

**LCG Sub-group on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER)
DRAFT Meeting Notes**

Chair: Masud Siddiqui, DG, DMB

Venue: CDMP Conference Room (6th Floor)

Tran Bhaban, 92-93, Mohakhali, Dhaka

Date: 16 July 2008

Participants: GoB, CDMP, WFP, UNDP, UNRCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, AusAID, Save the Children (Denmark), Swedish Development Corporation, Islamic Relief

Agenda: 1: Minutes of the last meeting held on 05 June 2008

- There were no comments on the last meeting notes. Minutes considered final and will be uploaded onto LCG DER web.

Agenda: 2: Update from Monsoon Preparedness working groups

a) Flood Risk Mapping: reviewing priority areas

WFP presented Flood Risk Analysis identifying a total of 24 districts as very highly flood prone based on data from CEGIS, CARE, Historical Situation Reports from mega flood years (1998, 2004 and 2007).

Comments: i) UNICEF suggested to include Tangail, Chandpur and Mymensingh in the list. Tangail and Chandpur (faces massive river erosion) were heavily flooded during the last flood and so were agreed to be included. However, Mymensingh was excluded as it is high land and rarely gets flooded.

DPHE has identified 19 high risk districts which do not match with the 24 districts identified by WFP. A closer analysis may help identify comprehensive actual risk zones.

ii) UNHCR suggested Cox's Bazar to be in the list based on possible risk of flash flood. Though the district gets heavy rain, the water gets drained very quickly to the Bay of Bengal (Flash Flood) and so not included.

iii) UNICEF reminded of the need to document how maps from different sources were generated (indicators used). WFP to document sources/indicators and circulate to DER members.

b) Data and Information Preparedness; Pre-crisis baseline data

WFP has done Projection of union level population segregated into socio economic data (age group, literacy rate, marital status) up to mid 2008 based on 2001 BBS Census data. The data is available on DER web, and is intended to be used for quickly generating rough estimates of people living within flood affected areas, as reports of flood affected areas become available from the field. The data will be uploaded to GoB DMIC website.

Comments: i) UNICEF mentioned data needs to be regularly updated and maintained and DMIC can undertake the responsibility for long-term ownership. Endorsed by others.

c) Relief items inventory (for rapid response and pre-positioning)

UNDP has developed a database structure (Reporting Template) to capture data on relief items available for rapid response and pre-positioning. The database structure allows for six types of relief items to be captured; food items, Non-food items, shelter items, WASH related items, medicine, etc... .

Comments: i) UNICEF suggested instead of preparedness the templates should be called inventory matrix as preparedness also includes human resource.

ii) UNICEF raised issue of need for contact lists of disaster mgmt./coordination related focal points at district level and below.

iii) UNICEF suggested there needs to be enhanced cluster wise coordination, particularly at field level.

d) Review of Rapid Assessment data collection formats

DMB mentioned GoB data collection format (i.e. Form-D) and invited/welcomed DER member inputs/comments to help improve GoB format. Revised DER RIR format can be used either to improve Form-D, or alternatively GoB could endorse RIR format and include it within GoB Standing Order on Disasters. Any additional comments on recently revised RIR format should be sent to UNICEF asap. Format will be finalized before next DER mtg.

Comments: i) UNICEF RIR has to be translated into Bangla.

Agenda: 3: DER Structure for improved Disaster Preparedness and Response

- DER structure for improved disaster preparedness and response was left out of the agenda for discussion in the next DER meeting.

Agenda: 4: Presentation on Monsoon Monitoring and Early Warning

The presentation was delivered by WFP focusing on the following:

Overview:

- Why upstream monitoring important for Monsoon Monitoring, Early Warning and Preparedness – 95% of the flood water comes from neighbouring countries inflow and only 5% from inland rainfall (source: Banglapedia).
- Some easily accessible sources of rainfall, river levels upstream:
 - Data on river water levels upstream:

§ Indian CWC: Daily updated and individual station level data with trend is available (www.india-water.com/ffs/index.htm).

§ Dartmouth Flood Observatory: Upstream River Flow data (www.dartmouth.edu/~floods/index.html)

- Data on rainfall upstream:

§ Indian Meteorological Department (<http://www.imd.gov.in/>)

§ NASA Rainfall Estimates: Satellite Based (http://trmm.gsfc.nasa.gov/publication_dir/potential_flood.html)

Closing Thoughts:

- i) Monsoon Flood Early Warning and Preparedness can be significantly improved via greater utilisation of upstream data
- ii) Data availability is much better than most of us realize
- iii) Creative approach (i.e GIS etc.) should be used to better understand upstream-downstream dynamics; i.e. significant events upstream and timing impacts downstream.

Comments: i) DMB suggested the Monsoon Monitoring and Early Warning Bulletin prepared by WFP can be done under joint partnership with CDMP/DMIC of the Government of Bangladesh. Tentatively in one month's time, the joint publication will be possible.

- AOB:** i) In the next meeting UNICEF as lead agency of WASH cluster will present their activities. WASH provides a good example for others; re-activation of other clusters to promote preparedness and pre-crisis coordination.
- ii) DER meetings will be planned on the first Wednesday of each month. If not possible members should be immediately notified of the next agreed date. The next DER meeting is tentatively scheduled for 06 August 2008 at 1400 hrs, CDMP Conference Room.
 - iii) Greater NGO and GoB participation needs to be promoted for next and future DER mtgs.
 - iv) Status of key embankments is crucial in removing affected people from the area. SDC has an ongoing project in Sunamganj and would like to have more information sharing on the issue. Available sources of data include Ministry of Land (working on landless people due to river erosion), Bangladesh Water Development Board (having status of river embankments), and CEGIS. SDC willing to join other DER members interested in working on embankment, and river bank erosion issues.

Thanks for your participation.