

Meeting of the DER Sub-Group

06 April 2005

The meeting was chaired by Mr. William Barclay, WFP Deputy Country Director.

The attendance list is at Annex A.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The following meeting minutes was adopted without any changes:

- DER Sub-Group Meeting (2 March 05)

Weather forecast and any new emergency situations and response:

- Last week's tornado in the northwest
 - UNICEF reported that GoB is providing adequate support and made sufficient resources available to help victims and restore damages in the tornado-affected areas in the northwest. Some educational institutions are fully damaged and students' books were lost, while GoB has expressed that they would manage to address these issues. UNICEF is following up on the matter.
 - CDMP sent staff to Gaibandha, to hear from people at grassroots level. The mission found that Gaibandha DM committee worked quite well, and noted that the female members of the committee are very active and participate well in the process. A lessons-learned workshop will be organized on the experience in Gaibandha, and report should be prepared and finalized by next week.
- Monga situation
 - CDMP reported that a meeting on food and cash for work was held a few weeks ago in the presence of Minister of Food and Disaster Management and DGDRR. Minister ordered DGDRR to start food and cash for work programs in monga-affected areas.
 - A concern was raised that the price of rice has gone up in monga areas.
 - CDMP replied that two ships with rice reached the port yesterday. The rice should be available in market shortly after quality check is complete, which may alleviate the rice price increase.
 - WFP is hoping to start soon the last phase of food assistance under EMOP; Rural Livelihoods Support in Flood and Monga affected areas - April/ May 2005, among ultra poor households. This programme would cover over 320,000 families in seven districts - Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibanda, Sirajganj, Sunamganj, Kishoreganj and Netrokona. The targeted family will be receiving a food package comprising 1litre Oil and 50 kg rice before end May 2005, utilising mainly the Japanese contribution (rice), which was earlier diverted to Indonesia for Tsunami.
 - The Chair recommended that DER should compile information on warehouse capacity of member agencies.
- Cyclones
 - Abdul Latif Khan mentioned that according to MET office, two major cyclones in Bay of Bengal are predicted in this season. CPP of MoFDM/BDRCS will have a meeting tomorrow on a cyclone alert system.

- Others
 - DER's circulation of river situation maps would start in May/June.

Postponement of National Disaster Preparedness Day:

- Following the agreement at the DER meeting on 9 Feb, the Secretariat proposed DGDMB to take the initiative as before to mark the NDP Day on 31st May. As DMB supported the idea, DER formed a committee and planned activities including preparation of newspaper supplement and organising a national seminar at central level on the theme 'Disaster Preparedness Begins at Home'. Eventually, GoB went back to its initial idea not to observe NDP Day but observe International Disaster Reduction Day in October. Accordingly, it turned out that DER did not conduct any activities to mark the day as a group, although all preparatory work had been completed.
- CDMP added that although the day was observed by some NGOs locally, it was not observed at a national level. The decision not to mark the day was made by the cabinet.
- CARE mobilised 79 local partners in its NDP Day events at district and Upazila level.
- SCF in addition to observing the day in collaboration with district level authorities, it jointly with BDRCS contributed a supplement article in two Bengali dailies.
- Rehana Banoo suggested that DER should continue working on GoB to recognise the importance of marking NDP Day, as the day is more closely focused on communities, which are prone to disasters, and its purpose is distinct from International Disaster Reduction Day.
- UNICEF mentioned that GoB had decided that International Disaster Reduction Day subject to the availability of fund, which would require approx. 10,000 USD. UNICEF is likely to fund this event.

Communications and discussions in relation to the DER working groups:

- DER Workshop on Assessment (23 March 05)
 - An assessment workshop was held, hosted and lunched by Concern. Participants brainstormed towards more effective assessment formats, while the workshop could not reach as far as the revision work of the assessment forms. A consultant may be hired to complete the follow-up work, i.e. to review the process and documents and establish written guidelines.
 - It was requested that the revision of the RENA form should be done immediately to be ready for emergency, and that the working group members should work towards refining the formats urgently.

Following the meeting the Secretariat has circulated the provisional notes of the Workshop and invited the members of the Working Group on Assessment and the participants of the Workshop to a meeting on 13 April to revise the RENA form.

- DER Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Meeting (5 Apr 05).
 - The meeting discussed the role of the DER in earthquake preparedness. As to the lead agency, USAID expressed hesitation to assume the lead role as agreed in the least DER meeting on 2 March 05, whilst Disaster Management Bureau showed interest in taking the role. DER Secretariat shall continue to facilitate the Working Group process, in prospect of shifting the lead role to DMB in due course. Earthquake Preparedness Activity Matrix was prepared based on the information provided by agencies and circulated by DER Secretariat. ToR should be revised and a work plan should be drafted. The Working Group on Earthquake is proposed to meet on 11 May at 1400 at DMB office, subject to the confirmation of DMB.
 - Oxfam informed that a national level mock earthquake rescue and evacuation exercise will be held on 12 April, lead by DMB. Bangladesh military, fire, police, WASA, DESA, and other service agencies will participate. The event will be telecasted.

- Oxfam is also planning mock drills with partner agencies. The drills aim to sensitise policy makers and the public.
- CDMP reported that there was a GoB meeting on 5 April 05 on connecting early warning system of Bangladesh with regional level systems.
- Oxfam is to hold a national workshop for the private sector (construction companies) on building code.

Members are requested to review the existing ToR and send feedback to Secretariat (mariko.hattori@wfp.org) by 17 April 05.

Agencies who are active in the area of earthquake preparedness and yet to send back the earthquake preparedness questionnaire to the Secretariat are kindly requested to provide information to the Secretariat.

- DER Working Group on Gender and Diversity in Disasters
 - Oxfam reported that feedback to the checklist to review gender and diversity sensitivity for humanitarian assistance agencies is collected and the checklist is being finalised.

Any other business:

- The Chair suggested that in view of possible severe weather foreseen before next DER meeting in May, DER should review its own preparedness. Particularly DER should be ready of a list of people who would be available in emergency assessment teams and a common reporting format. A review of the lessons learned documents would be also helpful. DER Secretariat was tasked to prepare the list of stand-by personnel through electronic communications among members.

Subsequently the Secretariat circulated the DER Stand-by Assessment Team Roster form by e-mail, which asks member agencies to inform of maximum five staff members who should be available for DER assessment in case of emergency. Agencies are requested to return the form to the Secretariat by 20 April.

- The Chair informed that Charlie Higgins, DER Secretariat, Senior Advisor on Disaster Preparedness and Response, WFP will leave Bangladesh in view of his reassignment to WFP Indonesia in June. He is currently in Indonesia on temporary duty assignment and will be back in May to stay for one month.

Next DER meetings:

- DER Working Group on Assessment, to revise RENA form – Wed 13 Apr 05, 1330 hrs, IDB Bhaban, 17th floor.
- DER Group Meeting – Wed 4 May 05, 1400 hrs, at IDB Bhaban, 17th floor.
- Working Group on Earthquake, to work on ToR and work plan – Wed 11 May 05, 1400 hrs, DMB (venue subject to the confirmation of DMB)

It was agreed that, in principle, regular monthly meetings would be held at IDB Bhaban, while working group meetings may be held at other locations on a rotational basis, i.e. at the venue agreed with the lead agency of respective working groups.

*DER Secretariat
12 April 2005*

ANNEXES

- A. Attendance list

ANNEX A
ATTENDANCE LIST

Serial	Name	Organisation
1	Mr. Monzu Morshed	CARE
2	Mr. Abdul Latif Khan	CDMP
3	Mr. Ashutosh Dey	Concern
4	Mr. Muhammad Taher	DFID Consultant
5	Mr. Harold Lockwood	DFID- London
6	Ms. Fenella Frost	DFID- London
7	Mr. Sameer Abd al-Wahid	IIRD
8	Mr. Nurul Amin Bagmer	Islamic Relief
9	Mr. Sanwar Ali	Oxfam
10	Mr. Parvez Zabed	PROSHIKA
11	Mr. Sabbir Hasan	Save the Children USA
12	Ms. Dilruba Haider	UNDP
13	Mr. Rafiqus Sultan	UNFPA
14	Mr. A. K. Masood Ahmed	UNICEF
15	Mr. Maksudur Rahman	World Vision Bangladesh
16	Mr. Bill Barclay	WFP [The Chair on behalf of Mr. Douglas Coutts]
17	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP [DER Secretariat]
18	Ms. Mariko Hattori	WFP [DER Secretariat]