

## **Minutes of REACT Zeravshan Valley (ZV) meeting**

**14 April 2010, 11:00 – 12:30**  
**GTZ Disaster Training Center in Ayni**

**Chairman:** Hoji Muzayanov, Deputy Chief of Sugd Regional HQ on ES and CD

**Participants:** please refer to Annex 1.

### **1. Introduction**

The meeting was opened by **Mr. Hoji Muzayanov**, Deputy Chief of Sugd Regional HQ on ES and CD, by welcoming all the participants and requesting them to introduce themselves. Further, **Mr. Muzayanov** explained that during Round Table meeting undertaken in Khujand in the frames of GTZ Disaster Risk Management Program, it was decided that Sugd Regional HQ on ES and CD (responsible as well for REACT Khujand) would provide support for REACT ZV meetings, which resumed with the support of GTZ program.

### **2. Information on GTZ Program Round Table in Khujand**

The floor was given to **Mr. Luc Patenaude**, GTZ Program Officer, who shortly informed participants on the issues raised during Round Table in Khujand namely discussions on (1) ToR for REACT ZV and (2) preparation of Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans and Contingency Plan for ZV. As it was already mentioned above, Sugd Regional HQ for ES and CD will be coordinating and supporting REACT ZV meetings. **Mr. Zafar Mirzoboshiev**, Head of Ayni district HQ on ES will be responsible for REACT ZV Secretariat with the support of GTZ Program. It was underlined, as already stated during Round Table in Khujand, that Khukumats in ZV should delegate their representatives who would be the permanent participants in the REACT ZV meetings.

**Mr. Patenaude** also informed on the Working Group which was established in Khujand and which would be responsible for the elaboration of Disaster Preparedness and response Plans as well as Contingency Plan for ZV. He expressed his concern with regard to the permanent and effective participation of all group members in order to make the mentioned plans practical and useful for ZV.

Members of the working group recommended that future meetings (date, venue) should be coordinated well in advance through submission of official letters to Khukumats of Ayni, Penjikent and Gornaya Matcha districts in order to ensure active participation of all group members.

### **3. Brief overview of floods forecast for the Zeravshan River basin**

**Mr. Muzayanov** informed on mudflow which took place in Istravshan district and caused the damage of households, agricultural lands, infrastructure etc. Extraordinary REACT Khujand meeting was conducted and REACT Khujand Assessment Team visited the disaster area. RCST Khujand provided emergency aid for 10 affected families (mattresses, blankets, pillows, tent, etc.).

**Mr. Patenaude** made a short presentation on floods forecast for the basin of the Zeravshan River (part of the presentation made during REACT Dushanbe meeting on 7 April 2010). Further, he recommended the leaders of local Disaster Management Teams (DMT) attending the meeting to be better prepared for the possible floods and mudflows, cleaning for example their mudflow channels.

Leader of DMT for Shing and Rudaki jamoats of Penjikent district informed the participants that equipment and the teams were prepared for the eventual disasters. Two bridges were rehabilitated so far: one with the support of WHH and another one with the support of UNDP. Gold Mining Factory located in Penjikent

district provided assistance in reconstruction of the road. However, there is a risk of a mudflow in case of heavy rains.

The Leader of DMTs was inquired about the conditions of the mudflow channels, particularly those which were constructed with the support of WHH.

**Ms. Zarina Mirzabaeva**, Manager of WHH Program Component, mentioned that the given mudflow channel in Shing was not cleaned and was not reinforced by tree plantings as it was agreed with the community.

**Mr. Frank Paepke**, WHH DRM Adviser for Central Asia, underlined that Shing area is a very dangerous one and there is no effective mitigation measure to reduce disaster risks of such scale as it happened in the past (mudflow in Shing village). In this respect the only way out is to be prepared for the emergency situations and have effective evacuation plans, functioning communication systems and professional rescue teams. WHH will be involved in the development of evacuation plans, installation of communication system and training for community on how to behave and what to undertake before, during and after disaster occurred. In this respect Mr. Paepke supported Mr. Patenaude in the issue of Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans preparation with active participation of all relevant actors in ZV.

**Mr. Jamshed Kamolov**, Head of the Department on Protection of Population and Territories of the CoES, highlighted that the State Agency on Hydro Meteorology is disseminating regularly forecast on disaster occurrence which help to be prepared for the emergency situations. He also mentioned about construction of structural mitigation projects supported by different INGOs. But there is no use of these projects if they are not timely maintained. There is an Emergency Response Commission established in each district of ZV which should be working in the most effective manner, conduct regular meetings, distribute task to relevant structures regarding disaster preparedness measures (cleaning of channels, etc.).

**Mr. Ikrom Soliev**, Manager of German Red Cross (GRC) Program Component, informed the participants about RCST meeting with DMT leaders on 15 April 2010 in Ayni Disaster Management Training Center where the drafts of Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Plans will be presented and discussed. He has invited all interested Partners to attend this meeting where any other issues could be raised and discussed with all community leaders.

#### **4. Presentation of CoES simulation and training in Kumsoi, Penjikent district**

**Mr. Parviz Amonov**, Head of Penjikent HQ on ES and CD, made a short presentation on the mitigation project aimed at reconstruction of dam. It was informed that population of Kumsoi village was mobilized to take part in the reinforcement of the project. The Community cleaned the project site and filled sacks with stones to strengthen the cepoyas protecting the dams. The Forestry Committee provided poles to build cepoyas, an old technique used for strengthening of dam. GTZ supported transportation of big stones (100 trucks). Construction of the given dam will allow protecting 70 ha of agricultural lands in Kumsoi village. **See photos at end of protocol.**

**Mr. Patenaude** noticed that the mentioned project was selected for the implementation owing to the high commitment of the local population, their own contribution to this project and the risk to see their work washed away, without additional intervention. At the same time it was a test to check how the local Khukumat can convince the Zeravshan Gold Mining Factory (largest private employer in ZV) to provide support to emergency mitigation measures. Involvement of third parties into project implementation should be considered as crucial in the light of future phasing out of international organizations and INGOs from ZV, particularly in Disaster Risk Management.

#### **5. News from GTZ Program partners (GTZ, WHH, GRC)**

On behalf of **GTZ**, **Mr. Patenaude** informed on a total of 54 community projects completed, being implemented or currently under planning, by WHH in the framework of the GTZ program as well as by GTZ. Under the GTZ Food Security component, projects are being financed by communities' financial contribution to purchasing of seeds and fertilizers in Ainy and Gornaya Matcha districts, collected by GTZ, plus additional labor and material contribution from those communities. The list of the projects will be distributed to all interested persons/organizations.

He also stressed that the GTZ Program would be completed by the end of 2010 and no prolongation or new project is foreseen for ZV. to have properly elaborated Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans and Contingency Plan to ensure timely and effective preparedness in ZV.

**Mr. Soliev** informed on **GRC program component** aimed at strengthening of RCST. The main tasks are related to the creation of DMTs, provision of trainings and equipment for these teams as well as trainings for 25 schools in ZV. As for now 16 DMTs are established, trained and equipped. Trainings are provided in planned 25 schools. These teams will be included into RCST structure as primary organizations. As it was mentioned above, on 15 April 2010 16 DMT leaders will meet to discuss Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Plans for their respective villages. Besides, 3 Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans for the district of ZV will be elaborated as well as Contingency Plan for the whole ZV. GRC/RCST will develop operational procedures for ZV in case of disaster, along the lines of the Contingency Plan for ZV. In summer the Program is planning to conduct comprehensive simulation exercises with participation of all partners and structures in ZV.

**Mr. Soliev** also informed on regional project in the frames of DIPECHO VI Action Plan which will be implemented in Central Asia countries by the consortium of Partners namely IFRC, GRC, Netherland Red Cross, and American Red Cross. Sugd Oblast including ZV is targeted by the project and main components of it are trainings, capacity building of community teams and schools, small mitigation measures, etc.

**Mr. Paepke** informed on the status of the program component being implemented by **WHH**, which is aimed at implementation of mitigation measures, installation of communication system and provision of trainings. It was mentioned about THW mission (German Federal Agency for Technical Relief). As for now communication systems were installed in Shing, Seven Lakes area, Penjikent and Ayni. During the next mission of THW in May 2010 another 10 radio systems (VHF) and 2 repeaters will be installed. Mr. Paepke expressed his gratitude to Mr. Yusuf Tursunov, Head of the Department on Emergency Communication of the CoES, who actively provided his support during design and building up of the mentioned communication system. Appreciation was also expressed to CoES Units in ZV (Parviz Amonov, Ismatullo Koziev, Zafar Mirzoboshiev), who provide the permanent support for the implementation of program activities. Trainings on use and maintenance of the radio communication systems for community members will be started shortly.

**Mr. Paepke** mentioned about 25 mitigation projects aimed at reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, riverbank reinforcement. One small project "creation of tree nursery" was completed in Padrokh village and trainings on nursery maintenance and pasture management were provided as well.

## **6. News from other partners**

**Global Partners INGO** informed on activities implemented so far in Penjikent (rehabilitation of bridge, river bank reinforcement). The given INGO is working in cooperation with local Khukumat and Penjikent office for ES and CD. The INGO is not implementing any projects at this point in time but would like to expand in DRM area as well.

**Mr. Saadi Ruknidinov**, Program Analyst UNDP Ayni, informed on 150,000 USD allocated for Tajikistan in the frames of Early Recovery Component. These funds are supposed to be used by five regional UNDP offices located in Tajikistan in case of disasters. Particularly in ZV, UNDP implemented DRR projects in Shing and Khurmi. In addition, UNDP is implementing projects on reconstruction of social infrastructure (hospital and solar panel in Shing, school and solar panel for this school in Khurmi). This year UNDP is planning to implement projects on irrigation system reconstruction in the villages of Amondara, Veshab, Darg as well as renovation of school in Kosatarosh village.

The floor was taken by **Mr. Paepke** who raised the issue of school construction in Arnokhun village, supported by UNICEF. It was mentioned that the local community participating in the construction of the school was paid whereas WHH and GTZ did not provide payment to members of communities involved in physical project implementation. Two different approaches used in one community by different organizations generate problems in project implementation. Mr. Paepke recommended using REACT meetings, among other forums, to coordinate and discuss instruments/approaches to be used by the international organization in ZV before starting implementation.

**Mr. Shohin Rizoiev** mentioned that different donors could have different requirements which should be observed by implementing organizations. **Mr. Ikrom Soliev** responded that whatever the requirements are, the most important one for all the donor organizations is the sustainability of planned or proposed projects.

**Mr. Patenaude** concluded the necessity to open space to non DRM project issues in future REACT meetings, taking advantage of the gathering of a large audience, made of the most important actors in ZV.

**Mr. Saadi Rukvidinov** informed the participants on District Development Plans developed and published with the support of UNDP Community Program. This material could be one of the coordination instruments for different organizations working in ZV. Books were handed over to District Development Councils and UNDP still would be ready to provide additional editions to interested organizations. It was decided that the books would be distributed during the next REACT meeting.

**Mr. Uktam Eshonov**, Mission East Volunteer for ZV informed on new project in the frames of DIPECHO VI Action Plan. The project will cover Khatlon region and ZV. The main counterparts of the project will be CoES, Institute of Geology, and State Agency on Hydro Meteorology. The project is aimed at increase and strengthening of disaster management teams, provision of trainings on First Aid and Disaster Risk Management, conduct of simulation exercises in Ayni and Penjikent, etc.

Summing it up, the participants agreed to schedule the next REACT ZV meeting on **19 May 2010**.

### ***Reconstruction of dams in Kumsoi, Penjikent District***



*Reinforcement 1<sup>st</sup> dam through transport of large rocks from Zeravshan Gold Mine*



*Reinforcement 2<sup>nd</sup> dam through transport of large rocks from Zeravshan Gold Mine*