

LCG Sub-Group on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 7 June 2006

The meeting was chaired by Mr. John McHarris, Advisor, Disaster Preparedness and Response, WFP.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

1. Adoption of the minutes of the DER meeting on 3 May:

The minutes was adopted after a minor correction of an error. The revised minutes is to be circulated shortly.

2. Situation Monitoring and Update/IFRC's Response to Recent Floods:

This agenda item was modified and merged to agenda item 3 'Response Coordination.'

3. Response Coordination

- IFRC's Presentation on Planned Response to Upcoming Floods

IFRC presented their planned response to upcoming floods. Points are summarized below:

- In floods 2004, 30-36 million people were affected while IFRC's assistance reached 1.42 million, which was less than 5 % of the total affected. IFRC's food basket included 20kg of rice, 5kg of pulse and 2 liter of edible oil.
- IFRC is preparing for a flood scenario similar to 2004 floods in the magnitude, severely affecting 43 districts all over the country. IFRC assumes that Northern Districts (Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna) and East Jamna area (Jamalpur, Tangail, Manikganj) would be most severely affected, and much of their assistance would therefore go to the area. IFRC's scenario assumes that they would cover approx. 4-5 upazilas per District.
- IFRC's targeting of beneficiaries will be done at upazila level and will not be done at unions or village level.
- In the event of a major flood, IFRC would not be able to reach all the population in needs, while much other humanitarian assistance would also try to reach the population in the same district, which IFRC would assist. Coordination among agencies is needed for efficient response management and for minimizing duplications and gaps. IFRC therefore proposes a coordination meeting at IFRC's office.

In the subsequent discussions, following points were agreed:

- *MoFDM is the major provider of food relief in the country, and coordination initiatives should involve the Ministry.*
- *MoFDM will host a flood response coordination meeting at Ministry's office, hopefully by end of June. MoFDM will inform agencies concerned of the date and the time of the meeting once the Ministry finalizes the arrangements.*
- *The Working Group on Response Standards, chaired by IFRC, will prepare a brief summary on key issues and the progress of the working group for the MoFDM coordination meeting (see also the section 'standardizing relief package' below).*
- *The outputs from the meeting will be shared at the next DER meeting by MoFDM.*

The Chair suggested that the agenda for the meeting would be a) brainstorming of what are the issues of coordination, b) discussions on specific issues to be prioritized for the current flood season, and c) recommendations/suggestions from the meeting.

CDMP, DFID, IFRC, Concern, Oxfam and WFP expressed their interest in attending the meeting.

It was suggested by UNDP that the focal person of the CDMP/Disaster Management Information Center (DMIC) should attend the meeting as well.

- Data and information sharing

The Chair asked the floor if there is any issue to be discussed related to data and information sharing in response coordination. No particular issues were raised for discussion.

- Standardizing relief package

DFID and Oxfam raised an issue of the different quality and quantity of relief package (food and non-food) between agencies. As an example, GoB's food relief, which covers the largest number of beneficiaries, includes one food commodity (rice or wheat), while donor's food basket usually includes two or more commodities (rice/wheat, pulse, oil etc.). Donor's relief package is not provided to the GoB beneficiaries as donor's selection criteria include those most vulnerable who have not been reached by the GoB (and other agencies). Meanwhile, it is the poorest of the poor who receive the GoB relief. A growing feeling of unfairness and dissatisfaction among beneficiaries who received less than others is another concern.

The standardization of a relief package would not require a single agency to meet the standard by itself. It could be that more than one agencies supplement each other to meet the requirement of the standardized relief package, so that beneficiaries receive the standardized package that could be made up from contributions by more than one agencies.

The following points were agreed:

- *Considering that GoB is the key player in the issue of standardization, the DER Working Group on Response Standards, chaired by IFRC, will prepare a summary report on the issues and the status of the Working Group to be presented at the MoFDM response coordination meeting.*

Dr. Nina Dodd, Concern proposed a presentation on the activities of the working group on 'Nutrition during Emergency and Non-Emergency Scenarios,' which is a part of the Food and Nutrition Group under Agriculture and Rural Development Sub-Group of the LCG, at one of the future DER meetings.

- Procedures and mechanisms to review intervention proposals

WFP briefed the status of the UN NGO pre-qualification exercise as one of the examples of a mechanism to review intervention proposals from NGOs. Three UN agencies, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP, have short-listed 39 NGOs that are qualified as partners in emergency operations, through which UN assistance will be channeled. The list has been shared with MoFDM for its endorsement. The list would be finalized in July subject to the GoB endorsement. The list is planned to be periodically reviewed and updated.

DFID has a list of 10 NGOs pre-qualified as partners for emergency response.

DFID proposed a briefing on some issues of concern regarding response management at the next DER meeting, for further discussions.

4. Capacity Building for DIFPs and Stand-by Assessment Team Roster Members

Oxfam mentioned that there is a need for capacity for timely reporting of needs assessments.

CDMP mentioned that there is a need for follow-up training sessions on DER RIR and RENA forms.

The Chair shared the capacity building plans for DER members the Secretariat/WFP is planning for a coming few months as follows.

- A series of RIR and RENA training for DIFPs: July - September
- A WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) Training for GoB staff, Roster members and DIFPs: July-August
- Disaster Risk Management Training: After September

The Secretariat would finalize the date of these training considering the availability of the trainees at the time.

The Chair encouraged any other DER members' initiatives in leading a sector-specific training for DER members. *Any agency interested in leading a sector-specific training for DER members is requested to contact the Secretariat.*

5. Any Other Businesses:

Oxfam, the Chair of the Working Group on Gender and Diversity in Disasters, worked on the finalization of the DER Checklist and Guideline on Gender and Diversity Sensitivity in Disasters, and handed it for proof reading and editing to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will circulate the documents after editing and proof reading to the Working Group members. Oxfam and the Secretariat plan to print the publication for a larger circulation.

CDMP proposed to make a presentation on the "SAARC Expert Group Meeting outcome regarding Formulation of a SAARC Regional Framework on Comprehensive Disaster Management". CDMP also mentioned the fact that as part of MoFDM CDMP took the lead to process the initiative and finally developed and approved the Regional Framework in the SAARC Environmental Minister's meeting held in April 2006. The presentation would be on the SAARC Regional Framework on Comprehensive Disaster Management and the follow-up action.

Mr. M.A. Wahed, Concern proposed a presentation on their activities in disaster risk reduction at one of the future DER meetings.

NEXT DER MEETING:

The next meeting is proposed on Wednesday, 5 July, 1400 hrs at IDB Bhaban 17th floor.

The following presentations/agenda are proposed for the next DER meeting:

- MoFDM's sharing on the recommendations/suggestions from the meeting on response coordination
- DFID's brief on issues related to response management
- USAID/CARE's presentation on their Early Warning and Forecasting Project

The following presentations are proposed for future DER Group meetings.

- MoFDM/CDMP presentation on Action Plans for Comprehensive Disaster Management
- Dr. Nina Dodd, Concern's presentation on the activities of the working group on Nutrition during Emergency and Non-Emergency Scenarios
- Mr. M. A. Wahed, Concern's presentation on their activities in disaster risk management

Annex: Attendance List

ANNEX: ATTENDANCE LIST of DER Meeting held on 7 June 2006

Organisations	Sl	Name	Organization
GoB	1	Mr. Md. Nasir Uddin Ahmed	Deputy Secretary, MoFDM
	2	Mr. Syed Ashraf	DMB
	3	Ms. Shantana Halder	CDMP/UNDP
	4	Mr. Latif Khan	CDMP/UNDP
Donor	5	Mr. Johnny Sarker	DFID
	6	Mr. Alan Biggs	IFRC
	7	Mr. William Halder	IFRC
	8	Ms. Shahnaz Zakaria	USAID
UN	9	Mr. Tarik Islam	UNDP
	10	Mr. John McHarris	WFP
	11	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP
	12	Mr. Monzu Morshed	WFP
	13	Ms. Farhana Pinky	WFP
NGOs	14	Mr. Sifayet Ullah	Action Aid Bangladesh
	15	Dr. Nina Dodd	Concern
	16	Mr. M. A. Wahed	Concern
	17	Ms. Armana Ahmed	ICDDR,B
	18	Dr. M. Bazlur Rahman	IIRD
	19	Mr. Maksudur Rahman	Islamic Relief
	20	Mr. Kazi Emran Bashar	IWM
	21	Mr. Palash Mondal	NIRAPAD
	22	Ms. Kabita Bose	Oxfam
Secretariat	23	Ms. Mariko Hattori	DER Secretariat (WFP)

Minutes recorded and circulated by: DER Secretariat