

**LCG Sub-group on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER)  
Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2006**

Mr. John McHarris, Adviser, DPR section, WFP chaired the meeting.

The list of participants is attached as Annex A.

**MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING**

**1. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 August and 23 August 2006**

- There was a correction in the minutes of 2 August:  
[Page 4, Agenda Item 5, the last bullet point, line 1]  
'Plan of Action was drafted' should be replaced with 'Plan of Action will be drafted'.
- There was an update for the minutes of 23 August:  
[Page 1, Agenda Item 1, Oxfam's comment, second paragraph, line 2-3]  
'6000 families' should be replaced with '4000 families for one month'.

**2. Situation Monitoring and Response Update**

**2.1 Follow up on Water Logging in South-West Bangladesh**

**2.1.1 Situation update**

- IFRC views that despite the response efforts of Government, IFRC and some other agencies, the needs of the affected population have not been sufficiently met. In particular, there is an urgent need for shelter, food, water, sanitation, and medical assistance. IFRC is distributing relief items as much as it can and requests other agencies for more support.
- The view that there is an immense need for more relief was shared by some other NGOs.

**2.1.2. Submission of a letter to GoB**

- The Chair mentioned that the last DER meeting on 23 August suggested that the DER should submit a compiled DER needs assessment report to GoB at the occasion of GoB water logging meeting that was initially scheduled on 11 Sept. Oxfam took the lead of compiling the needs assessment reports of five agencies that conducted individual needs assessments; i.e. Action Aid, Concern Worldwide, IFRC, Islamic Relief, and Oxfam. The report represents a good progress, although it needs more work towards finalization. The GoB water logging meeting was postponed and the new date should be announced at any time. To be in time for the meeting, the Secretariat proposes to submit a letter to GoB that expresses DER's concern on the current situation and urges GoB's attention to it, without waiting for the finalization of the DER assessment report.
- The draft letter prepared by the Secretariat was circulated around the table for comments.

- Dr. Aslam Alam, CDMP expressed a concern on proceeding with such a letter that expresses DER's concern and urges GoB's further assistance. He suggested that the DER should wait for the finalized DER report, and submit it to GoB for information sharing.
- The suggestion to send the finalized report seemed to have gained support by a few agencies.

### **Conclusion**

- It seemed that some of the agencies were uncomfortable in submitting the letter that expresses DER's concern on the situation and urges GoB's assistance. Instead of submitting such a letter, it was suggested that the DER needs assessment report should be finalized and submitted to GoB, for information sharing. However, the report needs to be strengthened before the submission.

### **2.1.3. Finalization of the DER needs assessment report**

- The Chair requested the five agencies that conducted needs assessments, for their continued efforts to finalize it. The Chair suggested that the Secretariat would continue to provide technical support to the five agencies to complete the compiled report. The Secretariat has provided the working group with guidelines. The Chair requested the five agencies to meet and work on the improvement of the report. As a few DER members requested the Secretariat for more involvement in the process, the Chair agreed to send one staff to the working group meeting to strengthen the report.

### **Action**

- Subsequently it was decided that representatives from the five agencies (Action Aid, Concern Worldwide, IFRC, Islamic Relief, Oxfam), and the Secretariat should meet to work on the compiled report at 1400 hrs on 26<sup>th</sup> September at Oxfam.

### **2.1.4. Other issues related to Water Logging**

- CDMP mentioned the needs of longer-term development assistance to address the root causes of water logging problem. Dr. Shantana Halder proposed a high level workshop to consult on longer-term development needs and steps forward among stakeholders.
- The Chair noted the proposal by CDMP. He commented that the GoB meeting on water logging that should be rescheduled soon, would be an opportunity to discuss DER's possible assistance to GoB to complement GoB's efforts in resolving medium and longer term development needs.
- A few agencies mentioned the needs of DER to agree on a standard relief package. The Chair suggested that the Working Group on Standardization should be revitalized. He added that reaching a consensus on a standard package would take longer time efforts.
- Action Aid reported that it set up a secretariat in the field to coordinate its response with other agencies. Action Aid sent a letter to all international NGOs working in the field to seek cooperation.
- Save the Children mentioned that the affected population includes a minority group who are in a socially insecure status. He underlined the needs to pay attention to the social/political vulnerability when planning and providing assistance to them. He requested information from DER members on any practices that focus on this aspect.

- It was requested that the Secretariat should update the response matrix and circulate it.

**Action**

- DER members who are responding to the water logging in SW are requested to send updated information on their response, so that the Secretariat can circulate the updated response matrix.

**2.2 Follow up on Unusually Dry Monsoon 2006**

- This agenda item was postponed to the next DER meeting due to the extended discussions on agenda item 2.1.
- DFID proposed that any updated information on the drought-like situation should be circulated among the Group before waiting for the next DER meeting.

**Action**

- DER members are requested to send updated information on the current drought-like situation to the Secretariat.

**3. Concern Worldwide Bangladesh presentation on Disaster Risk Reduction Activities**

- Mr. Pankaj, Concern Worldwide made a presentation on Concern Worldwide Bangladesh activities on Disaster Risk Reduction. PowerPoint Presentation has been circulated separately by e-mail to DER members, and will be uploaded to the LCG DER website at: <http://www.lcgbangladesh.org/>

**4. Any other business**

- No AoB was proposed.

**NEXT DER MEETING**

The next meeting is proposed on Wednesday, 4 October 1400 hrs at IDB Bhaban 17<sup>th</sup> floor.

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

**ANNEX A: ATTENDANCE LIST of DER Meeting held on 13 September 2006**

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Sl</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
GoB	1	Mr. Md. Mozidul Islam	BMD
	2	Mr. Probir Kumar Das	DMB
	3	Dr. Md. Sohrabn Ali	Department of Environment
	4	Dr. Aslam Alam	CDMP/UNDP
	5	Ms. Shantana Halder	CDMP/UNDP
Donor	6	Ms. Ailsa Harper-Hennessey	DFID
	7	Mr. Abdul Awal	ECHO
	8	Mr. Alan Biggs	IFRC
	9	Dr. Rafiqus Sultan	UNFPA
UN	10	Mr. Md. Zulfikur Ali Khan	UNICEF
	11	Mr. John McHarris	WFP
	12	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP
	13	Ms. Farhana Pinky	WFP
	14	Mr. Iftekhar A. Chaudhury	WFP
NGOs	15	Mr. Sajid Raihan	Action Aid Bangladesh
	16	Ms. Wahida Bashar Ahmed	Action Aid Bangladesh
	17	Mr. Simson Halder	ADRA
	18	Mr. A T M Shamsul Alam	CEGIS
	19	Mr. Pankaj	Concern Worldwide
	20	Mr. M A Wahed	Concern Worldwide
	21	Mr. Charles S. Sarker	Christian Aid
	22	Ms. Sumaya Noor	Disaster Forum
	23	Mr. Md. Abdur Rahman	Handicap International
	24	Mr. Nurul Amin Bagmer	Islamic Relief
	25	Ms. Marguerite Hondow	Oxfam
	26	Ms. Kabita Bose	Oxfam
	27	Mr. Suman SMA Islam	SC-UK
	28	Mr. Ryan Belasso	World Vision
DER Secretariat	29	Mr. Monzu Morshed	DER Secretariat (WFP)
	30	Ms. Mariko Hattori	DER Secretariat (WFP)
	31	Mr. Malik Kabir	DER Secretariat (WFP)

*Minutes recorded and circulated by: DER Secretariat  
28 September 2006*