

Planning Meeting of the DER Sub-Group 13 February, 2006

The planning meeting of the DER sub-group was held on February 13, 2006, at the 3rd flood IDB Bhaban conference room. Ms. Rehana Banoo of the DER Secretariat (Manager, DPR, WFP) chaired the meeting. Mr John McHarris, Adviser, WFP DPR Section made opening remarks. Mr. Syed Sadrul Ameen and K. M. Sanwar Ali facilitated the discussions and Mr. Rabindranath Bhaumik assisted in recording. The participants introduced themselves and the list is attached as Annex - A. In view of the importance of the meeting agenda, the turnout was large including representation from the Government, Donor, UN, INGO, local NGO and others.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

1. Adoption of the minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the last DER meeting held on January 18, 2006 were adopted.

2. DER Clients

In order to review the DER Terms of Reference the discussion began with the participants' perception on DER clients who uses services/information/guidance form the DER. This was a plenary discussion where participant spontaneously identified the following as the DER client:

Donors, INGOs (that are interested as well as those working in the field of disaster management), CBOs, local NGOs (those having disaster management activities), Disaster Management Committees of the GOB at districts and upazilas, Media, UN agencies, SAARC, Disaster Networking Groups (such as NIRAPAD), Researchers, Vulnerable Communities and Disaster related GOB organisations.

It was commented from the participants that DER should be careful in the client selection as some of the above named organisations do not receive services directly from the DER, e.g., CBOs and Vulnerable Communities.

3. Clients' Expectation from DER

In an attempt to understand the clients' expectation from DER the participants formed five groups and had group discussions on the expectations of six organizations/agencies: 1) Donor; 2) GOB; 3) UN; 4) INGOs and local NGOs; 5) Media and 6) Networking alliances including interested researchers.

Media and Networking alliances expectations were done by one group. The expectations from this exercise came out as below:

Donor Group

- Timely and reliable information flow – DER acting as focal point
- Clear Needs Assessment including specific recommendations on external assistance – benchmark against other years
- Co-ordinate relief and recovery efforts in order to achieve maximum impact and minimize duplications
- Gradual increase in GOB participation to maximize DER complimentary approach to GOB efforts¹
- Food Security monitoring² in extreme situations and in chronic areas

INGO/NGO Group

- Timely, appropriate and reliable information flow – DER acting as Focal Point
- Advocacy for effective response
 - Trigger³
 - Standard quality response
- Co-ordination to avoid duplication
- Capacity building through enhancing skills of the disaster responders, developing guidelines and setting procedures, simulation exercises for both slow onset and sudden disasters

Media Group

- Information that is timely, authentic, reliable, easily accessible and understandable
- Various types of information those are situational; specialist view; response by GOB, NGOs and international agencies; and gaps in the response

¹ Discussing on handing over to GOB within 3 to 5 years it was clarified that all that the DER is doing is not transferable to the GOB and also the GOB has already a disaster response set up. Since the DER (an LCG sub-group created by the donors) compliments the GOB efforts to manage disaster response, increased involvement of the GOB will gradually enhance the GOB capacity for effective response.

² It was agreed that although ensuring food security during normal time is not the scope of the DER sub-group, extreme food insecurity might arise due to several reasons including drought, flood, etc. Also, there are some areas where acute food insecurity situation (*Monga*) prevails seasonally. Therefore, the DER should monitor such extreme food insecurity situation.

³ It was discussed that due to political or other reasons the GOB is not proactive in declaration of disasters despite the emergency situations and as such to trigger the response effort it is sometimes late. International agencies and NGOs involvement in the response efforts are also delayed as it depends on GOB's desire to seek or accept external assistances.

- Facilitation of field visits

Networks and Independent Group

- What DER think about response in an emergency situation
- Updated information and analysis
- Archived information on disasters due to different hazards
- In-depth analysis based on reliable data

UN Group

- Sector specific needs information including displacement of people
- Early Warning related information
- Co-ordination, transparency⁴ and information sharing
- Capacity building and technical collaboration with GOB and Partners

GOB Group

- Enhance the linkage between the GOB and the DER
- Support for preparation of National Disaster Management Plan
- Support for strengthening the ground level information sharing
- Support for Human Resource Development of the GOB⁵

4. Matching of the Client expectations with the existing ToR

A draft ToR was distributed among the participants. The same groups who came up with the list of expectations reviewed the draft ToR to match with the expectations. The groups then identified gaps and proposed changes in the draft ToR as below:

Donor Group proposed changes

- Background: add – DER will not deal with other chronic problems such as long-term food security
- Mission statement: add – to reduce the vulnerability of the poorest and most affected members of society
- Objectives: Clarify the terms such as “sudden” and “preparedness” (add Glossary of terms)
- Objective – 2: add - “disaster situation” & “short-term recovery⁶”

⁴ It was stated that the DER maintains transparency in all its activities. It is the expectation that this level of transparency will be maintained.

⁵ The general consensus was that the DER would support HRD for all who needs human capacity enhancement, irrespective of GOB, NGO or other.

⁶ The participants agreed that DER would not be involved in long-term rehabilitation.

- Objective – 3: add – “through policy dialogue and wider communications (including media)”
- Scope: link to other LCGs dealing with long-term problems
- A separate section for Target
- Move the last sentence of the functioning paragraph to the membership section
- The functioning section should mention the significant secretariat role of WFP

INGO/NGO group proposed changes

- In the vision statement add –affected population
- Objective –2: capture “Improved information system” and “Capacity building for effective response”
- Objective – 3: capture “Rapid/Trigger”, “Minimum standard for response” and “protection”
- Scope and Target: mention “Immediate relief and short term recovery”

Media Group proposed changes

- Objectives: add “Enhance regional co-operation (neighboring countries) on early warning”
- DER for generating, collating and disseminating information
- Add - “minimum standards, “code of conduct” and “Trigger points”
- Add – “Advocacy on preparedness for effective response”
- Membership – include “Networks”, “Alliances”, “Research Institutions” and “Independent Disaster Practitioners”
- Mention in the ToR how contributing to risk reduction

GOB Group proposed changes

- Add – “DER to support for preparation of National Disaster Management Plan”
- Add – “Support for HRD” to compliment GOB efforts

5. Draft Revised ToR

It was decided that the DER secretariat will draft a revised ToR based on the recommendations and will circulate among the sub-group for review. This will be finalized in the next DER meeting.

6. Priority Focus Activities

The DER secretariat was also given the task to develop a priority thematic list for FY 2006. Some members suggested for a longer-term planning, but finally it was agreed to proceed on annual basis because of the reason that the LCG guidelines stipulate the ToR to be reviewed once a year.

Annex – A

Serial	Name	Organisation
1	Simon Halder	ADRA
2	Anwar Hossain	ECHO
3	Shahnaz Zakaria	USAID
4	Md. Abdur Rahman	MoFDM (GOB)
5	Anthony D’Cruze	RDRS
6	Anil Tambay	OXFAM
7	Dr. Muhammad Zahidur Rahman	WHO
8	Md. Ruhul Amin	SC-USA
9	Md. Mohiuddin	SC-USA
10	Md. Nasir Ullah	CPP, BDRCS
11	Md. Azad	IOM
12	Ms. Tahera Zabeen	CIDA
13	M. Siddiqur Rahman	IIRD
14	Abdul Awal	UNICEF
15	Rubaiyat Aumi	CHRISTIAN AID
16	Khaled Hossain	DISASTER FORUM
17	Taherul Islam Khan	WVB
18	Matiur Rahman	BDRCS
19	Tapan Kr. Brahma	BRAC
20	Iftekhar A Chowdhury	ISLAMIC RELIEF
21	K.M.Sanwar Ali	OXFAM
22	Syed Sadrul Ameen	CONSULTANT
23	Johny Sarker	DFID
24	Y. Wright	DFID
25	Md. Tariqul Islam	UNDP
26	Muhammed Taher	IND. CONSULTANT
27	Suman Sma Islam	SC-UK
28	Nazmul Islam Chowdhury	PRACTICAL ACTION-B
29	Fazlul kabir	HANDICAP INT.
30	Mariko Hattori	WFP
31	Waheda Basher Ahmed	ACTIONAID
32	Pronob Kumar Ghosh	NGO AFFAIRS BUREAU
33	Shah Muhammed Nasim	NGO AFFAIRS BUREAU
34	Malik K Kabir	WFP
35	Meher Nigar Bhuiyan	WFP
36	Monzu Morshed	WFP
37	Dilruba Haider	UNDP
38	Md. Abu Sadeque	DMB
39	John McHarris	WFP
40	Nurul Amin Bagmer	ISLAMIC RELIEF
41	Pankaj Kumar	CONCERN

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Aemana Ahmed
Dr. Samarendra Karmakar
R. N. Bhowmik

NIRAPAD
BMD
IND. CONSULTANT