

REACT Meeting Minutes

04 August 2022, 14.00 - 16.00

Co-Chairs: Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan (CoES)

Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan

Participants: Annex I

Summary of discussion:

Welcome remarks:

The co-chairs opened the meeting by welcoming the participants.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, CoES Chairman expressed his appreciation to all REACT partners for fruitful cooperation in frames of REACT.

Mr. Nazarzoda provided a brief overview of the disasters, which occurred in the country during the first half of 2022, highlighting that country faced 606 hazardous events, of which 36 disasters caused damage with a total cost of 15,5 mln TJS.

CoES Chairman mentioned that preparedness to forthcoming spring thaw season is the highest priority for CoES and briefed CoES targets for the second half of 2022 and 2023, which include:

- Enhancement of National DRR Strategy implementation, through adoption and implementation of the Mid-Term State Program for the Protection of the Population and Territories from Emergencies for 2022-2024.
- Establishment of the Training Center for rescuers, divers and canine center.
- Establishment of a modern and technologically sophisticated Incident Crisis Management Center and construction of new buildings for establishment of regional Crisis Management Centers in the oblasts.
- Continue establishment of the temporary accommodation center for refugees in J. Balkhi district.

In conclusion, Mr. Nazarzoda proposed establishment of contingency stock of relief items, medicines for timely response in case of emergencies and allocation of necessary construction materials and fuel to ensure timely implementation of riverbank reinforcement works.

The co-chairs proceeded with introducing the agenda and participants.

Preparedness to 2023 flood season – prioritized risk zones and proposed mitigation measures

Mr. Jamshed Kamalov, the Head of the Main Department on protection of population and territories of CoES briefed participants about the high-risk zones around the country. Of those, Mr. Kamalov provided a detailed overview of the prioritized risk zones in five districts, namely Asht, Penjikent, Khuroson, Temurmalik and Rudaki. For each zone, a detailed description and required mitigation works was provided along with the estimations of needed construction materials and fuel.

Mr. Nazarzoda, CoES Chairman summarizing the presentation highlighted that currently CoES has sufficient experience and expertise, as well as technical and human capacities to undertake the works. However, necessary means (construction materials, fuel, and etc) allocated by the Government is not sufficient to meet all the needs and therefore CoES appeals to partners for additional support.

Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, the UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan underlined those prioritized areas face similar disasters repeatedly and basic cost-benefit analysis (hazard mitigation vs response) can be a strong justification for allocation of additional support.

Decisions:

- Detailed information on prioritized risk zones to be provided to all REACT partners for consideration.

Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for earthquake scenario

Ms. Shahlo Rahimova, National Disaster Response Adviser, OCHA/REACT Secretariat informed the participants that Sector Coordinators Group updated and finalized the REACT Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for earthquake scenario. Updated and finalized plan has been shared with REACT partners ahead of the meeting for review and final comments and no comments or feedbacks were received by the set deadline.

Further on, Ms. Rahimova reminded the partners about the key features of the draft IACP on earthquake scenario, including overview of the scenario, agreed strategic objectives, planning horizons and others. It was reported that operational delivery of REACT response is based on the Sectoral Response Plans, which integrates cross-sectoral aspects, such as: gender equality and protection, community engagement and introduction of cash transfer programming. IACP also outlines the coordination arrangements between Government of Tajikistan and REACT partnership during emergencies.

Ms. Rahimova also briefed participants about the major updates and changes introduced to the document. Those mainly relate to the internal coordination arrangements, contingency stocks and contact information.

Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, the UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan highlighted that any changes in coordination arrangements should follow the global IASC guidelines and agreed collectively. When, REACT partner organization would like to refrain to lead/coordinate any of the Working Group/Sector, organization should propose an alternative coordination arrangement.

Decision:

- To endorse REACT Inter-Agency Contingency Plan for earthquake scenario as of August 04, 2022.
- To initiate consultation and agree on new leadership in Early Recovery Sector and Protection Working Group.

Regional Forum – Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian countries

Mr. Azam Rahimzoda, the Head of International Department of CoES informed participants about Regional Forum – Meeting of the Heads of national disaster management authorities of Central Asia, which will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 4-6 October 2022.

It was highlighted that this high-level event is held since 2015 within the framework of the permanent advisory platform - Regional Forum - Meeting of the Heads of emergency authorities of Central Asian countries, which is established to strengthen and develop regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction, prevention and response to emergency situations. Event will be co-organized by CoES, Central Asian Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, European Union, UN DRR, GFDRR and World Bank.

The programme of the event foresees an Extended Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Council (October 4) and one-day seminar on Reviewing the implementation of the Strategy for the development of cooperation between Central Asian countries in DRR (October 6). Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Management Authorities of Central Asian countries will conclude the Regional Forum on October 6, 2022.

In conclusion, CoES Chairman expressed gratitude to co-organizers for financial and technical support in organization of the event. Also, he mentioned that CoES invites other REACT partners to participate in organization and sponsorship of the event.

Closing remarks

The co-chairs adjourned the meeting by thanking the participants and organizers and inviting partners for closer collaboration.