

**LCG Sub-group on Disaster and Emergency Response (DER)  
DRAFT\_ Minutes of the Meeting held on October 08, 2008**

**Chair** : Mr. K.H. Masud Siddiqui, Director General,  
Disaster Management Bureau (DMB), MoFDM

**Co-Chair** : Mr. John McHarris, WFP, Bangladesh

**Venue** : CDMP Conference Room (6<sup>th</sup> floor) at Mahakhali Tran Bhaban, Dhaka

**Date** : 08 October' 2008 at 1400 hrs

**Participants:** The list of participants as introduced by them is attached as Annex A.

**MAIN POINTS COVERED AT THE MEETING**

**1. Cyclone Monitoring; Early Warning Tools - presentation**

Considering October–November season is a high risk season for tropical storm and cyclone, WFP gave a brief presentation on “Tropical Storm Tracker” - an early warning tool for cyclone monitoring, the cyclone season and the high risk area of Bangladesh. The idea was to maximize the use of the tool for greater preparedness and better early warning in Bangladesh. This is an internet based interactive mapping tool and available at the following address: <http://www.tropicalstormrisk.com/>.

**Comments:**

- i) DMIC shared their experience on how they use this tool for forecasting. They also had one interview which is published in this website after SIDR. Regarding the use of this tool by local level officials, DMIC commented that it may create some problem as the website does not have any brief description about the event. The website only shows the map of the storm area. The meteorological department has professionals and they are responsible for forecasting and early warning. So the professionals of the meteorological department could be trained on this tool for better cyclone monitoring.
- ii) IFRC shared about “GDACS” - another similar website of early warning tools. GDACS allows people to receive email bulletin and as well as sms alerts of any disaster situation. IFRC suggested that the local authority should have access to this kind of early warning tools for better understanding and preparedness.
- iii) CEGIS commented that this kind of information is very important to know and we should explore all the resources. He also said that the current map of the high risk area is very old and this needs to be updated regularly.
- iv) AusAid commented that the local authority will get better capacity if they know the source of the information and the way of how to use it. It would help them in better understanding of the early warning bulletins.
- v) The Chair suggested of limited use of this tool. He commented that these are very useful tools but should be use only by the authorized department i.e. DMB, BMW. These departments are responsible for analyzing the disaster situation during the period and disseminating the situation report through early warning bulletin. He suggested that in next session DER could present all available website related to early warning so that the professionals could get the idea of it. He also said that there should be one standard definition of high risk area for Bangladesh.

**Recommendation:** The DER group decided to have small group for further discussions on the issue. The technical people from DMB, BMD, CPB, BDRCS, CEGIS and WFP will involve in the process and will inform the update to everybody.

## 2. DER Assessment Roster

WFP as DER secretariat is updating the DER Stand-by Emergency Needs Assessment Team Roster for the year 2008-2009. This is basically an effort to mobilize the human resources for rapid assessments as and when required. For this purpose DER members are requested to send their agency nomination to DER BAN by 30 October 2008.

WFP encourages to give due attention to nominate equal number of male and female assessors while nominating. Each participating agency are proposed to nominate a minimum of four and up to six staff who shall be available for DER rapid needs assessments during emergencies between now and December 2009. The roster members are expected to physically participate in rapid emergency needs assessment process (RIR and RENA) of the DER Group during a disaster. The roster members where necessary will be trained in rapid emergency needs assessment process.

## 3. Cyclone Sidr Interventions

(This agenda item is open discussion about phase out plans and related issues)

- i) UNICEF informed that a need assessment will be done by the end of December 2008. After that they will take decision about phase out plans. It is also depend on the housing interventions that are still ongoing. Till now about 85% work on water and 90% work under sanitation has been completed which, is fairly good enough for phase out. UNICEF asked WATS cluster members whether they need more technical assistance or funding requirement from UNICEF.
- ii) Caritas informed that currently they have interventions on housing and livelihoods, in December 2008. After December they have programme on cyclone shelter at the coastal belt.
- iii) WFP is planning to end its general food distribution programme in November 2008. Other programme i.e. Food and cash for work programme, Nutrition intervention and school feeding programme will end up in December 2008.
- iv) WHO informed that their intervention will continue up to May' 2009.
- v) Swiss Red Cross proposed for discussions to raise awareness on the issue funding. He said many of the organizations have to stop their interventions because of funding constraints.
- vi) UNDP informed that the shelter cluster is doing the assessment of real need and gap in the field and that would be finalized within next 2/3 days. They proposed for a review workshop on early recovery action plan.
- vii) UNICEF proposed for joint need assessment which will help us to strongly advocate for the resource mobilization. It will also help us to understand the present scenario of the SIDR affected areas.

**Recommendation:** Swiss Red Cross is requested to be the focal for the other DER members for having a workshop on resource mobilization awareness raising in next November 15' 2008. UNDP, UNRC will also look into the issue. Interested organizations, who want to participate in the workshop, are requested to contact with Swiss Red Cross.

## 4. Relief Items; for pre-positioning. Populating the database

As a part of data and information sharing exercise, DER group would like to create a shared database of resources. This database could help DER group to capture information related to relief items that can be used for rapid response for pre-positioning. DER members, who have any type relief items that would be use for rapid response, are requested to contribute to the database. Mr. Steven Goldfinch of UNDP is the contact person for this. In future this database will help to identify the strong and weak areas and utilization of the resources most effectively.

## 5. Donor Project Mapping

DANIDA shared their initiatives on project mapping intervention of who is doing what and where for SIDR. It is a project wise matrix and will be available in the website for all. All DER members are requested to contribute to this initiative.

CDMP shared that they have already started the exercise to establish a database and developed web-based software which can be updated in a time interval. They are ready to share the database and their experiences to develop this with DANIDA.

## 6. Any Other Business:

### i) Information Management Initiatives:

WFP Consultant Mr. Stephane gave a short brief on inter agency Logistic Capacity Assessment. Logistics Capacity Assessments are used to map the widest range of transport and logistics options in a country to provide timely, relevant and accurate information on logistic issues in support of emergency humanitarian operations. He is now collecting data on logistic infrastructures and facilities of different agencies. After updating all information, the data will be available in the UNJLC website. DER Members who are interested to share logistic capacities of their organizations are requested to contact with Mr. Stephane Pellegrini at the following email address: [dhaka.guest3@wfp.org](mailto:dhaka.guest3@wfp.org).

### ii) Flooding and water logging situation of Jessore–Shatkhira region:

WFP shared the situation report of the current flooding situation of Jessore –Satkhira region send by its Jessore sub office. Hard copy distributed as hand out.

OXFAM shared the current flood and water logging situation of Jessore – Shatkhira. Their partner NGOs are sending situation reports. Those reports are indicating that the situation is deteriorating day by day. OXFAM has decided for field verification by them and do the need assessment by next week.

SDC shared their field experience of the south-west region. They informed that the water logging situation of Saronkhola, Barguna is really bad but still it is not considered as a national disaster. SDC has just finished the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of livelihood recovery programme in this area. But it is now in a critical situation as the embankment has broken down again. The protection by the water development board need to be ensured otherwise the result may not come. Strong coordination in between the departments of GoB and NGOs is also very much needed to overcome the situation.

The Chair also shared his field experience of Barguna and Patuakhali districts. He shared that recently GoB has taken a decision to repair the embankment with the help of VGF and VGD programme. He also shared that there should be strong coordination in between the Governments and NGOs. Sometimes the district administrations are not aware about the interventions as the NGOs are directly having their activities at the community level. He requested to the DER members to advise their partner NGOs to communicate with local authority to avoid any duplications in the affected area.

### iii) Shelter:

The Chair shared about the meeting with the Advisor regarding shelter. One report has been compiled to share the current situation of the SIDR affected area. All interventions of GoB side, Multi lateral Donors, other international organizations and NGOs related to shelter are included in the report to share it with the Advisor. The advisor requested to all development partners to complete their construction in time.

Shelter cluster needs to have a separate meeting on different issues i.e. better coordination, standardization of the housing, gap between need and covered area.

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

**ANNEX A: ATTENDANCE LIST of DER Meeting held on October 08, 2008**

Agencies	Sl	Name	Organization
GoB	1	Mr. K. H Masud Siddiqui	DMB
	2	Mr. Md. Abu Sadeque	DMB
	3	Mr. Tasdiq Ahmed	CDMP
	4	Ms. Shantana Halder	CDMP
	5	Mr. Matin Rahman	BDRCS
	6	Mr. Matiur Rahman	BDRCS
	7	Mr. Fazlul Wahab	BDRCS, CPP
	8	Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah	BDRCS, CPP
Donors	9	Mr. Shaheen Mahmud	AusAid
	11	Mr. Ole Sparre Pedersen	DANIDA (ASPS II)
	12	Md. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury	JICA
	13	Ms. Sadhona Mahal	SDC
	14	Mr. Tofayel Alam	USAID
UN	15	Mr. Shashanka Saadi	UNDP
	16	Mr. Arjun Jain	UNHCR
	17	Mr. Lalit Patra	UNICEF
	18	Dr. KAHM Akram	WHO
	19	Mr. Hasan Muheuddin Ahmed	WHO
	20	Mr. John Mcharris	WFP
	21	Mr. Stephane Pellegri	WFP
NGO	22	Mr. Daniel Adriaens	Administration for Children & Family (ACF),
	23	Ms. Syeda Asma Rashida	Action Aid Bangladesh
	24	Mr. Munirul Islam	Action Aid Bangladesh
	25	Mr. M.A Wahed	CARE Coordinator
	26	Mr. Ahmadul Hassan	CEGIS
	27	Arnest A. Sarkar	CCDB
	28	Mohammad Mobin	Concern Worldwide
	29	Ms. Roisin Shannon	Christian Aid
	30	Mr. Ershadur Rashid	Christian Aid
	31	Ms. Kelly Koch	Habitat for Humanity International
	32	Mr. Md. Iqbal Hossain	Islamic Relief
	33	Mr. A.O. Sami (Sana)	IFRC
	34	Mr. Michael M. Zeleke	IFRC
	35	Mr. Md. Mahbubur Rahman	IOM
	36	Mr. Naser Shawkat Haider	Oxfam GB
	37	Mr. Anthony D. Cruze	RDRS Bangladesh
	38	Ms. Barbara Burroughs	Save the Children
	39	Mr. Nayeem Wahra	Save the Children UK
	40	Mr. Peter Pichler	SRC
	41	Mr. Reuben Marandy	World Vision Bangladesh
	42	Mr. Reuben Marandy	World Vision Bangladesh
	DER	43	Mr. Malik Kabir
Secretariat	44	Ms. Nusrat Shahrin Urmi	DER Secretariat (WFP)