

DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE GROUP  
DER – EARLY RECOVERY CLUSTER

MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, 4 December 2007

Agenda Items

Welcome

- See attached attendance list for participants.

Update of the Situation

- a) Government Update: DMB is receiving information from all the affected areas on a regular basis. Once this information is compiled it will be distributed to Cluster members.
- b) Cluster Updates: Food Cluster continue to meet regularly and have distributed the 'Who, Where, What' matrix to their members. All Food Cluster members have been invited to join the FAO/WFP joint assessment on food security and nutrition.

Note: Food Cluster representatives attended this meeting.

Technical Working Group

Technical Working Group on ER Needs Assessment reported back to the ER Cluster as follow:

- The TWG noted a potential overcrowding and overlap in livelihood need assessment, and thus called for an improved coordination.
- The TWG identified core business of ER and the typical information that most probably required from need assessment. The identified core business were: governance, community infrastructure, short-term livelihoods, risk reduction, cross cutting issues, environment;
- The following recommendations are submitted to the Cluster:
  - o To form an inter-cluster thematic group on Livelihood Assessment
  - o To create a clearing house mechanisms for needs assessment coordination and information sharing
  - o To organise an interagency joint analysis upon the completion of the various assessment
  - o To undertake through the TWG an interagency post disaster needs assessment on topics not yet covered by existing and planned needs assessment

Follow up:

The ER Cluster instructed the TWG to proceed with designing and implementing an interagency need assessment which is to commence within two weeks at the latest. Along this line called UNDP to exert leadership to moving forward with the planning and implementation.

The ER Cluster Coordinator will approach DER to develop a common platform (perhaps a page on the DER site) where all assessment activities can be logged, to give all organisations an idea of who's planning and/or conducting what needs assessment, where and when.

The ER Cluster will continue, to discuss interagency assessment, coordination with other clusters including the use of common questionnaires to be shared with those undertaking assessments. Government would welcome such detailed work plan – to be shared at the central and local level. It was noted that there is a history of joint-assessments between the UN/NGOs and the Government.

TWG will next meet on 5 December at 2pm (UNDP 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room) to develop a planned assessment plan to be shared with the Government. Action Aid, Care, WFP, CEGIS, UNDP committed representatives. (Save the Children is interested to be involved in the overseeing function while Food for the Hungry is prepared to incorporate some aspects of the needs assessment into its field operation).

Presentation: CEGIS Bangladesh

- The presentation will be posted on the Cluster's Google site today;
- ER Cluster will organise a more comprehensive and extended version of the presentation on Characteristics and impacts of Cyclone Sidr on the Environment on Tuesday, 11 December 2007 (09:30 – 10:30), open to all clusters/agencies.

Next meeting & tentative agenda items

- The next meeting will be held 8.30am, Tuesday 11 December 2007 at UNDP (level 19 meeting room)

AOB

Members who wish to utilise CEGIS services are welcome to attend and discuss environmental issues tomorrow, 5 December at 9am at UNDP (meeting room on level 7).

Hap International is organising an accountability survey for early next year. Information will be provided at the next meeting.

There is a meeting at the World Bank today to discuss joint assessments. The EC representative (Mr Koen Ducateau) will invite the World Bank to share the meeting's outcomes in the next ER Cluster meeting.

Action Points

- Create an ER Cluster contact sheet for organisations to nominate an information focal point (Information Manager)
- TWG will report back at the next meeting
- Suggest that a page to log assessment activity be created on the DER website (Coordinator)

END