

Meeting of the DER Sub-Group

5 October 2005

Mr. Edward Kallon, Deputy Country Director, WFP chaired the meeting. He formally introduced Mr. John McHarris, Adviser, DPR section to all the DER members. The participants introduced themselves. The attendance list is attached as Annex A.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

1. Adoption of the minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes of the last DER meeting held on 7 September 2005 were adopted without any modification.

2. Review current emergency situation and response by agencies:

Dr. Zahidur Rahim of WHO reported on diarrhoea and dengue during the period of 26 September to 2 October 2005. A total of eighteen thousand cases of diarrhoea have been reported and seven have been reported dead and 534 cases of dengue have been reported out of which 1 died. UNICEF representative reported descending trend of river water level and river erosion at Faridpur district. He also informed that some educational institutions likely to be affected if the erosion continues. Honorable Minister for MOFDM visited Faridpur district. So far, 100 families have been affected and lost their households and took shelter in the higher safer places. Government allocated cash, food and distributed subsidized food ration cards.

Islamic Relief reported that in Nilphamari district the flood situation is not alarming. But close monitoring of the situation is needed. It was discussed that in the coastal belt, fishermen usually do not take any preventive measures if the signal number is 3, they tend to take risk as they get more fish in this period.

Mr. Atiq Ahmed of CEGIS informed that baseline survey was conducted on Monga to know the phenomena. Draft report has been submitted to UNDP. He also informed that PPRC has done a Monga forecasting survey. All these could be discussed in details in any of the next DER meetings.

Presentation on Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) and progress [CDMP/DMP]:

Dr. Shantana Halder presented on CDMP. This presentation was done as in the last DER meeting participants had shown their keen interest to know that what CDMP is and their progress etc. Her presentation included GoB's vision on disaster management, MoFDM's mission and the overall objective of CDMP. The planning framework was also shown. Some international and national drivers are being identified for putting the CP in place. These are: IDNDR, ISDR Platform, WSSD, MDGs, PRSP, National Workshop on Floods 2004 and WCDR (Hyogo) Declaration. She had also shown the drivers in diagrams to make it clearer. The main points of strategic focus for disaster management are professionalising the disaster management system, mainstreaming, and community empowerment, expanding risk reduction across a broader range of hazards, strengthening emergency response systems and maintaining and strengthening the national food security system. The presentation also included the national risk reduction framework, disaster management model in Bangladesh. The four key elements discussed were i. Getting the PPRR balance right-scientific and traditional hazard and risk analysis, ii. moving from generic to

specific and traditional risk assessments, iii. Mainstreaming risk reduction and iv. Empowering stakeholders partners and communities. She also presented the benefits of CDMP risk management, CDMP's structure, framework and finally the DMIC-DIFP information flow.

Mr. Morshed thanked Dr. Shantana for her presentation on behalf of the DER members.

After the presentation, Mr. Morshed asked all if they have any questions. Mr. Akhter of Oxfam suggested that CDMP should include 'gender' in their activities and it should be mainstreamed and regarded as a driver. Mr. Latif clarified this by saying that gender and disability issues are mainstreamed into CDMP's activities.

Mr. Sadi of ActionAid Bangladesh suggested Dr. Shantana to make another presentation in near future updating on their activities, their current status etc.

Finally Dr. Shantana requested all the members to visit CDMP and their website. She also stressed on the fact that CDMP likes to work together with others and not in isolation.

4. International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) observance:

Mr. Majibur Rahman of DMB informed that the government has decided to observe the day on 12 Oct'05 not only in Dhaka but all over the Bangladesh. DMB to send letter to District Administration to observe the day making their own arrangements. UN agencies Donors and others partners are also involved with GoB to celebrate the day. The theme of the day is "**Risk reduction using micro finance tools and safety ness**". GoB will organize a daylong seminar on that day. Two papers will be presented in the seminar. One is on Disaster Risk Management to be presented by Disaster Management Bureau and the other one is on Micro Finance as a tool for risk reduction and social safety to be presented by one of the renowned economist. The inaugural session will be chaired by the Honorable Minister of MoFDM and the Chief Guest might be (not yet decided) the Finance Minister and the Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management will be the Special Guest. The programme includes the prize distribution among the winners of the Essay competition, which was organized by MoFDM. Students from different schools, colleges and universities took part in this competition. A workshop to be organized on "Micro finance and safety net tools". The participants to be divided into five groups and the possible facilitator of this workshop might be Professor Yunus.

Mr. Monzu Morshed on behalf of DER Secretariat requested all member organizations to extend support and cooperation based on their ability to make the day a success because that will ultimately create some awareness and also create some impact on the next generation of this country. Suggestions came to electronically circulate this programme to all DER members.

5. Follow up of action points from previous meetings:

Update on the implementation of the orientation plan on Rapid Initial Report (RIR) and Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) formats and finalization of DER District Information Focal Points [Secretariat]

Mr. Monzu Morshed expressed his gratitude to all DER members for their cooperation in completing the ten orientations sessions on RIR and RENA. He presented at a glance the summary of the total sessions, the number of participants and also the number of organizations attended. Participants included GoB, NGOs and other UN agencies. The last session was done on the 4th of October 2005. He has also said that DER is planning to organize more sessions on these two forms for the targeted participants. In future, DER secretariat will focus on the capacity building exercise for the District Information Focal Points (DIFPs). The final list of DIFP with

detailed roles and responsibilities have been developed incorporating the suggestions made by the DER member organizations. In the last meeting some of the member organizations suggested to specify the expectations from each and individual organization. Based on their suggestion, expectation from the DIFPs have been reviewed and fine-tuned. Mr. Morshed on behalf of DER secretariat requested the DER members to circulate this to their partner organizations (DIFP) to strengthen the system and to make this more functional.

DER Standby roster:

After the flood 2004, it was suggested in the lessons learned workshop to develop a database with members who are experienced in the field of disaster damage and needs assessment. Considering this, nominations were invited from different organizations to send their names and on the basis of that information DER secretariat have prepared a roster. Mr. Morshed has requested all the participants to send the CV/profile of that particular person so that DER can make a database in their MIS system.

Finalization of the DER Gender and Diversity Checklist:

Mr. Morshed informed all that the gender and diversity checklist could be considered as final we have not received any feedback on this from any organization.

6. RECAP on DER Working Group Activities

-Assessments/Gender & Diversity/Earthquake/Standards

Mr. Monzu Morshed requested the representatives of the working groups to give an update on the current activities of the respective working groups.

Mr. Chitta Ranjan Biswas from CARE-Bangladesh updated on the activities of the working group on assessment. After 2004 flood, two assessment formats Rapid Initial Report (RIR) & Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) have been developed incorporating suggestions from different member organisations. This year these forms are being used by different member organizations.

Mr. Akther from OXFAM, briefed on the activities of the Gender and Diversity working group. They worked on developing a gender and diversity checklist to address the gender and diversity issue during disaster. After number of meetings, workshops this checklist has been finalized. But he also assured that this is a living document and any suggestions could be incorporated. He also requested all to assess this with their last assessment report to identify the loopholes. He also informed that they would now hire a consultant for a period of maximum three months to take this work forward and also requested all to send CVs if they have any.

Mr. Syed Ashraf of DMB updated on the earthquake-working group. So far they have done couple of meetings. The membership and the ToR were finalized in last April and May respectively. They have developed earthquake preparedness matrix 2005-07. But they could not do the vulnerability map as yet. He has informed all regarding the International Symposium to be held in December 2005. Question asked if DMB is preparing any inventory for the earthquake preparedness. Mr. Ashraf informed that government since 2000 has started developing inventory for search and rescue equipment for every districts. After the formation of the technical committee MoFDM also formed a sub committee. Sub-committee made a new inventory for organizations like PWD, Armed Forces Division etc. Dr. Shantana suggested that vulnerability analysis should be done by the experts not by the working group. Mr. Sadi of ActionAid informed all that they have developed a vulnerability atlas for identifying the earthquake prone zones at Chittagong.

They can do a presentation on this in any of the next DER meetings. He also informed about the workshop to be organized by AAB on Right to Minimum Standard from 8-10 October at AAB.

The chair of the standard group is IFRC. This group has not started working as yet. Once they start working this can be shared with the DER members.

5. Any Other Business

Suggestions came from all DER members to include river erosion as an agenda in the next DER meeting.

6. Date/time of next meeting

Wednesday, 16 November 2005, 14:00 hrs at IDB Bhaban 17th floor.