

## Minutes

### REACT Meeting

15 December 2017, 15.30 – 17.30, UN Conference Hall

#### Co-Chairs:

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Ms. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Tajikistan (UNRC)

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#### Summary of discussion:

##### Welcome remarks:

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

Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UN Resident Coordinator briefly recapped the major joint emergency response measures undertaken by REACT partnership in 2017. Among those, she highlighted established risk monitoring arrangements, development of Tajikistan Common Operational Data sets, Inter-Agency Contingency Plan and others.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, the Chairman of CoES provided a brief overview of the disasters occurred in the country during 2017 and highlighted cooperation and assistance provided by different REACT partners contributing to strengthening disaster risk management in Tajikistan. Mr. Nazarzoda, also informed participants that on November 29, 2017 the Government of Tajikistan approved new statute and structure of CoES. Actual restructuring of CoES will be implemented throughout 2018.

The co-chairs proceeded with introduction of agenda and participants.

##### Preparedness to winter season

Mr. Oleg Pilkevich, the Head of Search and Rescue (SAR) Department of CoES briefed participants about preparedness measures taken by the CoES SAR services to ensure rapid SAR operations during the winter season. Presenter highlighted the challenges faced by the affected population and responders following series of avalanches occurred in early 2017 on the mountainous roads and passes. In preparedness to 2018 winter season, CoES established 3 working groups, which visited Sughd and Khtalon provinces as well as GBAO and assessed preparedness of civil services to respond in case of major emergencies. In particular, assessment covered the road conditions, availability of machinery, fuel and other necessary arrangements. Mr. Pilkevich pointed that in cooperation with IRS (private company responsible for maintenance of Dushanbe – Khujand road) a dormitory building in Varzob area was renovated and is ready to host population in case of avalanches and road blockage. Furthermore, with the support of civil services 4 duty stations having necessary machinery, fuel, SAR teams, communication equipment and food have been established on the main roads in the districts of Vanj, Varzob and Rasht.

In conclusion, session appreciated preparedness measures undertaken by CoES and highlighted that it is important to consider lessons learned by during the response operations to avalanches occurred in January 2017.

##### Emergency Response Preparedness initiatives

###### *Upgrade of Government damage and needs assessment process*

Mr. Jamshed Kamolov, the Head of Department of protection of population and territories of CoES, brief participants about on-going review and upgrade process of state damage and needs assessment (DNA) methodology. The review process is initiated and led by CoES with the support of FOCUS Humanitarian

Assistance. Mr. Kamolov pointed that DNA methodology is being review and upgraded in line with the Post Disaster Needs Assessment tool developed by the UN Development Group, the World Bank and the European Union. Currently the Working group comprised of experts from relevant civil services under the leadership of CoES have developed the draft version of “Methodological Guidance on assessment of damage, losses and reconstruction and recovery needs following emergency situations in Tajikistan”. Proposed methodology will provide a unified approach for state bodies and organizations in assessment of possible (while forecasting the emergency) and factual (following the emergency occurrence) damage, losses and needs caused by emergencies. The initial draft foresees its further review, practical testing and development of additional tools necessary for organization of DNA. The methodology foresees assessment of both: direct damages and indirect losses, as well as required fund for response and recovery.

The session discussed presented methodology and pointed that currently methodology is more focused on recovery and rehabilitation needs. Hence, it is important to ensure that humanitarian aspects are covered by the DNA in an appropriate manner. The session agreed that review process should be expanded to REACT partners to ensure consideration of international practices and principles and should also involve budget planning experts and economists.

#### *Tajikistan Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP)*

Ms. Shahlo Rahimova, OCHA ROCCA National Disaster Response Advisor presented to participants the outline of the final draft of Tajikistan Inter-Agency Contingency Plan. She briefed the participants that draft of IACP was not endorsed back in June 2017, highlighting a need for further inter-sectoral alignment, closer engagement of relevant Government entities at sector level, and mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues, such as protection. In view of the provided comments, an inter-sector review of the IACP was conducted, and relevant changes introduced into the draft document. In a result, protection was mainstreamed into all sector response plans and (early) recovery response actions were mainstreamed into each sector response plan vs initial dedicated early recover sector response plan. It was highlighted that Health sector response plan, was not provided. Session extensively discussed unavailability of health sector response plan, pointing that IACP can not be endorsed without health sector response plan.

The session did not endorse presented IACP and agreed that health sector response plan should be provided by end of December 2017. Further on, IACP can be endorsed on-line (through e-mail communication) in early January 2017.

In addition, session agreed that upon finalization of the IACP for floods/mudflows scenario, development of new IACP for earthquake scenario should be initiated. The initial earthquake scenario should be presented for endorsement during next REACT meeting at Heads of Agencies level in March 2018.

#### *Tajikistan Inter-agency needs assessment (TIANA)*

Ms. Rahimova continued with the presentation of the Tajikistan Inter-agency needs assessment – TIANA tool. She briefly outlined the purpose of the tool, history and timeline of its development. It was highlighted that Rapid Response Team, which was reformed back in June 2017 tested the TIANA tool questionnaires in frames of Simulation Exercise organized by CoES, by Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and German Red Cross in Zeravshan valley in early August 2017. Also, Analysis and Information Management Working Group established at the same time, underwent a table top simulation exercise on primary and secondary data assessment.

Session discussed presented TIANA guidelines and highlighted that REACT partnership should avoid creating parallel process to Government led damage and needs assessment process. It was pointed that in case of emergency any damage and needs assessment processes will be led by Government and hence, REACT should either have a joint assessment or compliment the government led process. Therefore, session did not endorse the TIANA process and advised to REACT partnership/partners to join on-going governmental Working Group in reviewing and upgrading its existing damage and needs assessment methodology. However, it was pointed that tools provided by the TIANA guidelines (questionnaires and analysis methodologies) can be applied, when and if needed.

### *Cash Transfer modality in support of emergency relief and recovery interventions*

Mr. Giorgi Dolidze, Programme Policy Officer of WFP Tajikistan briefed participants about the Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in WFP Tajikistan operations. In November 2018, WFP Tajikistan launched a new Food for Asset project using CBT modality. Decision on application of CBT modality is based on feasibility studies and assessments, which include financial sectorial assessment, market assessments, cost efficiency and effectiveness analysis, beneficiary preferences, as well as Government and donor interest. The assessment indicate that Tajikistan offers necessary preconditions to introduce cash based delivery systems, as it has integrated and functioning markets, financial institutions with adequate infrastructure and favorable security situations. WFP Tajikistan plans to continue application of CBT modality in longer term resilience building interventions, emergency/relief and recovery interventions and for establishment of platform for multipurpose cash.

The session discussed presented information and raised concerns that organization of relief operations through CBT modality might be time consuming and agreed that based on experience of WFP, CBT modality can be considered by partner organizations in relief and recovery interventions.

### WFP support to REACT members on emergency preparedness and response activities

Mr. Paolo Mattei, informed partners that WFP Tajikistan received an allocation from its Immediate Response Account for a total sum of 300 000 USD for strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacities in Tajikistan. In line with a new agreement with the Tajikistan government, WFP will continue to provide technical assistance to build the capacity of the CoES Information Management and Analytical Centre (IMAC). Using the received allocation, WFP will provide two unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) to CoES that can monitor disaster-prone areas and create situational maps to improve preparedness and deploy in recovery efforts. WFP will also equip the CoES warehouse with refrigeration units for storage of perishable food items that could be used in an emergency.

Upon discussion of the meeting agenda points, following key decisions has been taken:

1. Include REACT partners in review and upgrade process of Government led damage and needs assessment methodology;
2. Finalize REACT Inter-Agency Contingency Plan by end of December 2017 and share for final approval by end of January 2018;
3. Prepare an Earthquake scenario for Inter-Agency Contingency Planning purposes and present for review of REACT partners during next REACT meeting in March 2018;
4. To consider the information provided by WFP on Cash Based Transfer modality, while planning emergency response operations;

### Closing remarks

- The co-chairs adjourned the meeting by thanking the participants.

### Signatures:

#### **REACT Co-Chair**

Rustam Nazarzoda

Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situations  
under the Government of Tajikistan

#### **REACT Co-Chair**

Pratibha Mehta

UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan