

Meeting of the DER Sub-Group

02 March 2005

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Douglas Casson Coutts, WFP Country Representative.

The attendance list is at Annex A.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

Issues Raised in the Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- Earthquake preparedness, discussed at DER Sub-Group meeting on 09 Feb 05:
 - DER Secretariat was requested to centralize and disseminate the main earthquake gap analysis reports done in Bangladesh, particularly those commissioned by EC, JICA and ActionAid, prior to the DER Earthquake Preparedness consultation meeting on 29 Mar.
 - This consultation meeting should bring together relevant Government departments and agencies, relevant donor representatives, and members of the DER facilitators group, on Tue 29 Mar, with USAID agreeing to take the chair. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the DER Sub-Group's objectives in this area, to determine the composition of a DER Earthquake Preparedness Working Group, and to generate its work plan.
 - A question was raised whether DER should deal with earthquake preparedness in addition to response. Aside from the illogic of working only on response yet not being prepared to respond, the Chair replied that the need for DER to address preparedness had been agreed at the time of earthquake in Rangamati and Chittagong in July 2003.

The Secretariat has subsequently circulated an earthquake preparedness questionnaire. Responses from member agencies will be compiled and shared at the meeting, provided that members respond to the questionnaire as requested no later than Wed 16 Mar.

- Gender and Diversity in Disasters DER Working Group (WG) meeting on 28 Feb 05:
 - The WG is still working on drafting its ToR. Oxfam prepared the first draft and Concern is working on the second. This draft should be ready for circulation amongst members by 15 Mar, with feedback required by 22 Mar.
 - The WG is preparing the checklist to plan and evaluate gender and diversity sensitive disaster response. Oxfam prepared the first draft and WG members have been requested to give their feedback by 10 Mar.
 - The WG has prepared a list of relevant literature, which should help to promote understanding of existing policy, as well as providing practical guidance on the subject.
 - DER has scheduled a one-day workshop on Wed 23 Mar to review and revise the DER assessment forms, not only to make them more user-friendly but also more gender and diversity sensitive. The DER Assessment WG will meet on Mon 14 Mar, in IDB Bhaban, in order to plan the content and methodology of the one-day workshop.

The Assessment WG meeting will take place in IDB Bhaban at 1030 hrs on 14 Mar. The Secretariat will invite representatives of DER member agencies that participated in the assessments conducted by the DER Sub-Group during 2004.

Briefing on the new MoFDM Corporate Plan and discussion for enhanced collaboration with the DER Group

- Mr. Syed Mohammad Zobaer, Additional Secretary, MoFDM, and Director General, Disaster Management Bureau was introduced and welcomed. He made a presentation on Government's vision and mission in disaster management:
 - GoB's vision is to reduce the vulnerability of the poor to the effects of natural, environmental and human induced hazards to a manageable and acceptable humanitarian level.
 - MoFDM's mission is to bring a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional preparedness and response to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture. It's overall objective is to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh Disaster Management System to reduce unacceptable risk and improve response and recovery management at all levels.
 - Mr. Zobaer expressed GoB's commitment to tackle with the issue, through concerted efforts within Government and promotion of partnerships among development actors.
- Mr. Ian Rector, Chief Technical Adviser, CDMP made a presentation on the objectives, strategy and structure of the CDMP:
 - CDMP is a GoB vision and the Strategic Focus of MoFDM. Its 5 key result areas are:
 - i. Professionalisation of the DM system, using international standards;
 - ii. Partnership development;
 - iii. Community empowerment;
 - iv. Expanding prevention, preparedness response and recovery programmes across a broader range of hazards; and
 - v. Strengthening emergency response capabilities.
 - Achieving the objectives requires a comprehensive approach in which Government, NGOs, donors and UN should combine their efforts. Ultimately CDMP aims to produce uniform standards and methodologies for disaster management from which any agency could benefit. Its approach is community-based, and it aims to design and develop a risk-specific disaster management programme for each community, with the outcomes of risk assessment guiding all development. It also plans to establish a system of information sharing, by setting up national and district information centres.
 - DER must review its role in this dynamic new GoB approach, to avoid duplication.
- Mr. Graeme Nicholas, CDMP Consultant, made a presentation on the MoFDM 5-year Corporate Plan (2005-2009):
 - The Corporate Plan is a key strategic planning document that aligns the GoB vision to the MoFDM mission and key strategic objectives, which serves as a roadmap/guidance document for detailed planning and as a key advocacy document.
 - It is a consultative approach, planned in line with a number of international and national drivers influencing disaster management in Bangladesh.
 - GoB will hold a two day Workshop on Implementing the MoFDM Framework for Action on 16-17 Mar, to identify priorities for the first year and potential partnerships, and to develop strategies for implementation, which should lead to the production of Strategic Plans for DMB, DRR and DGoF, including their action plans for 2005.
 - Feedback to the MoFDM Corporate Plan should be sent to graeme@cdmp.org.bd

Their combined PowerPoint presentation is available at <http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/>

- Following the presentations there was a discussion on how DER could support this process.
- The Chair mentioned that DER has had an inclusive process involving GoB, NGOs, donors and the UN – all key actors in Bangladesh disaster management – that is more advanced than other LCG Sub-Groups. Many of the NGOs have long experience in community level DM, and they could contribute to the sharing of best practice in risk reduction.
- UNICEF asked for a detailed implementation plan, including how to develop partnerships.
- Professor Mahbub from Dhaka University pointed out that the Government should implement a specific programme that targets the most vulnerable and poorest, to help them reduce their vulnerability to disasters.
- Ian Rector responded that the Programme aims to establish a mechanism that particularly targets the poor and vulnerable, based on strengthened partnerships with local NGOs. He stressed that the Corporate Plan is a strategic document and development partners should plan their work to be in line with the strategy and support the process.
- Syed Mohammad Zobaer added that GoB aims to bring more systemization to disaster management, and in the process they would mainstream the best practices of any agency – including NGOs – once there were mechanisms to assimilate them.
- The Chair summarized the discussion by expressing his appreciation of GoB's close engagement with the DER Sub-Group and its development process, and he requested GoB to continue its regular involvement. He stressed that DER should support the Government's strategic process, and hoped that DER members – specifically NGOs experienced in disaster management – would contribute to the process.

Weather forecast and any new emergency situations and response:

- The precipitation maps show that the country will remain dry.
- CEGIS is committed to continued collaboration with DER, and will provide 48 hour River Flood Situation Maps and Open Water Extent Maps during the flood season.

Forthcoming lean season in Northern and Western Bangladesh:

- A concern was raised that the price of rice is high, and that the vulnerable poor will have difficulty purchasing it during the lean season.
- CARE reported that currently there should be no scarcity of employment, as it is the harvesting season and the agriculture sector needs labour. It was suggested that April-May could be the lean time for agricultural workers, once the boro transplantation is over.
- MoFDM plans food for work (FFW)/cash for work (CFW) programmes through April and May in Rangpur and Kurigram Districts. With CDMP's assistance it has developed selection criteria to determine beneficiaries in partnership with NGOs, and its partnership programme has started in Gaibhanda. MoFDM is trying to make similar arrangements in Kurigram, so that the programme may start there before the anticipated 'monga' in April.
- UNDP's CFW programme is still ongoing.
- WFP plans to distribute food rations to support more than 250,000 beneficiaries in at least six districts (Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Sirajganj, Kishoreganj, Netrokona and Sunamganj). 50 kg rice and 1 litre of vegetable oil will be distributed for the months of April and May, starting in early April. Implementation will be through WFP's existing NGO partners in those districts, utilizing resources now returned which had been diverted for the Tsunami.

DER Lessons Learned Workshop Report:

- Charlie Higgins is working on the report, which would be finalized on Sunday 6 March.

Any other business

- Observation of National Disaster Preparedness Day on 31 March:
 - The last working day of March every year has formerly been marked as ‘National Disaster Preparedness Day’. This year the Government is trying to cut down on the number of such commemorative days, and so the Ministry elected to mark International Disaster Reduction Day in October as its one official commemoration.
 - However, many DER Members were concerned that they will lose an important disaster preparedness awareness-raising opportunity, before the normal flood season, if this day is not marked by activities at national and local level. The Secretariat was therefore tasked to approach DMB to ask the Government to take the lead in coordinating some joint events, which they would fund from their own resources.
 - It was agreed that DER Group should support Government’s initiative and leadership in organizing a NDPD event, if there should be any joint exercise as such.

The Secretariat has written formally to the DG requesting DMB to take this initiative, and a meeting of interested Members is scheduled for 1400 hrs on 7 Mar in IDB Bhaban.

Next DER meetings:

- DER Assessment WG Planning Meeting – Mon 14 March, 1030 hrs, at IDB Bhaban.
- DER Gender and Diversity WG Meeting – Mon 14 March, 1330 hrs, at IDB Bhaban.
- DER Workshop to Revise the DER Assessment Forms – Wed 23 Mar, at Concern.
- Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Meeting of the DER facilitation group, GoB and donor representatives – Tue 29 Mar, location TBC.
- Next DER Group Meeting – Wed 6 Apr, 1400 hrs, at IDB Bhaban.

It was agreed that, in principle, any DER meeting which falls on a hartal day should take place at the same time and same venue on the next working day.

Other events:

- Ad hoc meeting to discuss preparation for National Disaster Preparedness Day – Mon 07 Mar, 1400 hrs, at IDB Bhaban.
- CDMP Workshop on Implementing the MoFDM Framework for Action – 16-17 Mar.
- National Disaster Preparedness Day (TBC) – Thu 31 Mar, locations TBC.

DER Secretariat

07 March 2005

ANNEXES

A. Attendance List

ANNEX A**ATTENDANCE LIST**

Serial	Name	Organisation
1	Mr. Shashanka Saadi	Action Aid Bangladesh
2	Mr. Aminul Kausur Dipu	Action Aid Bangladesh
3	Ms. Azra Naveen Ahmad	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
4	Mr. Md. Nasir Uhlah	BDRCS (CPP)
5	Mr. Monzu Morshed	CARE
6	Ms. Shantana R Halder	CDMP
7	Mr. Abdul Latif Khan	CDMP
8	Mr. Graeme Nicholas	CDMP
9	Mr. Ian Rector	CDMP
10	Mr. Rubaiyat Aumi	Christian Aid
11	Mr. Ashutosh Dey	Concern
12	Mr. Pankaj Kumar	Concern
13	Ms. Sally Gregory	DFID London
14	Mr. Duncan King	DFID Dhaka
15	Dr. AQM Mahbub	Dhaka University
16	Mr. Khaled Hossain	Disaster Forum
17	Mr. Md. Majibur Rahman	DMB - MoFDM
18	Mr. M. Abu Toyeb Sikder	DMB - MoFDM
19	Mr. Md. Fazlul Hussain	DRR - MoFDM
20	Mr. Mustafa Alam	EMIN
21	Mr. Sid Tupper	EMIN (CIDA)
22	Mr. Syed Mohammad Zobaer	GoB - MoFDM
23	Mr. Nurul Amin Bagmer	Islamic Relief
24	Mr. Shafiquzzaman Rabbani	IFRC
25	Mr. K. M. Sanwar Ali	Oxfam
26	Mr. Parvez Zabed	PROSHIKA
27	Mr. M. A. Rashid	UNDP (DMCPT)
28	Mr. Md. Tarik-ul-Islam	UNDP
29	Mr. A.K. Masood Ahmed	UNICEF
30	Mr. Golam Kabir	USAID
31	Mr. Maksudur Rahman	World Vision Bangladesh
32	Mr. Douglas Casson Coutts	WFP [Chairperson]
33	Mr. Charlie Higgins	WFP [Secretariat]
34	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP [Secretariat]
35	Ms. Mariko Hattori	WFP [Secretariat]