

UN BANGLADESH CYCLONE CROSS-SECTOR GROUP

MEETING MINUTES – 14th May 2008

Location: 12th floor, IDB Bhaban, Dhaka.

Present:

Chair: Jan Kellett, RCO
Steven Goldfinch, UNDP (Shelter WG)
Lalit Patra, UNICEF (WASH WG)
Kenneth Ged, WHO (Health WG)
Maria Katajisto, WFP (Food WG)
Mr. AMM Quamruzzaman (Education WG)
Mehedi (UN-HABITAT)
Rumana Khan, RCO

Cecile Leemans, ACF
Dr. Nasima Safa, WHO
Syed Sadrul Amin, UNDP
SM Maqsood Kabir, CARE

Apologies

Mirko Forni, UNICEF (Education WG)
Rune Brandrup, RCO
Nurunnabi Khan, ILO (Livelihoods WG)
Mamunul Khan, UNDP (Environment FP)
Tarik Islam, UNDP (DRR FP)
BMM Mozharul Huq, UNDP (Shelter WG)
John McHarris, WFP (Food WG)

Not Present:

Alfred Osunsanya, FAO (Agriculture WG)
Dr. Ganthimathi Jayaraman, IFRC

1) Action Points:

- Updates on assessment report: Health: Has been finalized and endorsed, now can be made; public; WASH: Input from CEGIS was delayed and is expected to be out by 25 May 08.
- Livelihood and Agriculture: RCO gave an update on meeting with the WB, the bank suggesting it is willing to fund all the Early Recovery interventions of FAO. Representative of FAO will soon convene a meeting in this regard and there appears a possibility that WB may also fund Livelihood projects, hence ILO will also be invited to this meeting.
- Health: Update from WHO following recent early recovery meeting with UNICEF, FPA, WHO and the RCO; Health sector is almost fully funded (WHO having just received \$1.2 million from Japan/Norway) except for a small part of UNFPA.
- Jan updated the group on the already funded and outstanding figures of the UN ERF.

2) Transition of Sidr Structure into DER-RCO and WFP:

On the issue of strengthening LCG-DER group, the chair informed that the RCO have been working with WFP and others towards shifting the current Sidr Coordination Structure into permanent clusters under the umbrella of the DER, already introduced to DER members during the last meeting. It is felt that dedicated meetings mostly focusing on early recovery aspects of Cyclone-Sidr response are not needed on a regular basis, although the RCO will continue to call ad-hoc meetings for monitoring and evaluation. Individual working-groups may continue as needed with the understanding they will be merged within the new permanent-cluster-structure when it is formed.

Attached to these minutes are a more detailed guidance note from the RCO on the transition and what needs to be done from here.

Connected to these developments, a small working-group (CDMP, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, RCO) is working on a revised DER proposal of how a newly energized DER could work and what support the

UN through secretariat and coordination could assist. In order to keep the WG's (leads, focal points, NGOs, IFRC) updated on the transition process, they will added to the DER mailing list.

Action Point: DER secretariat (WFP) to work with the RCO to ensure all DER developments are properly discussed with sector leaders as well.

Action point: Rumana to forward to Maria all the WG mailing addresses for her to add to the DER mailing list.

3) Monitoring and evaluating the UN's Early Recovery Work and Update of Early Recovery Implementation.

4) Update on Early Recovery Implementation – RCO

Two agenda items joined together. A key aspect of Early Recovery that the RCO will look at continually will be our implementation, quantity and quality. This will be done by sector, not by agency, with each sector leader responsible for reporting. This will be done on a quarterly basis. A standard UN format will be used for all sectors and it is essential that everyone keeps to the agreed layout and make submissions following agreed guidelines. Format to be shared with sector leaders by RCO for discussion.

As there will be in June GoB and donors will hold a LCG plenary meeting to analyze progress/situation based on JDNLA, and early recovery will hopefully also be on the agenda, the RCO will call for a report for mid-month June.

Actions points: To report on the progress of UN ERF by sectors, Rune will send out a format to all sector leads/focal points.

5) UNDP's support to Government's Early Recovery Plan:

Steven on behalf of Tarik informed on the BCPR funded UNDP support to the government's Early Recovery Plan. Components include support in coordination at central and field level, including monitoring and evaluation, beneficiary selection, working within national and international partners etc.

Action points: Steven was asked to follow up on a previously discussed idea of Tarik for DMB to bring partners together to discuss the implementation of the ERAP, end May. Dates and details to be circulated asap.

6) Possibility of a Joint Early Recovery Office, Cyclone Sidr

The chair outlined the possibility of a joint Early Recovery Office for the Cyclone-Sidr response. The advantages were outlined, of having a focal point for early recovery in the field, an additional support to implementation, as well as the possibility of using this as a chance to pool resources, offices, logistics etc. (The chair also shared the combined staffing and logistics that the UN has in the field to undertake its continuing activities.)

District	Offices	Staffs and logistics					Vehicles
		Management Staff	Admin & Finance	Logistic staff	Field staff	Internet access	
Barisal	4	4	3	2	14	vsat, Edge modem	8

Jhalokati	2	1			7		1
Pirojpur	2	1	1		17		1
Bagerhat	3	2	3	1	25	Edge Modem, GP internet	8
Patuakhali	2	1	2		32		2
Barguna	3	1	2		11	Edge Modem, GP internet	4
Satkhira	1	1	1				1
Bhola	1	1	1		1	Edge Modem	2
Total	18	12	13		107		27

The members response to this was mixed. Although joint offices of the UN exist in various project sites and joint programmes are already under implementation it was not felt that at this stage there was enough of a case for the proposal. The chair agreed and suggested the pros and cons be presented to the UNCT for them to consider further.

Next Meeting: None planned as yet, RCO to inform as necessary.

Action Point Summary: UN Bangladesh Cyclone Inter-Sector Meeting, May 14th 2008

Coordination Structure and Sector Groups	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
Funding for Agriculture and Livelihoods Sectors	Following on from meeting between Bank and RCO, FAO to arrange a follow-up meeting to discuss exactly what may be funded	FAO	May 14th		
Documentation	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
First Report on UN Early Recovery Activities	Planned format shared with working-group leaders for mid-June reporting.	RCO	14 th May	23 rd May	
Assessments Need to be Completed and Distributed	Health: Final version out this week. Wash: Expected to be out by 25 May	WHO, UNICEF,	2 nd March	25 May	Ongoing
Coordination Development	Action	Responsibility	Date 1st Mention	Deadline	Status
Joint Programme Office for Cyclone Sidr	UNCT be presented with some indications of advantages, disadvantages	RCO	14th May		
DER Development: Need for sector leaders to be completely involved in the DER development process	DER mailing list updated with all working-group names for updates of development.	RCO to WFP, then WFP	14 th May		
Government ER Planning support	Details of upcoming ER meeting led by DMB to be shared for discussion with cross-sector members.	UNDP	14 th May	23 rd May	