

Meeting of the DER Sub-Group

7 September 2005

Ms. Kartini Opposunggu, Chief of Resource Management and Programme Support Service (RMPSS), WFP on behalf of Mr. Edward Kallon, Deputy Country Director, WFP chaired the meeting. 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 3 August 2005 were adopted without any modification.

2. Review current emergency situation and response by agencies:

The overall flood situation at this moment is not alarming, localized and within local coping capacity. Mr. Atwar Rahman from ITDG informed that the flood situation in Gaibanda was quite normal. In some Char area farmers are still expecting more water for better cultivation. Rehana Banoo of WFP shared her observation on the last day's newspaper report. The Executive Engineer of FFWC in the media said that despite there was fresh inundation of some areas, he did not predict any major flood this year. According to the media, water-borne diseases in flood-affected areas are rising. It has been reported that 9 people died of diarrhoea in Sirajgonj. The local people suspected that the main cause of diarrhoea might be drinking of unsafe water. UNICEF representative informed that according to the government sources one or two children died of diarrhoea but others died of some other diseases. Severe riverbank erosion has been reported in Northern part of Bangladesh rendering thousands of people homeless as the water is receding. Till now no alarming news on flood has been reported.

3. UNESCO/IOC-led Expert Mission to Bangladesh in the framework of Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (21-24 Aug 05) [UNESCO/DRR/DMB/CDMP]

Mr. Majibur Rahman, Director, DMB gave a brief presentation on the UNESCO/IOC led Expert Mission to Bangladesh on Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System. He informed that the IOC and UNESCO Committee visited the DMB office regarding activities to be taken for risk reduction on Tsunami. They have gone through the questionnaire consisting of more than hundred questions. DMB filled the questionnaire and sent it to the UNESCO office. Based on the questionnaire UNESCO and IOC proposed 24 recommendations in five key areas i.e. Authority and Coordination, Tsunami Warning and Tsunami Monitoring, Tsunami Warning Response and Emergency Preparedness, Tsunami Hazard and Risks, and Tsunami Public Awareness and Preparedness and Community Level Activities.

Dr. Mohd. Shahadat Hossain Mahmud, Deputy Director, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR) summarized the key issues on the above-mentioned five key areas. According to him, though the occurrence of Tsunami in Bangladesh is not likely, there is potentiality and the Government of Bangladesh cannot ignore threat of Tsunami. In this regard, government has already taken necessary measures and respective organizations like DMB, DRR, Geological Survey of

Bangladesh, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Bangladesh Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and educational institutions have been assigned to work for international co-operation and co-ordination of Tsunami Preparedness and Response activities, if required. Government has also taken some measures for Tsunami Risk Management. He also mentioned that an International Coordination Meeting on ‘Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean within a Global Framework’ was held at UNESCO Headquarters, France from 3-8 March 2005 where DG, DRR and Director, GSB from Bangladesh attended. On 4 April 2005 a meeting titled “Tsunami Early Warning System for Bangladesh within Indian Ocean and Global Framework” was held at the conference room of DG, DRR that was attended by 17 participants representing all concerned ministries and departments. Forty-one suggestions were adopted in that meeting. The UNESCO/IOC Expert mission attended a three-day long workshop from 21-24 August 2005 on Tsunami related issues.

Mr. Chitta Ranjan Biswas of CARE-Bangladesh suggested having a special meeting to focus on Tsunami. Dr. Shantana Halder of CDMP informed that two training courses are being offered by ADPC where a few Bangladeshis will be attending.

4. Follow up of action points from previous meetings:

Finalization of DER District Information Focal Points [Secretariat]

Mr. Monzu Morshed briefed on the status of DER District Information Focal Points, covering all the 64 districts. The list of nominated agencies has been electronically sent out to all the DER members. An information flow chart has been prepared showing the process how the ground level information provided by the Focal Points could be incorporated into the overall disaster management system of the government. There is also a plan to build up their capacity in future so that they can also participate in the rapid assessment forms training.

DER Secretariat will circulate this final list to non-DER agencies and those who are not included in the list. The Focal Point NGOs can share this list with their partners who have not been nominated but can contribute to this process.

Mr. Atwar Rahman of ITDG suggested having two Focal Points for each District. It was also suggested to have two or three local partners to make the information flow more effective. Ms. Dilruba Haider of UNDP also welcomed the idea of having a back up Focal Point. She thinks that strong commitment is needed to be Focal Point. Mr. Monzu Morshed of DER Secretariat explained that the initial idea was to have one Focal Point for one particular District. He proposed that it could be reviewed after some time and having a back up Focal Point could be considered.

Ms. Tanja Haque of Christian Aid requested to specify the key tasks of the Focal Points and to circulate this to all. The Chair suggested to summarize the key responsibilities of Focal Points in not more than two or three bullet points which could be shared among the DER members towards finalisation.

Orientation Plan on Rapid Initial Report (RIR) and Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) formats [RDRS]

Mr. Anthony D’Cruze from RDRS briefed on the status on RIR and RENA orientation sessions. The main objectives of the orientation sessions are (i) to familiarize potential DER assessment team

members with new Rapid Initial Report (RIR) and Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) formats, (ii) to create common understanding among the participating agencies and (iii) to review the information collection and report consolidation process. These two formats have been developed having series of discussions with GoB, NGOs and UN agencies and also field-testing. Ten orientation sessions have been planned out of which three sessions have been completed where 92 participants from various agencies attended. One session was hosted by Christian Aid in CCDB Hope Training Centre, the second one was done in Dhaka IDB Bhaban organized by WFP, and the third one was hosted by RDRS at Rangpur and the remaining seven sessions will be hosted as per orientation plan, which had been circulated to all DER members. After the completion of all the sessions, the assessment formats should be further refined.

Ms Rehana Banoo mentioned that agencies are expected to participate in the session covering the area of their location. The Secretariat might organize additional sessions for agencies, which could not attend the sessions on the given date, if there is sufficient demand. Mr. Monzu Morshed said that DER Secretariat would circulate the programme with the details of agencies, venue and date within two days. The orientation sessions will be held in convenient locations. He also requested the respective agencies to nominate District Information Focal Points or any of their partners who might find this session useful.

Finalization of the DER Gender and Diversity Checklist [Oxfam]

Mr. Sanwar Ali from Oxfam presented the Gender and Diversity Checklist. He requested the DER members to read the checklist and give their comments by 21 September 2005. The checklist has been circulated electronically among DER group. Once it is agreed by all it can be finalized.

5. Any Other Business

UN NGO Pre-qualification [UNDP/DMCPT]

Ms. Dilruba Haider of UNDP briefed the members on the status of NGO pre-qualification exercise by UN agencies. Initial scrutiny of the NGOs was done by the three concerned UN agencies (UNDP, WFP and UNICEF) and 110 NGOs have been short-listed out of 216 applications received based on agreed sifting criteria. 8 enlisted Audit firms by the three UN agencies have been briefed on the process and tasks to go to the field for assessing the in-depth capacity of the initially short-listed NGOs. These firms are to submit their bid proposals by 17 September 2005. The selected audit firms will audit programme management capacity, financial capacity and disaster management capacity. Selected audit firms will complete the auditing by November 2005. Shortly letters will be sent out to the short-listed NGOs informing that audit firms will be visiting. The whole process of this pre-qualification will hopefully be completed by December 2005.

3rd International Warning Conference, Bonn, March 2006 [German Embassy]

Mr. Christian Lehmann from German Embassy in Bangladesh presented the Early Warning Conference to be held in Bonn next March. This will be convened by the Government of Germany under the auspices of the United Nations from 27 to 29 March. It follows the World conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Japan. This EWCI aims to mobilize efforts to implement the recommendations of the preceding conferences. The main outcome of the conference will be the launch of a range of short- and long-term early warning projects in high priority countries. It is expected that the conference will bring together 600 representatives of governments, parliaments and international organizations as well as practitioners and members of the scientific community.

International Day for Disaster Reduction

Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin of Save the Children, USA asked if the DER is going to observe this day on 12 October 2005. Md. Majibur Rahman, Director, DMB said that they are going to mark this day once it is approved by the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management. After the approval DMB will then call up a meeting with the concerned NGOs and will decide on the programmes to be chalked out to celebrate this day. It was suggested that the NGOs should share their plans with DMB so that they can coordinate the events.

Mr. Anthony D' Cruze from RDRS mentioned that he is not clear of the roles and responsibilities of CDMP and MoFDM/DMB in disaster management. It was suggested that DER group could have a session to promote understanding on this.

6. Date/time of next meeting

Wednesday, 5 October 2005, 11:00 hrs at IDB Bhaban 17th floor.

**ANNEX A:
ATTENDANCE LIST
DER Meeting held on 7 September 2005**

Organisations	Sl	Name	Organization
GoB	1	Mr. Majibur Rahman	Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation
	2	Dr. Mohammad Shahadat Hossain Mahmud	Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation
	3	Dr. Shantana Halder	CDMP
Donor	4	Ms. Ailsa Gaunt	DFID
	5	Mr. Johnny Mantu Sarker	DFID
	6	Mr. Christian Lehmann	German Embassy
	7	Mr. Anwar Hossain	ECHO
UN	8	Ms. Dilruba Haider	UNDP
	9	Mr. Md. Tarik-ul-Alam	UNDP
	10	Dr. Muhammad Zahidur Rahim	WHO
	11	Mr. Abdul Awal	UNICEF
	12	Ms. Kartini Oppussungu	WFP (Chair on behalf of Mr. Edward Kallon)
	13	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP
	14	Mr. Monzu Morshed	WFP
	15	Mr. Malik Kabir	WFP
	16	Ms. Farhana Pinky	WFP Field Coordination Section
NGOs	17	Mr. Matiur Rahman	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
	18	Mr. Chitta Ranjan Biswas	CARE-Bangladesh
	19	Mr. Hamidur Rahman	CARE-Bangladesh
	20	Mr. M A Wahed	Concern-Bangladesh
	21	Mr. Ashutosh Dey	Concern-Bangladesh
	22	Ms. Tanja Haque	Christian Aid
	23	Mr. Atiq Kainan Ahmed	CEGIS
	24	Ms. Armana Ahmed	ICDDR,B
	25	Mr. Atwar Rahman	ITDG
	26	Mr. Nazmul Islam Chowdhury	ITDG
	27	Ms. Nazria Islam	IFRC
	28	Mr. Md. Latiful Bari	IIRD
	29	Mr. Nurul Amin Bagmer	Islamic Relief
	30	Mr. Sanwar Ali	Oxfam
	31	Mr. Anthony D'Cruze	RDRS
	32	Mr. Craig M. Arnold	SC-USA
	33	Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin	SC-USA
DER Secretariat	34	Ms. Mariko Hattori	DER Secretariat (WFP)
	35	Ms. Roushan Ara Begum	DER Secretariat (WFP)
	36	Ms. Meher Nigar Bhuiyan	DER Secretariat (WFP)

Minutes recorded and circulated by: DER Secretariat

DER Group Motto: "Ready to Respond in Times of Need"