

Meeting of the DER Sub-Group

3 August 2005

The meeting was chaired by Bill Barclay, Deputy Country Director, WFP. The participants introduced themselves and Mr Barclay introduced the new DCD, Mr. Edward Kallon who was also present in the meeting. The attendance list is attached as Annex A.

MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING

1. Adoption of the minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the regular DER meeting held on 6 July and the special meeting held on 12 July, were adopted without any modification.

2. Review current emergency situation and response by agencies:

The overall flood situation at this time of the year compared to 2004 is quite normal and localized. Mr Barclay said that WFP has been sharing an update on Bangladesh flood situation report with its Head Quarters and donors on a weekly basis. The participants suggested that the situation report prepared by WFP could be shared with all the DER members and posted on to the web. Rehana of WFP said that it would be possible to share the WFP weekly update with the DER members.

Dr. Mohd. Shahadat Hossain Mahmud, Deputy Director, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation (DRR) gave a brief presentation on Government Preparedness and Response measures during Flood 2005. He informed the meeting of the Govt. general budget allocation during 2005-2006, the meeting of the inter-ministerial committee scheduled for 20 July, and the recommendations of the Experts workshop jointly organized by DMB, DRR and CDMP on 7th July about the ways of working together to respond to flood 2005, if occurred. The recommendations include i) the simplification of warning messages into popular and understandable version; ii) the designation of immediate mechanism or focal person to interpret the warning messages in the broadcasting and print media, as well as in the District and Sub-district (Upazila) Offices; iii) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of the MoFDM should be prepared to start dissemination of flood information as soon as the FFWC commences flood warning messages; and iv) immediate review of the flood response mechanism with the disaster management committees in flood-prone areas. It was emphasized that the Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) would provide necessary support to the Ministry's Disaster Management Information Centre (presently EOC) in preparing an overall summary situation on flood where WFP to complement DMB in this initiative. In this regard the DER Information Flow Chart was discussed. It has been observed that the DER process will strengthen the DMB's situation summary efforts.

Mr. Matiur Rahman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society briefed the meeting on the distribution of biscuits (11,500 MT) to flood affected areas in Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Sherpur and Netrokona districts.

3. Arrangements for DER Emergency Need Assessment:

Mariko Hattori, briefed the participants on the DER Rapid Initial Report (RIR) and Rapid Emergency Needs Assessment (RENA) formats to be used by the DER members as emergency

assessment tools. These formats are developed by the DER Multi-sector Assessment Working Group through a participatory process. Mariko requested the DER members to give their individual comments on these two formats and send it to the DER Secretariat by e-mail by end of next week. The DER Secretariat has sent out a separate e-mail on this matter.

The DER secretariat is organizing a series of orientation workshops on RIR and RENA formats. The First orientation was held with 18 Christian Aid partner NGOs in late August. The next orientations will be held on 7 August at IDB Bhaban (3rd Floor), Dhaka. RDRS will host the third workshop in Rangpur on 10 August and will provide venue. A separate schedule of orientation workshops with more information will be sent separately. The DER group members has been requested to forward the names of their participants to attend the assessment workshops on dates relevant to their areas.

Mariko informed that an emergency roster has been developed based on the nominations sent by the member organizations. These persons in the roster will be deployed for RENA by the DER secretariat when needed. Some participants expressed their concerns that their organizations are not included in the list. Mariko clarified that possibly these organizations have not forwarded their request on time. She assured that these names will be included and others if still interested could forward their names to the DER secretariat soonest for enrollment in the roster. The members agreed to update the roster on six monthly basis.

4. Any Other Business:

Follow up of Selection of DER district information focal points:

Mr. Monju Morshed described the main purposes of the DER district level focal point, which was discussed in detail in the meeting of 12 July. The main purpose of having DER information focal point in the districts is to get proper and accurate ground level information on disaster and its impact promptly to help alert people to plan, prepare and face the challenge, effective information exchange and disseminate among DER members through DER secretariat. The DER secretariat will consolidate the information from the focal points, analyze them and share with all the members in the GoB including the DMIC, UN, donors and the NGOs. He suggested that the map circulated will enable the DER member agencies to select either the name of their organization or the name of their partner organization for particular districts and share this information with DER Secretariat towards finalization of the whole process. During the nomination he also suggested the agencies to consider institutional presence and capacity while nominating name as DER District Information Focal Point.

Briefing on UN NGO Pre-qualification:

Ms Dilruba Haider of UNDP briefed the members on the process of NGO pre-qualification. It was decided in an UNDMT meeting held in May 2005, that NGO pre-qualification is to be done for transparency and greater accountability. This decision was followed up with advertisement in the newspapers inviting the qualified NGOs to submit their expression of interest (EOI) based on some agreed criteria. The deadline for submission of applications was till 28 July 2005, which was later extended until 3 August due to the request made by some NGOs as they needed more time for preparation to submit their proposals. Mr. Anwar Hossain of ECHO raised his concern by saying that the track record of the NGOs should have been covered for 10-15 years and not 5 years only as it might happen that some of the NGOs would not be able to show their experience in terms of cyclone disaster management as there was no big cyclone disaster occurred in Bangladesh in last five years. The house agreed to consider this point during assessing the proposals. Save the

Children, UK could not submit the EOI due to the absence of their emergency response staff. Dilruba said that the list would be revised again so that they can submit their EOI later.

DER Workshop on Gender and Diversity in Disasters:

OXFAM will chair the workshop to be held on 14 August and Action Aid will host the workshop, which will review the checklist developed by the DER Working Group on Gender and Diversity towards finalization. Views expressed in the workshop will be incorporated in to the checklist prior to circulation among the DER members. Rehana said that the relevant working group has worked very hard on the checklist and would appreciate receiving feedback from the members.

DER Secretariat's concern:

On behalf of the secretariat, Rehana expressed her concern that the DER members have become very quiet. She observed that the meeting has become more routine kind of an activity whereas it should be dynamic and challenging as in the past. The team has possibly become too homogeneous, positive. The question is what are we expecting from DER? Dilruba said that the DER is the most active sub-group compared to many other groups. But still there are rooms for improvements to make it more inter-active. Nick said that the DER has played a vital role in past emergencies. It should continue to be dynamic and vibrant considering its role in disaster management. The capacity of the DER Group has to be strengthened further. It was emphasized to review the role of the Facilitators group and to activate it to energize the DER members for more pro-active participation.

Announcement:

Mr. K. M. Sanwar of OXFAM informed that the Masters course on Disaster Management is being offered by BRAC University. 10 full time scholarships have been announced. Provisions are also there for Certificate, Diploma courses on the same subject along with the Masters course.

5. Next DER Meeting:

Wednesday, 7 September 2005, 14:00 hrs at IDB Bhaban 17th floor.

**ANNEX A:
ATTENDANCE LIST
DER Meeting held on 3 August 2005**

Organisations	Sl	Name	Organization
GoB	1	Dr. Mohammad Shahadat Hossain Mahmud	Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation
Donor	2	Ms. Shahnaz Zakaria	USAID
	3	Ms. Allyn Moushey	USAID-FFP
	4	Mr. Anwar Hossain	ECHO
UN	5	Ms. Dilruba Haider	UNDP
	6	Dr. Rafiqus Sultan	UNFPA
	7	Dr. Saiful Islam	UNICEF
	8	Ms. Erica Joergensen	WFP
	9	Mr. Bill Barclay	WFP
	10	Mr. Edward Kallon	WFP
	11	Mr. Nick Russell	WFP
	12	Ms. Rehana Banoo	WFP
	13	Mr. Monzu Morshed	WFP
	14	Mr. Malik Kabir	WFP
	15	Ms. Farhana Pinky	WFP Field Coordination Section
NGOs	16	Mr. Simson Halder	ADRA
	17	Mr. Rezaul Karim	Action Aid
	18	Mr. Khaled Masud Ahmed	Action Aid
	19	Mr. Matiur Rahman	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
	20	Mr. Chitta Ranjan Biswas	CARE-Bangladesh
	21	Mr. Pankaj	Concern-Bangladesh
	22	Ms. Tanja Haque	Christian Aid
	23	Ms. Sumaiya Noor	Disaster Forum
	24	Ms. Sheila Ryan	ICDDR,B
	25	Mr. Md. Mostak Hossain	Islamic Relief, Bangladesh
	26	Mr. S. M. Abu Kaiser	Islamic Relief, Bangladesh
	27	Ms. Nazria Islam	IFRC
	28	Mr. Mohammad Taher	Independent Consultant
	29	Mr. Golam Md. Billah	Plan Bangladesh
	30	Mr. Parvez Zaved	Proshika
	31	Mr. Sabbir Hasan	SC-USA
	32	Mr. Khodadad H. Sarkar	SC-UK
	33	Mr. John Ricky Gomes	World Vision Bangladesh
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"