

**LCG Sub-group on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER)
Minutes of the Meeting held on August 31, 2008**

Chair : Mr. K.H. Masud Siddiqui, Director General,
Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), MoFDM

Co-Chair : Mr. John Aylieff, Country Director, WFP, Bangladesh

Venue : CDMP Conference Room (6th floor) at Mahakhali Tran Bhaban, Dhaka

Date : 31 August 2008 at 1500 hrs

Participants: The list of participants as introduced by them is attached as Annex A.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

1. Update from DER members on areas and population known to be currently affected and/or areas/populations currently at risk in the near term:

Chair: The Chair identified this DER meeting as a special emergency meeting as the overall flood situation of the country is alarming. As per the FFWC Rainfall and River Situation Report of August 30, 2008, it is very likely to deteriorate by next 2/3 days. Close monitoring of the situation and preparedness action needs to be strengthened to handle if any emergency occurs. He requested to all DER members to share their field observations regarding the current flood situation.

WFP: WFP presented an overview of Flood Risk update in Bangladesh, including analyzed information on the up-stream (India, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya and neighboring areas) situation. The presentation highlighted on i) Factors contributing to higher risk ii) Regional Geography; Up-stream trends iii) Situation in Bangladesh iv) Risk of significant flooding v) Higher risk areas in Bangladesh vi) Preparedness actions needed. The presentation emphasized on:

- Regional perspective (i.e. Up-stream monitoring...)
- Close monitoring at the ground level for situation update; and
- Preparedness actions for potential rapid response.

UNDP: UNDP commented that if flood water does not drain directly into Bangladesh it may impact differently. A case in point is Jessore water logging, which was the consequence of surface run-off from flood water from India.

DRR: Member representing and informed that DRR staff is collecting daily information on flood situation from the upazilas and districts. After compilation, they send the report to the MoFDM. DRR shared the situation updates of 12 districts (Dhaka, Manikganj, Sylhet, Shunamganj, Netrokona, Rajbari, Madaripur, Serajganj, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Chapainawabganj) which are likely to be affected in the near future. According to the SitRep from DRRO office of these districts, the flood situation is still not alarming, except three districts – Rangpur, Nilphamary and Lalmonirhat. Low lying areas in these three districts are flooded. Other districts reported normal flood situation as of the meeting date. DRR informed that the field level officials are closely monitoring the situation.

2. Coordinated preparedness actions that are/can be taken:

Chair: The Chair mentioned that the GoB district level officials are closely monitoring the flood situation. He requested to inform or discuss with Deputy Commissioners if any information available with the DER members for rapid response and necessary action.

Preparedness Actions:

GOB:

- Regular meeting of the Disaster Management Committee (DMC) at district and upazila level
- Flood Situation reports update
- Ready stock for rapid response

UN Agencies:

- Close monitoring and review the flood situation at the field level with partner NGOs
- Flood Situation reports update
- Ready stock for rapid response

NGOs:

- Close monitoring at the field level
- Flood Situation reports update

Agencies provided on update on available emergency stock position.

CDMP: CDMP presented the following overview on current GoB pre-positioning status of the 12 districts which are likely to inundate by next 48-72 hours:

Districts	GR cash (BDT)	GR rice (MT)	HBL (BDT)
Chapainawabganj	50,000	80	Nil
Sirajganj	250,000	18	50,000
Nilphamari	24,000	50	8,000
Lalmonirhat	40,000	36.44	50,000
Gaibandha	50,000	44	13,000
Kurigram	123,000	20.38	50,000
Rangpur	50,000	47.1	350,000
Dhaka	140,000	23	Nil
Narayanganj	50,000	50	50,000
Jamalpur	50,000	28	50,000
Faridpur	120,000	23	Nil
Rajbari	50,000	50	50,000
Total	997,000	469.92	671,000

Note: Rajshahi, Netrokona, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Sunamganj, Sylhet and Tangail have no GoB GR allocation either in rice or cash.

UNICEF: UNICEF is closely monitoring the flood situation and discussed with the Dept. of Public Health and the Dept. of Education for materials and logistic support needed for rapid response. UNICEF also has stock of nonfood items and high energy biscuits stored in WFP warehouses located in Lalmonirhat and Khulna. Information on the status of food stocks in the GoB LSDs would be useful. UNICEF emphasized on information availability at field level and on having a national inventory database of resources to support better coordination for effective rapid response.

FAO: FAO informed that they have completed the targeting of the flood affected areas from earlier flood experience. The areas of intervention are the provision of livestock, seeds and fertilizer. The Donors are UK (DFID), Belgium, UNCERF and Switzerland.

- They have two partner NGOs: Proshika and Muslim Aid ready for response in those areas.
- About 50,000 HHs are targeted in 22 flood risk districts for the distribution of mung beans and maize seeds with fertilizers among the selected HHs in October 2008.
- About 8,500 HHs are targeted in Rangpur for vegetable seeds distribution in October 2008.
- A project funded by EU is in the pipeline to support both flood and cyclone affected people with rice, vegetable and fruit seeds, agricultural equipment: power tillers, irrigation pumps, HH grain storage facility.

Islamic Relief: IR informed that they have flood rehabilitation project in sylhet area and the flexibility to expand the project area if needed. IR has field level volunteers ready to respond in emergency.

Practical Action: Practical action informed that they are closely monitoring the situation. They have alerted their beneficiaries about the situation and have stand by volunteers.

Christian Aid: Contingency Plan has been recently updated. Some funds are left from 2007 flood.

CARE: Care regional offices in Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur and Tangail are jointly working in partnership with FFWC to monitor the river levels. Reserved resources include cash, HEBs. Services of six mobile water treatment plants and three warehouses (Chittagong, Dhaka and Tangail) would be available.

CARITAS: 5,000 wash kits are available. Volunteers are ready in Rajshahi and Rangpur and they are also in constant touch with upazila and district administration.

Health Ministry: Member of Health Ministry informed they are also monitoring the situation through their control room and has formed stand by medical teams for any emergency.

WFP: WFP is circulating the Monsoon Monitoring and Early Warning Bulletin once in a week and it will continue to make aware to all concerns about the flood situation. WFP sub-offices are sending daily situation reports to the country office. WFP has 100 MT biscuits readily available for quick response to 250,000 people for 5 days. In addition to that 300 MTs of biscuits are in process to procure. WFP is also in touch with regional procurement in Bangkok for regional stocks of ready to eat meal like rice, wheat, pulses and oils. WFP is discussing with its stand by implementing partners in the potential affected areas to join forces in emergency situation and Mr. Tariq Awan is the contact person at WFP Dhaka office for this.

Actions/Recommendations:

- DER members will send their individual resource status to DMIC (info@dmic.cdmp.org.bd) to develop a national inventory for rapid response if any emergency situation occurs.
- DER members are on stand-by; if the situation deteriorates the group might reconvene on short notice.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and to all participants.

ANNEX A: ATTENDANCE LIST of DER Meeting held on August 31, 2008

Agencies	Sl	Name	Organization
GoB	1	Mr. K. H Masud Siddiqui	DMB
	2	Dr. K.M. Wahidul Hoque	DGHS
	3	Mr. Tasdiq Ahmed	CDMP
	4	Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam	CDMP
	5	Dr. Mahmudul Islam	CDMP
	6	Mr. Matin Rahman	BDRC
	7	Md. Abu Sadeque	DMB
Donors	8	Ms. Reefat Sultana	World Bank
	9	Mr. Bhuiyan M. Imran	Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation
	10	Mr. Shaheen Mahmud	AusAid
	11	Mr. Ahmed Osmani	IFRC
	12	Mr. Michael M. Zeleke	IFRC
UN	13	Mr. Alfred Osunsanya	FAO
	14	Mr. Rahim Uddin Ahmed	FAO
	15	A.Z. M. Shamsul Huda	FAO
	16	Mr. Rune Brandrup	UNRCO
	17	Mr. Tarikul Islam	UNDP
	18	Mr. Steven Goldfinch	UNDP
	19	Mr. BMM Mozaharul Huq	UNDP
	20	Mr. Zulfikur Ali Khan	UNICEF
	21	Dr. Md. Zahidur Rahim	WHO
	22	Mr. John Aylieff	WFP
	23	Mr. John McHarris	WFP
	24	Ms. Maria Katajisto	WFP
	25	Ms. Tasneem Rahman	WFP
NGO	26	Mr. Akhila D' Rozario	Caritas BD
	27	Mr. Reuben Marandy	World Vision Bangladesh
	28	Ms. Roisin Shannon	Christian Aid
	29	Mr. Golam Motasim Billah	Christian Aid
	30	Ms. Farida Shahnaz	Practical Action BD
	31	Mr. Mike Slotteanz	Plan Bangladesh
	32	Ms. Shamima Akhttar	Plan Bangladesh
	33	Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman	IOM
	34	Ms. Nishat A. Chowdhury	IOM
	35	Mr. Syed. Md. Aftab Alam	Islamic Relief
	36	Mr. M.A Wahed	CARE
DER	37	Mr. Malik Kabir	DER Secretariat (WFP)
Secretariat	38	Ms. Nusrat Shahrin Urmi	DER Secretariat (WFP)