ministry of Health and UNDP.

National Health Crisis Management (NHCM)

- To strengthen development and institutionalisation of the organizational and policy framework of the MoH
- Technical assistance and support to the MoH's Expert Committee on National Health Crisis Preparedness and Response
- Enable and strengthen MoH disaster management training centre to become directly involved in capacity building, data processing and analysing, epidemiological assessments, identifying priority activities for implementation in specific crisis situations, etc.

- Seismic mitigation efforts.

Summary of project activities:

- NHCMP: Institutionalization, SOPs, Drug Policy, Quality indicators for Disaster/Emergency Care
- Training of trainers within the MoH
 - Disaster management and mitigation
 - Disaster (emergency) medicine
 - Psychological intervention in disasters
- Integration and improvements on assessment, monitoring, EWS, GIS outputs, planning
- Risk reduction (technical assistance in seismic mitigation)
- Support Health Sector within REACT.

Expected project results:

1. A strengthened organizational and policy framework and National Health Crisis Management Plan
2. Coordination, management capacities and resources strengthened at regional, oblast and district level that will translate into community mobilisation to enable them to better prepare for and manage disaster situations.

Mission East

Mr. Christophe Belperron presented to participants project called: "Improved Disaster Risk Management for High-Risk Communities in Khatlon and Sughd, Tajikistan", funded by DIPECHO V and implemented by Mission East in partnership with CoES, TIESS, local NGOs, covering Kulyab, Vose, Kurgan-Teppa, Aini and Panjakent districts.

Expected results:

1. A comprehensive flood preparedness and response plan is operational along the Yokhsu River and its tributaries among a network of 24 villages linked to the relevant government response units.
2. CoES emergency rescue and relief capacity is enhanced through training, mentoring and equipping.
3. Multi-hazard risk management and response capacity is enhanced by the establishment of a network of 10-plus mountainous communities of the Zerafshan cooperating to maintain a state of readiness.
4. The general public is exposed to a campaign co-sponsored by private sector that delivers key messages on disaster risk reduction and response.
5. New home owners of Khatlon Oblast initiate the use of proven DRM technologies / practices into their newly built houses.

DRR activities description:

- Risk assessment and mapping
- Local Disaster Management plan for 20 to 30 communities
- District level flood response plan in Kulyab
- Awareness/Preparedness Training including cross-cutting thematic: disability, livestock, gender
- Small scale mitigation in 20 – 30 villages
- Search and rescue brigade set up and training with CoES
- Delivery of rescue equipment for CoES Kulyab, KT and Dushanbe
- Provision of contingency stock (80 families) for emergency in Zeravshan
- Energy saving (winter preparedness) and better construction practices for earthquake preparedness (better brick)
- Information and Communication on disaster preparedness with Mobile phone company

Mr. Belperron added that Mission East is in process of negotiations with Mobile phone Company Babilon-Mobile on dissemination messages to all their subscribers' on disaster awareness raising. He also, presented a new Superhero for disaster preparedness called: Hamadon (Know all).

Mr. Adam Yao highlighted that such innovative initiatives such as involving Mobile Phone Company and overall involvement of private sector is very important and should be considered by every partner.

Mr. Mustafa Karim from FOCUS suggested to all partners to share among each other lessons learned from every project on issues related to:

- Visibility
- Project impacts assessments.

Save the children

Mrs. Faroghat Mirzoeva from Save the Children presented the project: "Increasing Communities' Capacity for Child-Focused Disaster Preparation and Response" funded by DIPECHO V and implemented by Save

the Children in partnership with Tajikistan CoES, Kyrgyzstan MoES, Red Cross, Ministry of Education, communities, children's clubs, schools and others. Geographically project will cover Jomi and Khuroson districts (Khatlon oblast) of Tajikistan and Alai & Karakylja districts (Osh oblast), Kadamjai district (Batken oblast) of Kyrgyzstan. Overall project targets: 71,524 of direct beneficiaries.

Disaster Risk Reduction approach:

- Building community capacity;
- Partnership and Strengthening systems;
- Children's Participation;
- Advocacy.

Summary of project's expected results and activities:

1. Strengthened coordination mechanisms at national and local levels to protect children in disaster:
 - MoU with M/CoES and Red Crescent Societies (RCS)
 - Revise and translate CBDRM & child-led DRR training manuals
 - Conduct ToT for national trainers and staff
 - Half day workshops to ensure that children are protected in emergencies for relevant government stakeholders
2. Increased capacity of target communities and local government stakeholders to cope with disasters in a way that protects children:
 - Training for community emergency response team (CERT)
 - Conducting PRA (baseline) and participatory HVCA in community to build risk map, ensuring the participation of children
 - Community first disaster preparedness and response plan
 - Work with the MoES in Kyrgyzstan and Tajik RCS to provide Community Emergency Response Teams and community leaders with the basic kits and practical training on emergency response operations
3. More protective environment created through risk mitigation interventions for children and adults:
 - Small-scale mitigation works by the community
 - Training for Community Emergency Response Teams on EWS, community mobilization, and emergency rapid assessments
 - Disaster simulation exercises in each community, followed by critical review of exercise and re-examination of mitigation action plan
 - Translation, adaptation and finalize child-friendly earthquake preparedness material. Pilot them in project schools
 - Present findings to the Ministry of Emergency Situations for adaptation of materials/revision and possible replication/scale-up
4. Increased capacities of school children and teachers to prepare for and respond to disasters:
 - Through child-focused activities, children's clubs develop understanding of disaster risk reduction
 - Training for teachers and children on INEE minimum standards on education in emergencies
 - DRR key messages and campaigns
 - Development and distribution of brochures, posters and other materials
5. Improve quality of child protection strategies in DRR programming nationally and locally:
 - Document and disseminate project activities through local and national media, meetings with other organizations and partners
 - Monitoring of project activities including participation of children
 - Workbook on best practices on child-led DRR approaches and project
 - National and oblast level workshops to share results and lessons learned

CARITAS Luxembourg

Mrs. Rafoat Gazieva presented Caritas Luxembourg's project: "Natural Disaster Risk Management NDRM Phase 2", funded by DIPECHO V. Project will be implemented in partnership with NGO Yoron, Local Hukumat and Jamoats, CoES; Mission East, Oxfam and other REACT partners. Project will cover Muminabad district, scaling up to Khovaling, Shurabad districts.

Natural Disaster Risk Management approach:

- Integrated disaster risk management to empower local government and civil society to increase resilience at community level

Integration of preparedness, mitigation and response through:

- Awareness raising of communities through workshops (L4S);
- Increase resilience through trainings and hazard plans, creation of alarming groups;
- Strengthening of institutional capacities of CoES, NGO Yoron and local government for improved risk management including maintenance of structures, development of DRR tools;
- Follow up of workshops with small scale projects including mitigation, prevention and preparedness;
- Emergency response fund;
- Development and promotion of standardised DRR tools (risk assessment, cost efficiency analysis);
- MECO Risk Assessment Tool applied in 70 villages by Caritas and over 300 by other organisations;
- Cost Efficiency Analysis developed and successfully applied for 9 proposals: a useful tool for project design and decision-making;
- Integration of DRR sector in the overall development agenda of Muminabad district (DDP, LDC);
- Mainstreaming DRR in all project proposals going through LDC (requires risk assessment for all projects);
- 17 communities increased awareness through L4S workshops;
- 17 L4S-follow-ups reduce risk for community through mitigation and/or preparedness measures;
- Initiative-based participatory proposal and selection system for DRR projects established in Muminabad;
- Local NGO (Yoron) set up, capable to design, build and maintain structural measures, as well as raise awareness;
- Fund established for sustainable maintenance of mitigation structures involving state and private sector actors (Muminabad);
- Fund for Emergency Response established (Muminabad).

Act Central Asia

Mr. Shuhrat Sherafganov from Act Central Asia presented DIPECHO V funded project: "Disaster Resilience in Communities in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan 2008-2009". Project will be implemented by Act Central Asia in partnership with: Youth EcoCenter (Public organization –Tajikistan), Zumrad (Children Ecological Society –Tajikistan), Mehr-Shavkat (Public Fund –Kyrgyzstan) and will cover Aravan district of Kyrgyzstan and Dushanbe, Regions of republican subordination and Khatlon region of Tajikistan.

DRR Activities Description/Approach:

- "Month of forestation" will be organized (raise awareness of wooded areas as natural defense, strengthening slope of hills, introduce ban for felling trees)
- Organize movie days for target villages to show video-clips on disaster preparedness
- Public campaign for Emergency Situations prevention will be conducted in 3 districts by trained instructors and youth organizations. To this end there will be conducted High school and family competitions on Emergency Situations and rendering first aid as well as ecological actions
- Natural Hazard mapping.

Summary of project activities:

- Disaster Preparedness activities:
 - Organize volunteer groups in schools and communities
 - Organize seminars, training, and other activities to raise awareness and skills
 - Prepare evacuation and emergency schemes
 - Establishing local structures for coordination of community response
 - Development of Action Plans for community response
 - Establish Avalanche Autonomous Station as Early Warning System
- Disaster Mitigation Activities:
 - Implementation of mitigation works, such as reforestation (wind-protective strip by planting Coniferous trees to avoid dust coming from afghan border) and river bank reinforcement
 - Reforestation in landslide prone villages, check dams in one or two villages to minimize the impact of floods and soil erosion and any other mitigation programmes)
- Awareness Raising Activities:
 - Publish and print newsletters, bulletins and distribute to population information billboards will be established in jamoats and mahalla committees
 - Library of learning and methodological materials on Emergency Situations will be established

- Public campaign for Emergency Situations prevention will be conducted in 3 districts by trained instructors and youth organizations
- Establish regular meetings and communications between project groups and state authorities

Expected project results:

1. Mapping and data computerization of vulnerabilities and hazards, and Early Warning Systems including local capacity building, improves ability of committees and civil society to plan activities;
2. Improved relations with state structures, enabling improved conditions for lobbying and advocacy, and enhanced state responses in emergencies;
3. Increased knowledge and awareness amongst general public in target areas on response to natural disasters;
4. Likelihood and potential impact of natural disasters reduced through Community led mitigation works.

OXFAM Great Britain

Mrs. Nadia Benani from Oxfam Great Britain informed the participants that Oxfam GB has been working in Central Asia during last 7 years to overcome poverty and suffering. She presented to participants project: "Strengthening participatory multi-hazard disaster preparedness- East Khatlon", funded by DIPECHO V. Project will cover 35 communities in Kulyab, Baljuvon, Temurmaliq, Vose and Farkhor districts and will be implemented in partnership with CoES, RCST and REACT partners.

Expected project results:

1. Capacity of local community increased to reduce the risk of multi hazards;
2. REACT Kulyab has improved its capacity to coordinate the activities preparing for, and responding to disasters;
3. Communities are more aware of how to prepare for, and respond to earthquakes and hydro-met hazards;
4. Children know how to prepare for, and respond to natural disasters and how to prevent environmental damage;
5. Community based organisations are institutionally stronger, and have integrated disaster risk reduction into their sustainable development strategies.

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov highlighted that it is very important that different interventions such as supported by DIPECHO, SDC, GTZ and others coordinated among each other to escape gaps and overlaps. Also, he noted that it is very important that CoES is constantly informed about the status and overall project implementation in field of DRM as a main Government DRM stakeholder in the country and in this term after the project completion CoES can provide further follow-ups and sustainability of the projects.

Annex 1: List of participants, REACT meeting dated 12th of December 2008

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