

Minutes of REACT Meeting

16 September 2014

UN Building, Main Conference Hall

Chair: Colonel Jamshed Kurbonbekov, Head of the Department for International Affairs of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense

Participants: REACT partners

Summary of results:

1. Dates of the cross-border simulation exercise agreed by partners (22-24 October 2014 – Laylek district, Kyrgyzstan, Bobojon Ghafurov district, Tajikistan).
 2. Facilitation team will conduct first scoping mission to Sughd province for initial reconnaissance and meet with key regional REACT group members.
 3. Partners are willing to support preparations for the exercise, including through financial contribution.
 4. Facilitation team will share the concept of the exercise along with latest version of Inter-agency Contingency Plan.
 5. CoES, through official communication will engage provincial and district CoES offices as well as relevant Government departments to the exercise.
 6. Cross—border elements of the simulation exercise will be incorporated as much as possible.
 7. Facilitation team will develop and share roles and responsibilities of the participating agencies.
 8. Partners agreed to develop and apply cross-border preparedness and response Standard Operating Procedures following the exercise to guide agencies prepare to respond to cross-border emergencies.
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- Following opening speech by Colonel Jamshed Kurbonbekov and introduction of participants, Mr. Dillon Case, a consultant (WFP) leading the facilitation process for the cross-border simulation exercise delivered a presentation summarizing the initial concept of the exercise (**annex 1 – Summary of the concept**). Facilitators briefed the participants that existing REACT damage and needs assessment tool will be applied during the exercise.
 - Facilitators noted the importance of involving both regional and national REACT members in the exercise (both during preparatory phase as well as actual implementation phase of the exercise). Facilitators also provided brief information about the background of the project (funded by DFID and implemented by UNICEF and WFP).
 - Partners expressed their interest in contributing to preparations for the exercise, however, raised concerns over the lack of detailed information about the planned exercise and requested to describe roles and responsibilities of the agencies willing to contribute to preparatory works of the exercise.
 - Facilitators mentioned that the exercise will be based on the recently updated Tajikistan inter-agency Contingency Plan and will be focused at medium-scale earthquake. Partners mentioned the importance of incorporating all humanitarian response cycle to the scenarios of the exercise, such as escalation of inter-ethnic tensions following natural disaster at cross-border areas, tensions of the use of natural resources and tensions related to gender inequality, protection etc. Facilitators noted the importance of having such meetings that contribute to developing the scenarios and injects for the exercise and ensured to incorporate relevant suggestions.
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- Participants proposed to incorporate as much as possible cross-border elements to the exercise. It was noted that while crossing the actual border by all participants of the two countries would be challenging due to existing hurdles, information sharing between the two countries as well as

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having a limited number of observers from the neighbouring country would be possible. In addition, partners proposed to develop a joint cross-border preparedness and response Standard Operating Procedures. The outcomes of the exercise and the lessons driven upon completion of the exercise would be used to develop such document that would eventually enable to better prepare to respond to cross-border emergencies.

- CoES briefed the participants about the planned Inter-ministerial meeting in Bishkek on 18 September between the heads of two emergency services of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to discuss the details of the exercise. According to initial agreements between the two services, a post exercise de-briefing (board meeting) is planned in Osh, Kyrgyzstan.
- At least 14 REACT members raised their strong interest to participate in the exercise. Facilitators mentioned around 35-40 individuals could participate in the exercise (both from Government and REACT). General agreement was reached to ensure the exercise has as much cross-border elements as possible, including information sharing, observers and joint debriefing.

Annex:

Annex I:

Presentation: Summary of the concept

Annex II:

List of Participants:

2	Khurshed Irgitov	UNFPA
3	Zoir Navjavanov	IOM
4	Sabohat Ahmadkhonova	WFP
5	Dillon Case	WFP
6	Gulchehra Usmonova	WFP
7	Raffaele Richetti	WFP
8	Mansur Turaev	UNHCR
9	Barno Mukhamadieva	UNWOMEN
10	Nodir Muhidov	GIZ
11	Shahlo Rahimova	Helvetas
12	Robert Britton	Good Heart
13	Muhiddin Haitov	GAA
14	Sayora Grezova	GRC
15	Parviz Abduvahobov	UNICEF
16	Ms Gulnamo Khudobakhshova.	FSD
17	Karen Culver	FSD
18	Khursheda Aknazarova	UNDP
19	Ilhom Gulomjanov	ACTED
20	Jamshed Kurbonbekov	CoES
21	Muidin Haitov	WHH/GAA
22	Abdulakhad Safarov	WHO
23	Sangin Komilzoda	Mercy Corps
24	Shuhrat Sangov	RCST
25	Davlatov A.	RCST
26	Valijon Ranoev	UNOCHA
28	Laylo Sabzalieva	FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance
29	Khusrav Sharifov	UNICEF regional office Almaty (Skype attendance)
30	Asim Rehman	UNICEF regional office Geneva (Skype attendance)