

UN BANGLADESH CYCLONE CROSS-SECTOR GROUP

MEETING MINUTES – 13 April 2008

Location: 12th floor, IDB Bhaban, Dhaka.

Present:

Chair: Jan Kellett, RCO
John McHarris, WFP (Food WG)
Pauline Mwaniki, UNICEF (WASH WG)
Steven Goldfinch, UNDP (Shelter WG)
BMM Mozharul Huq, UNDP (Shelter WG)
Tarik Islam, UNDP (DRR FP)
Kenneth Ged, WHO (Health WG)
Mamunul Khan, UNDP (Environment FP)
Samir Maleh (ACF)
Rumana Khan, RCO

Lalit Patra, UNICEF (WASH WG)
Enamul Haque, WHO (Health WG)
Maria Katajisto, WFP (Food WG)
Nicki Bennet, Oxfam GB
Silvia Kaufmann, UNICEF
Dr. Ganthimathi Jayaraman, IFRC
Cecile Leemans, ACF
Dr. Nasima Safa, WHO
Syed Sadrul Amin, UNDP
SM Maqsood Kabir, CARE

Not Present:

Alfred Osunsanya, FAO (Agriculture WG)

Apologies

Mirko Forni, UNICEF (Education WG)
Rune Brandrup, RCO
Nurunnabi Khan, ILO (Livelihoods WG)

1) Action Points:

- § WASH lessons learnt and Contingency Plan reports are yet to be ready. Expected by 20th April 2008.
- § RCO proposed the new WG leads (Livelihoods, Agriculture and Education) could have a googlegroup page for their respective sector if required (something similar to shelter.) In doing so, that page can be linked with the DER cyclone page.
- § The CERF cyclone and floods funding report final has been circulated two weeks earlier.
- § Updates on assessment reports:
 - Agriculture: Not present.
 - Health: Expected to be shared by Tuesday/Wednesday.
 - Landless: There has not been any funding for this report.
 - WASH: Currently CEGIS is carrying out a survey for the group and with that feedback, the final report is expected to be out by 30th April 08.
 - Food: Shared the draft report in the meeting. With some updated figures and feedbacks from the group the report will be finalized and shared by the end of the week.
- § LCG-DER: The chair informed the meeting that the Resident Coordinator will attend the next DER meeting. Key agenda item will be flood preparedness. Some technical assistance is required to agree on the information format of the DMIC report. At this point, Tarik requested to include on the agenda a discussion on standardization of relief effort and agreement on the criterion of the two types of assessment- immediate and early recovery.

2) Update on Transition Progress:

WB DNLA report: RCO was not aware that it was finished; certainly the RC had not yet received any final draft copy. Steven informed that they have received a copy from WB with a letter addressed to the ERD Secretary.

Action point: Steve will share JDLNA with RCO after meeting.

UN Early Recovery Framework: The 4th draft is coming out on the following Tuesday. Whether this document will be shared with the donors in a meeting with key WG leads represented, will be decided and informed accordingly.

Action point: 4th draft of UN ERF to be circulated following Tuesday. Comments by COB Thursday.

3) **Working Group Status:**

The chair requested an update on the current status and future needs of the Sidr Transitional Recovery working-groups.

WASH: The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) held a meeting last month. This group undertakes key decisions on behalf of the WG; several technical sub-groups have been formed on specific issues. A Strategic Operations Framework (SOF) a generic SOF can be developed that will be useful for flood preparedness.

Shelter: The shelter working-group meets every two weeks at Dhaka level and is still attended by 20 or so key actors. There are plans to move the meeting to once per month. The chair requested UNDP to resist doing that until after the six month anniversary of Sidr.

Food: Coordination meetings are being held at field level, not thought needed at Dhaka level at the moment. NB: A nation-wide food security assessment jointly with FAO and GoB will start on 16 April 08 throughout 40 districts.

Health: WHO recommended keeping health a core group with representation from major UN agencies. Though many of the NGOs left the health sector after the acute phase, Kenneth feels with the assessment report the WG will be able to re-setup the priorities of the early recovery phase of the sector.

Action-Point: RCO to work with WHO to meet UNICEF and UNFPA to finalise key working-relationships in early recovery phase, post cyclone-Sidr.

Environment: Mamunul Haque thinks for now the group can remain as an ad hoc basis. Tarik suggested that initially environment was not GoB's priority but perhaps it is moving in that direction. John suggested of pursuing climate change funds for environment projects. It was generally thought that a short-term technical group in this sector could be formed to mobilize funds.

Action-Point: Environment lead UNDP to strategise for obtaining funds for the sector and possible ER focused environment open meeting for donors etc. RCO has offered assistance.

Agriculture/Food Security/Livelihoods

The chair proposed a joint meeting of agriculture, livelihoods and food security to clear out any confusion on the working profile and coordination between these groups and from that to move to donors in combined fashion.

Separate but related point is the need for a combined approach to donor's, a combined meeting.

Action point: RCO to organize meeting with the three WGs to discuss the needs.

4) Flood Preparedness- Update from Shelter, WASH, Health, and Food Security

Shelter: The SWG has already disseminated the standard guideline for shelter building among relevant partners. The SWG is in process of designing an additional nuance in its advocacy plan, one that balances core/transitional shelter needs with possible emergency needs during a flooding season.

NB: Most organizations do not have in-country prepositioned stocks for emergency shelter.

WASH: SAG next meeting will be on flood preparedness. WASH cluster training originally planned for Sidr, but later incorporated flood prone areas. Dhaka training is entirely for participants working in the flood prone zones. (Pauline requested nominations from Shelter and Health for the training.) Besides this WASH plans on flood preparedness training with participants from at least 100 different partners. A contingency plan on preparedness is in pipeline.

Health: Planning to have a disaster preparedness training - how the disaster coordinator at the district level can cooperate and assist the civil servant when a disaster strikes. This came out as a suggestion in the recently completed assessment report.

Food security: For flood preparedness, WFP is depending on AusAID contingency food stock. In case that does not happen, WFP can borrow from existing programs and government. John also emphasized on preparation of a UN inventorying on repository stock.

5) Lessons Learnt Workshop: Update from WFP

John shared a copy of a draft of UN LL workshop report. A modified version of the report will be circulated among the participants by this week.

Action point: Final UN LL report to be circulated by the end of this week.

The National Lesson Learnt Workshop will be held on 26th April.

No progress on NGOs LL workshop. Looks like it will not happen as a group.

RCO will assist a donor's lessons learnt on April 27th.

6) Future of Cross-Sector Coordination Group

This discussion generated plenty of debate. Some key points included:

- In John's opinion general planning, strategy of disaster management can be addressed in the DER Secretariat where all partners including NGOs are represented. However coordination in working level in that forum may not be as possible.
- Tarik questioned DER's role in Sidr coordination and also whether the country team is following IASC regulations.
- Mamunal on the other hand, emphasized on the issue of parallel information in ministries and that this should be highlighted in the UN Lessons learnt report. John asked him to incorporate these comments on the report shared today in the meeting.

It was suggested to the group to advocate for a task force on humanitarian response in the National Lessons Learnt workshop, a government led group that would be empowered to look at all issues.

Action-Point: Representatives from the cross-sector coordination group will advocate for a task force on humanitarian response and coordination in the National Lessons Learnt Forum.

Finally it was decided to keep the cross-sector coordination meeting monthly, recognizing it necessity in coordination of the early recovery phase.

7) **AOB**

The CERF Evaluation Team member is arriving on 19th April 2008. There will be a initial orientation with the UN disaster focal point on Sunday 20th April.

Sidr Fund: WFP received 6 M USD recently. John has requested this be added to the framework of the Food Security sector.

IM report: John informed the meeting that the report by the recent OCHA mission will be ready by sometime next week.

Action point: WFP to circulate IM report next week.

Next Meeting: 14th May 3 pm, 12th Floor IDB Bhaban

Action Point Summary: UN Bangladesh Cyclone Inter-Sector Meeting, April 13th 2008

Coordination Structure and Sector Groups	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
Working relationships between livelihoods, agriculture and food security questioned	RCO to take up with the leaders of three groups for rationalization/clarity. Arrange a joint meeting.	RCO	30 th March		Pending
Information Sharing	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
WASH lessons learnt & Contingency	Final report to be forwarded to RCO for dispersal and placement on website	UNICEF Wash then RCO	17 th Mar	20 April	Waiting
Google-group for Education, Livelihoods and Agriculture sectors	New WGs to form google-group where needed and then RCO to link that page with DER	FAO, UNICEF, ILO & RCO	30 th Mar	Info only	Closed.
Documentation	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
CERF cyclone and floods funding report	Final report to be circulated immediately	RCO	2 nd March	31 st March	Completed
Assessments Need to be Completed and Distributed	Agriculture: no updates Health: To be forwarded to RCO for dispersal by Tuesday/Wednesday Landless: not funded. RCO to follow up. Wash: Working on maps and to be finalized by end of the month.	FAO, WHO, Habitat, UNICEF, WFP	2 nd March		Ongoing
WB Joint Damage, Loss and Needs Assessment Report	Shelter to share with RCO the copy received from WB	UNDP		13 th April	Done
Early Recovery Framework:	RCO to present 4 th draft to Cross-Sector group by 15 th April	RCO	31 st March	30 th April.	Waiting
IM report by OCHA IM Mission	WFP to finalize and share IM report by the end of next week.	WFP		24 th April	Waiting
Coordination Development	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
UN Lessons Learnt Workshop	WFP to share first draft of the report	WFP	5 th April	24 th April	Pending
Recommending a Task force on Humanitarian Response	WG leads to advocate for a task force in the upcoming National LL workshop.	WG leads in the workshop	13 th April	26 th April	Waiting
Sector Specific Issues	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
Shelter and Shelter Advocacy	UNDP to share a draft advocacy plan with the group	UNDP	31 st March	15 th April	Waiting
Livelihoods, Agriculture, Food Security	Possible joint donor meeting	RCO and WG Leads	13 th April	5 th May	Pending
Health and Early Recovery	UN joint meeting on clear division of roles and responsibilities	RCO & WHO, then FPA &	13 th April	5 th May	

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