

**LCG Sub-group on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER)
Minutes of the Meeting held on July 5, 2006**

Ms. Rehana Banoo, Manager, DPR section, WFP chaired the meeting. The participants introduced themselves and 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 7 June 2006:

The minutes were adopted without any modification.

2. Situation Monitoring and Update:

-MoFDM's sharing on response coordination

The meeting to discuss flood response coordination to be convened by the Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR) at the end of June could not be held due to unavoidable circumstances. MoFDM/DRR will inform agencies concerned of the date and the time of the meeting once finalized.

Ms. Rehana Banoo informed that the government allocation to face emergencies during the current fiscal year is not yet finalized. It is assumed that the figure would remain the same as last year. (2005)

SCF-USA: The flood situation report of SCF-USA circulated to DER members informed that the situation in its programme area (Brahmanbaria, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barisal districts) is normal and not threatening.

IFRC: It informed on the situation of flood in Sylhet. The rain stopped, water level started receding but some areas are still waterlogged. No massive humanitarian assistance needed at this stage. But there is possibility of flooding in case of continuous heavy rainfall in the next few days. IFRC also informed about the river erosion in Lalmonirhat district that displaced almost 150 families. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) has been instructed to provide these displaced families with VGF cards.

SC-UK: They are closely monitoring the situation particularly in their programme area in Sylhet and Kurigram. As the flash flood occurred just after the harvesting period, the food security situation is not threatened as such. They also have a close eye on the issue of child protection in these areas. A simple questionnaire has been developed which focuses on the working children, school going children, children living without their parents in the flood shelters, number of schools, number of schools closed, number of schools damaged by floods etc. They also have a close watch on the local market prices. SCF-UK proposes to prepare situation report compiling all these information and will circulate among the DER members either on a fortnightly or on a weekly basis depending on the situation.

UNICEF: They informed on the flood situation in Kazipur and Dimla. Localized flood occurred because upstream flow of water. The magnitude was not very much significant.

NIRAPAD: As informed the river erosion in Kurigram is a major problem.

DER Secretariat: The secretariat informed that there is strong possibility of heavy rainfall during the weekend (7-8 July 2006) in Sylhet region. DER is closely monitoring the situation.

Action:

DER Secretariat will continue to circulate situation information as and when they receive from DER members.

3. USAID/CARE's presentation on Early Warning and Forecasting Project:

Dr. Selvaraju of ADPC made a presentation on Climate Forecast Applications in Bangladesh. This is a pilot project funded by USAID and implemented by CARE-Bangladesh in collaboration with ADPC in Bangkok. The project has two objectives: the first objective is 'Forecast technology tested, and transferred and capacities developed to operationalise the forecast systems within Bangladesh' and the second objective is 'Sustainable end-to-end generation and application of flood information established through pilot projects at selected sites, showing measurable improvements'.

Main points are summarized below:

- Current status of flood forecasts in Bangladesh reflected insufficient lead-time to modify decisions.
- Risk reduction issues at community level focusing on the key stakeholders like farmers, fishermen, laborers, boatmen, traders, women and disaster managers etc, the issues and the lead time given to these stakeholders.
- Seasonal, Intra-seasonal and short range-the three tier forecasting system.
- Two main points for water level monitoring are: Hardinge Bridge and Bahadurabad.
- Presentation showed that in May 2004 this model successfully predicted the flood in July 2004.
- Expected outputs in terms of 'Technology Transfer' and 'Capacity Building'.
- Institutional linkages, mainly with Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), Directorate of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Institute of Water Modeling (IWM), Centre for Environment and GIS Services (CEGIS), Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), CARE and other end users. Institutional structure will be addressed and defined later.
- June forecast shows that there is possibility of extensive moderate flood in late October this year. However this is likely to change as per any forecast between August and late September 2006.
- This model could predict flash flood and a 10 days lead-time could be given.
- It is too early to share this pilot model among the DER members for preparedness.
- In this climate forecasting model the stream flow outside the border in addition to rainfall situation data will be considered on a continuous process.

In the subsequent discussions following issues were raised:

- Mr. Tarik of UNDP made a few suggestions. First to circulate this sort of forecasting information to DER secretariat as DER could be one of the beneficiaries. DER can receive this information and can disseminate among the DER members accordingly. Secondly to increase the number of water level monitoring points and thirdly to involve CEGIS and IWM to provide information on drainage flow so that the inundation period could be predicted as well.
- CDMP suggested that they should consider Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR) as one of the institutions for linkage.

4. UNICEF Presentation on Nutrition in Emergencies:

Ms. Harriet Torlesse made a brief presentation on 'Nutrition in Emergencies'. Summary of her presentations include the followings:

- Malnutrition in Bangladesh particularly in women and children. This becomes even serious when a natural disaster occurs. Types of malnutrition (Normal, Wasted, Stunted and underweight), the micronutrient deficiencies. Lack of nutritious food and poor health are the main causes of malnutrition for women and children.
- Survey shows that night blindness and severe underweight became serious for mothers and children aged 6-59 months respectively after the 1998 flood. Children under 5 years, particularly under 2 years, pregnant and breastfeeding women are the most at risk. Experience suggests that there is the need to prevent and treat malnutrition in emergencies.
- Food is not enough for preventing malnutrition. Extremely malnourished children need high energy fortified biscuits (BP-5), zinc, vitamin-A supplement, blended food and therapeutic feeding. Pregnant women need high-energy biscuits, iron, blended food and nutrition education and breastfeeding mothers need safe place to breastfeed apart from the above. Breastfeeding should be protected by preventing supply of powdered milk and above all good and strong coordination is needed among humanitarian agencies and government to ensure optimum coverage.
- The presentation also focused on the purpose and membership of Inter-agency Nutrition Cluster for coordination of issues relating to nutrition in emergencies, their ToR etc. A form was circulated among the participants requesting them to complete the form if they are interested to be a member of this particular cluster. Once the cluster is formed they can convene a meeting and decide on what needs to be done prior to and after a disaster. As there already exists a technical nutrition-working group in Bangladesh focused mainly on nutritional aspects, the cluster will involve both technical and non-technical persons.

In the subsequent discussions following issues were raised:

- Ms. Tahera Jabeen of CIDA questioned about the status of the Health Nutrition Population Sector Programme (HNPS) under this cluster approach. UNICEF clarified that they are not undermining HNPS by having a separate group on Nutrition and has agreed to look into this seriously.
- SC-USA suggested to include ICDDR,B in this group as they have a separate Nutrition Unit to manage the malnourished children.
- ICDDR,B informed about their nutrition unit and said that their food is targeted for malnourished children considering the normal situation. But for emergencies these food are not enough. As such they very much welcome the concept of inter-agency group on Nutrition and showed their keen interest to be a part of that group.
- The Chair informed that globally UN has gone through a comprehensive humanitarian reform process for the humanitarian community to provide more timely and predictable response to crises around the globe. In 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) comprising United Nations Humanitarian Agencies, the Red Cross Movement, NGOs and the IOM reviewed the existing system and developed the concept of cluster approach with a dedicated cluster lead organization. It is intended to improve the predictability, efficiency and effectiveness of emergency preparedness and humanitarian response capacity. This approach could be built on the already existing DER sectoral approach. The UN Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) will be responsible for the implementation of the cluster lead

approach. The DER members can make a significant contribution in the implementation of this approach.

Action:

1. A presentation on Cluster Approach to be organized in any of the next DER meetings.
2. DER to circulate some simple related documents on cluster approach to the DER members through e-mail.

5. Any Other Business:

The Chair informed that SC-UK conducted a study on Child Protection issue during flood 2004. The report has not been published as yet but it has published a brief document using some important findings. Interested persons are requested to directly contact SC-UK to collect this document.

NEXT DER MEETING:

The next meeting is proposed on Wednesday, 2 August, 1400 hrs at IDB Bhaban 17th floor.

The following presentations/agenda may be considered for the next DER meeting:

- MoFDM's sharing on the government preparedness to face any eventualities.
- DFID's brief on accountability issues in response management
- MoFDM/CDMP presentation on the SAARC Regional Framework on Comprehensive Disaster Management and the follow-up action.
- Concern Worldwide-Bangladesh sharing their Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

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

ANNEX A: ATTENDANCE LIST of DER Meeting held on 5 July 2006

Organisations	Sl	Name	Organization
GoB	1	Ms. Shantana Halder	CDMP/UNDP
	2	Mr. Abdul Latif Khan	CDMP/UNDP
Donor	3	Ms. Tahera Jabeen	CIDA
	4	Mr. Johnny Sarker	DFID
	5	Mr. Alan Biggs	IFRC
	6	Mr. William Halder	IFRC
	7	Mr. Golam Kabir	USAID
	8	Ms. Shahnaz Zakaria	USAID
UN	9	Mr. Md. Tarik-ul-Islam	UNDP
	10	Ms. Harriet Torlesse	UNICEF
	11	Mr. Anwar Hossain	UNICEF
	12	Dr. Muhammad Zahidur Rahim	WHO
	13	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP
	14	Mr. Khandaker Shahidul Haque	WFP
	15	Ms. Farhana Pinky	WFP (Field Coordination)
	16	Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chaudhury	WFP (Consultant)
	17	Dr. R. Selvaraju	ADPC, Bangkok
	18	Mr. Tapan Kumar Brahma	BRAC
	19	Mr. Chitta Ranjan Biswas	CARE-Bangladesh
	20	Mr. A. B M Fazlur Rahman	CARE-Bangladesh
	21	Mr. Mir Abdul Matin	CEGIS
	22	Mr. Md. Motaleb H. Sarker	CEGIS
	23	Mr. Mominul Haue Sarker	CEGIS
	24	Mr. Sultan Ahmed	CEGIS
	25	Ms. Nina Dodd	Concern
	26	Mr. M A Wahed	Concern
	27	Mr. Charles S. Sarker	Christian Aid
	28	Ms. Armana Ahmed	ICDDRDB
	29	Mr. Maksudur Rahman	Islamic Relief
	30	Dr. D. Perera	MSF-Holland
	31	Dr. Golam Kibria	MSF-Holland
	32	Mr. Palash Mondal	NIRAPAD
	33	Ms. Kabita Bose	Oxfam
	34	Mr. Golam M. Billah	Plan Bangladesh
	35	Mr. Md. Atiquzzaman	SC-SD
	36	Mr. Suman SMA Islam	SC-UK
	37	Mr. Md. Ruhul Amin	SC-USA
DER Secretariat	38	Ms. Mariko Hattori	DER Secretariat (WFP)
	39	Mr. Malik Kabir	DER Secretariat (WFP)
	40	Ms. Raushan Ara Begum	DER Secretariat (WFP)
	41	Ms. Meher Nigar Bhuiyan	DER Secretariat (WFP)
Independent Consultant	42	Mr. Muhammad Taher	Independent Consultant

Minutes recorded and circulated by: DER Secretariat