

## REACT Meeting Minutes

16 December 2020, 10.00 - 12.00

Telecommuting: Zoom meeting

In-person: Training Center of the CoES

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

Ms. Cristina Tranca, UN Resident Coordinator a.i and IOM Chief of Mission in Tajikistan

**Participants:** Annex I

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### 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 their support and cooperation, which led to tangible support and assistance to disaster affected populations. He mentioned that in 2020 country faced over 200 disasters, out of which 25 caused economic damage and death of 8 people. Those disasters caused damages to livelihoods of the population, agriculture, irrigation infrastructure and etc. Mr. Nazarzoda pointed that despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic Government of Tajikistan with the support of REACT partners managed to respond to disasters on timely manner. Preparedness to seasonal disasters continues to be the priority area for the Government and major works on river bank reinforcement are conducted annually. Mr. Nazarzoda reiterated that response to COVID-19 pandemic should also remain on the agenda of the REACT partners.

Ms. Cristina Tranca, UN Resident Coordinator ai and IOM Chief of Mission in Tajikistan welcomed participants and expressed gratitude to the Chairman of CoES for active leadership in REACT partnership. Ms. Tranca highlighted noticeable role of CoES in COVID-19 response and applauded CoES for its proactiveness and openness to cooperate with international community (through REACT partners). She highlighted that meeting will allow to recap the work of all partners both in response to natural disasters and COVID outbreak, and to agree on the ways forward.

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

#### Tajikistan COVID-19 Country Preparedness and Response Plan update

Dr. Patricia Kormoss, Incident Manager of WHO Country office in Tajikistan briefed participants about the process on updating the Country Preparedness and Response Plan to COVID-19 (CPRP).

Initial CPRP in Tajikistan was developed and approved back in March 2020, while there were no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country. Upon announcement of first confirmed cases on 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, WHO EURO Mission to Tajikistan held in May recommended to review the CPRP with consideration of the epidemiological situation and different scenarios.

CPRP revision has started in August 2020 and expected to be finalized and approved by end of 2020. The revision process was led by MoHSP and included considerations and inputs of all the relevant stakeholders, including development partners. Proposed revised CPRP is composed of nine COVID-19 related Pillars and one

pillar on COVID-19 Covax vaccination. Revised CPRP includes Implementation monitoring matrix, as well as financial needs.

In frames of the included pillars, CPRP foresees establishment of the Public Health Emergency Operation Center, implementation of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy, establishment of COVID -19 electronic data management system, improving public health emergency management at the Points of Entries, strengthening of testing capacities, supporting IPC and case management capacities and others.

To ensure COVID-19 Vaccine deployment and vaccination in Tajikistan, CPRP foresees development of the COVAX Technical Assistance plan and vaccine request; Assessment of the COVAX cold chain capacities and development of the equipment procurement plan, as well as development of the COVID-19 vaccination plan.

#### CoES/REACT COVID-19 Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy

Colonel Jamshed Kamolov, the Head of Main Department of Protection of Populations and Territories of CoES briefly informed participants about the activities implemented by the CoES in response to COVID-19 since early 2020. Among others, CoES has supported the risk communication, disinfection of public places, transportation of people and supplies and other activities.

To ensure joint and coordinated preparedness of the REACT partnership to COVID-19, CoES has also led the development of the CoES/REACT COVID-19 Humanitarian Emergency Response Strategy (Strategy), which was endorsed by REACT partners back in May 2020. The Strategy outlines the four key objectives, which include: support to the Ministry of Health Medical Response, support disease surveillance and economic emergency reporting, provision of humanitarian assistance and support to ensure social distancing.

Mr. Najib Yaminov, the Head of Emergency Management Department of AKAH provided a brief overview on the implementation status of the Strategy, highlighting the major projects/initiatives implemented under each priority areas of the Strategy. The rough estimates indicate that over 17 mln USD have been mobilized by partners for implementation of the Strategy from different sources and benefitting over 1,000,000 people around Tajikistan. AKAH has been the one of the most active implementers of the Strategy, implementing the largest number of projects.

Following the discussion the meeting agreed:

- to revise the Strategy in line with the current epidemiological situation in the country and (humanitarian) needs related to COVID-19 and include clear indicators to enable appropriate monitoring of its implementation;
- AKAH with the support of REACT Secretariat to facilitate the revision process of the Strategy.

#### Inter-Agency Contingency Planning

Ms. Shahlo Rahimova, National Disaster Response Adviser, OCHA/REACT Secretariat briefed participants about current stage of REACT Inter-Agency Contingency Planning processes.

REACT has endorsed Inter-Agency Contingency Plan based on the scenario of a large-scale mudflow in Zarafshon valley, with a total of 150,000 people affected as a humanitarian caseload back in April 2018. In addition, REACT has agreed to develop another Inter-Agency Contingency Plan in case of an earthquake. In 2019, REACT has drafted IACP based on the scenario of a mid-scale earthquake with epicenter near Khorog city of GBAO, with a total of 95,000 people affected as a humanitarian caseload, which is not yet finalized and endorsed. Both IACPs, require revisions, updates, inter-sectoral review and final endorsement by the general REACT meeting.

Taking into account above, the meeting agreed to initiate review and finalization of both IACPs in early 2020 through Sector Leads. REACT Secretariat to facilitate the process and present the final draft for endorsement by end of March 2020.

#### Global Logistics Cluster Field-Based Preparedness Project

Mr. Aaron Holmes, representing Global Logistics Cluster, WFP informed participants that Tajikistan has been selected by Global Logistics Cluster to utilize its expertise and network to strengthen national humanitarian logistics capacity. For that Global Logistics Cluster will roll-out a new “Field-Based Preparedness Project” during 2021.

A key output of the Project is the formation and/or reinforcement of a National Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Working Group, bringing stakeholders together before an emergency. The Working Group, ideally headed by the national disaster-management institution, can benefit from the Project's strategic and technical backstopping support. The Working Group will be supported by the Project to conduct a simulation-based analysis, aimed at pinpointing institutional and infrastructural supply chain capacity assets, needs and vulnerabilities. Collaboratively, Working Group members will identify and prioritise areas in need of capacity strengthening and potential solutions to those needs, resulting in a collaboratively drafted Action Plan, building a conducive, team-based enabling operational environment in the process.

REACT partners, particularly those involved in Logistics Sector are requested to provide necessary support and ensure active participation in presented project.

#### National Disaster Risk Management Project

Ms. Firuza Tursunzade, the Head of Project Implementation Group of National Disaster Risk Management Project, funded by ADB briefed participants on project implementation status.

NDRMPproject experts conducted site survey and assessment of the existing Sarez Lake Early Warning system, as well as Anti-Hail system. Assessment identified major needs for upgrade and expansion of both systems. Based on the results of the assessment proposals for modernization of the systems was prepared, which include four main components: data collection and transfer, forecasting, monitoring and warning. Currently, project conducted procurement of necessary equipment and foresees its further installation and capacity building of the responsible staff for appropriate maintenance of the system.

#### Closing remarks

The co-chairs adjourned the meeting by thanking the participants and highlighting the following:

- Active participation of all REACT partners is needed to implement the actions agreed at the meeting, especially in review and update of both COVID and non-COVID related strategic Plans. Furthermore, strong commitment is required from partners to implement agreed plans and Strategies.