

## Meeting of the DER Sub-Group

5 January 2005

The meeting was opened by Mr. Bill Barclay, WFP Deputy Country Representative, who handed the chair to Ms. Rehana Banoo, WFP/DER Secretariat. Mr. Charlie Higgins is away on an emergency mission in Indonesia.

The attendance list is at Annex A.

### MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

#### Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- The following two minutes were adopted without any changes:
  - DER Sub-group meeting (24 Nov 04)
  - DER Working Group Meeting on Gender and Diversity in Disasters (22 Dec 04)  
*The working group had a meeting on 11 Jan 05 at 1400hrs at Oxfam. Oxfam, the lead agency, has drafted minutes and will finalise and disseminate them shortly.*

#### Weather forecast and any new emergency situations and response:

- Precipitation maps show that the Indian subcontinent will remain dry for the week. (<http://grads.iges.org/pix/prec6.html>, [http://www.ncmrwf.gov.in/ind\\_rain5.htm](http://www.ncmrwf.gov.in/ind_rain5.htm))
- Asian Tsunami Response:
  - The tsunami had little impact on people's lives and livelihoods in Bangladesh.
  - Some DER member agencies are assisting response activities in the affected countries. For example, GoB sent people, items and carriers. A number of UN agencies and NGOs also sent staff members and items to the affected areas.
- Earthquake Preparedness:
  - A seismic information map prepared by Bangladesh Earthquake Society (BES) in 2002 was circulated for information. The website of the India Metrological Department was introduced as a useful information source ([http://www.imd.ernet.in/main\\_new.htm](http://www.imd.ernet.in/main_new.htm)).
  - Two meetings relating to earthquakes and tsunamis were held recently: the Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Co-ordination Committee meeting on 3 Jan 05 under the auspices of MoFDM; and a seminar by CDMP and BES on 4 Jan 05. In both events, documents were distributed and experts made informative presentations.
  - DER members generally shared their shared concern that little has been done for earthquake preparedness in Bangladesh: capacity in seismic research and warning are limited; more awareness-raising activities are needed, as well as an advocacy plan.
  - The following earthquake preparedness work is known by DER member agencies to be currently ongoing or in the planning stage:
    - <sup>2</sup> In the area of seismic research and warning, the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved the establishment of four seismic observatories. Some universities also conduct research in earthquake monitoring.
    - <sup>2</sup> MoFDM has been preparing for a simulation exercise, which should take place in Feb 05. The Additional Secretary of MoFDM will attend the South Asian Seismic

Conference (Honolulu, 22-24 Feb 05). CDMP is preparing a Handbook on Cyclones in coordination with the Disaster Research, Management and Training Centre (DRMTC) of Dhaka University. The revision of Standing Orders on Disaster Management (SODM) is ongoing, and an earthquake and tsunami component and the whole issue of risk management will be included in the revision. The planned revision will take a longer time than expected and as unlikely to be completed before the Kobe Conference (18-22 Jan 05).

*MoFDM was requested to share the revised draft of SODM with the DER Group .*

- <sup>2</sup> Earthquake contingency plans are written for some cities, but they are not readily operational due to lack of resources, capacity or commitment.
- <sup>2</sup> UNICEF has been assisting with earthquake preparedness for many years. It conducted seminars in major cities, a training programme for the Army and prepared a booklet, amongst others. It also sponsored a seminar to discuss lessons from the Bhuj Earthquake in India, and the visit of a GoB team to draw experiences.
- <sup>2</sup> Some NGOs have conducted awareness-raising workshops, mostly at a local level, but a nationwide awareness programme is needed, especially for urban centres.
- <sup>2</sup> The European Commission conducted an earthquake 'gap analysis' study in 2004, which it would be useful to share if they could make it available.

*It was suggested that the DER Secretariat solicit all currently available documents and other information materials on earthquake preparedness, in order to circulate them amongst DER members.*

*The DER Secretariat will upload the relevant information on the LCG website once received. Secretariat asks DER members to provide relevant information.*

- The ToR of the DER Earthquake Working Group needs to be reviewed in order to draw up a work plan as soon as possible. It was proposed that its main task would be to develop an earthquake contingency plan for the DER Group.
  - There are scientists and researchers within the country who have good knowledge on earthquakes. However, there is a gap between knowledge and practices. It was proposed that either DER or GoB should organize a workshop to start bridging the gap between these experts and the practitioners (i.e. GoB, NGOs and UN Agencies).
  - It was suggested that DER should support the development of a regional early warning system.
- Cold Wave:
- There has been an increase in pneumonia and diarrhoeal diseases. 9 deaths were reported in Meherpur and Rangpur.
  - Two cold waves are predicted in the week starting from 16 Jan 05.
  - It was suggested that it would be useful to know agencies' response activities, if any, and it was agreed that the role of DER Group on Cold Wave would be primarily information sharing.

#### **Overall national food security situation:**

- Mr. Rajendra Aryal, FAO, was introduced to the group. He is newly assigned and is responsible for emergency programmes in six districts. He shared information on damage in agriculture due to the two cycles of flooding during 2004: 39 out of 64 districts were badly affected, especially their T Aman rice cultivation, with the damage level varying across different areas. Due to the damage to seedbeds during the flooding, some yield

losses are anticipated. The percentage of damage in different districts varies as per the damage database received from the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

- Mr. Amir Ibrahim, WFP Emergency Operations (EMOP), presented the status of the recent WFP EMOP. During October and November 04, the Vulnerable Group Rehabilitation (VGR) programme distributed 30 kg rice each to 1,539,500 households, totalling 46,185 MT. In addition, vegetable oil was distributed to 332,325 VGR households in three districts, totalling 132.93 MT. Separately, the Supplementary Feeding Programme under the joint management of UNICEF and WFP, started on 17 Dec. WFP Fortified Biscuits are being distributed in primary schools in areas affected by the floods.

#### **Review of DER Flood 2004 Lesson Learning Workshop:**

- Mr. Sanaul Mustafa, the lead facilitator of the workshop is preparing the report, which should be submitted to the DER Secretariat by end Jan 05.

*Any comments on the summary conclusion of the workshop (a Powerpoint presentation), which has been circulated amongst DER members by e-mail, should be sent to the DER Secretariat, since it will become the basis for the DER's draft work plan for 2005.*

#### **Any Other Business:**

- A working group on advocacy and communications could be formed, as a follow-up of the discussions at the Lessons Learned Workshop in Dec. 04. The working group would support the DER Group in planning and acting more strategically in the areas of advocacy and information/communication.

*An outline explaining the purpose of the working group will be prepared by Ms. Usha Mishra, WFP Advocacy Adviser, and will be e-mailed to DER members shortly. Agencies interested in joining the group are requested to respond to the e-mail.*

- The Cyclone Shelter Management Information System (CYSMIS) prepared by CEGIS and the Disaster Management Bureau on the initiative of CARE-Bangladesh, thanks to USAID funding, will be launched at a special DER meeting on 19 Jan 05. The meeting will take place from 1400 to 1600hrs at the auditorium on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of IDB Bhaban.

#### **Next DER Meeting:**

- The DER Gender and Disasters WG will meet on Tue 11 Jan 05 at 1400 hrs, at Oxfam.
- The next full meeting of the DER Sub-Group will be on Wed 02 Feb 05 at 1400 hrs, in the UN meeting room on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the IDB Building.

*DER Sub-Group Secretariat*

*20 January 2005*

**ANNEXES**

**Attendance List**

**Annex A****ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>Serial</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1	Mr. Md. Shah Suja	CARE
2	Dr. Shantana R. Halder	CDMP
3	Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman	CDMP
4	Mr. Riaz Khan	CEGIS
5	Mr. Rubaiyat Aumi	Christian Aid
6	Mr. Ashutosh Dey	Concern
7	Mr. Rafiqul Islam	HEDS
8	Dr. Md. Saydul Alom	Islamic Relief
9	Mr. Palash Mondal	NIRAPAD
10	Mr. Maksudur Rahman	World Vision Bangladesh
11	Mr. Md. Mainul Hasan	JICA
12	Ms. Shahnaz Zakaria	USAID
13	Mr. Rajendra Aryal	FAO
14	Mr. Amir Ibrahim	WFP
15	Mr. Anwar Naeem	WFP
16	Ms. Usha Mishra	WFP
17	Dr. K. Zaman	WHO
18	Dr. Kazi Akram	WHO
19	Mr. Serguei Diorditsa	WHO
20	Ms. Dilruba Haider	UNDP
21	Mr. Md. Tarikul Islam	UNDP
22	Dr. Rafiqus Sultan	UNFPA
23	Mr. A. K. Masood Ahmed	UNICEF
24	Mr. Bill Barclay	WFP [on behalf of DER Chairperson]
25	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP [DER Secretariat]
26	Ms. Mariko Hattori	WFP [DER Secretariat]
27	Ms. Nazria Islam	WFP [DER Secretariat]