

DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP
DER – EARLY RECOVERY CLUSTER

MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, 24 November 2007

Agenda Items

Welcome & Introductions

- See attached attendance list for attendance.

Update of the Situation

- Agreed all participants are aware of situation;
- Noted that there is a danger of compounding disasters occurring;

NB: Participants are encouraged to keep up to date with other clusters through the DER pages (to be established shortly) and through their respective Google Groups etc.

Agency Updates

- Participants provided an update on allocation, targets, distribution and delivery for their organisation.

NB: Participants are encouraged to upload this information on the ER Cluster Google Forum as when they have it.

Guidelines & Principles for Early Recovery

- There is a need to agree on Cluster coordination between members and with other Clusters;
- Coordinating early recovery efforts is the primary reason for this Cluster's establishment;
- The Cluster's activities need to be in support of the Government's efforts and complementing with what the Government is doing (targeting the gaps);
- A uniform template needs to be agreed on to maintain consistency with reporting;
- DER Group has established a 'cell' (Cyclone Coordination Centre) within the MoFDM which is staffed by CDMP. The cell collects information, will undertake mapping and provide useful resources for the Cluster's activities. The relationship between the cell and this Cluster is important;
- 6 Cluster pages will provide a focal point – should be a useful resource to keep up to date with other cluster's activities;
- A Google site will be established (details to follow);
- RC and country team agreed to adopt this informal cluster arrangement. The Government has not made an international appeal for assistance; hence OCHA is not directly involved with these clusters.
- OCHA is here to support the RC's Office and recently worked on the successful CERF funding proposals;
- The Cluster needs to form a view, post lifesaving activities, on early recovery (strategy and framework);
- The Cluster will remain in operation as long as key and useful decisions are being made. There is the potential that this Cluster will dissolve, once key early recovery issues have been decided, into other clusters (or to focus on livelihoods for example) as they move from lifesaving activities to recovery;
- The early recovery process has already begun.

Note: SitReps are produced by the Disaster Management Information Centre, part of the MoFDM, and provide the latest information and official Government statistics:

http://www.cdmp.org.bd/Situation_report.html

Damage & Needs Assessment

- Template, information and tools on damage and needs assessments to be sent out by UNDP;
- Sharing of organisation's tools with other Cluster members is encouraged;
- A uniformed template is to be agreed on;
- A number of participants are commencing individual damage and needs assessments shortly, potential for sharing/working together. A number of participants noted this with a view to exploring it further;
- ILO and FAO are to carry out livelihood assessments;

Early Recovery Framework

- The Early Recovery Framework needs to feed into a bigger picture;
- There is a need to quickly establish and agree on priorities and a schedule (short term 7-10 days, medium term 2-3 weeks and longer term 2-3 months and beyond);
- UNDP will commence this process in close collaboration with Government;
- Framework needs to be inline with Government expectations and activities.

AOB

- Issues around advocacy role of Cluster raised. UNDP advised that the UN RC is hosting a meeting with Cluster Leads and the donor community on Wednesday to highlight activities and needs directly;
- Suggested that livelihood issues (Cash for Work, wage rates etc) be discussed in this Cluster urgently and as a priority for the Shelter Cluster.

Action Points

UNDP:

- Google Forum to be established (Information Manager – COB to 24/11/07)
- DER assessment tools to be uploaded (Coordinator – by 25/11)
- Early Recovery Guidelines to be distributed (Assistance Coordinator – By 25/11)
- Early Recovery Framework draft outline to be prepared and distributed for comment (Assistant Coordinator)
- TOR bullet points to be circulated for comment (Assistant Coordinator)
- Draft agenda for the next meeting to be distributed (Information Manager by COB 24/11)

All:

- Share/upload assessment tools on Google Group;

Next Meeting & Agent Items

8am, Monday 25 November 2007
Village Well Conference Room
Level 19, IDB Bhaban (UN Offices), Dhaka

Provisional Agenda Items:

- Early Recovery joint assessment opportunities and strategy;
- Finding consensus of reporting templates and formats;
- Finalisation of the Early Recovery Cluster's Terms of Reference;
- Summary of other Cluster activities.

END