

## Minutes

### Strategic REACT Meeting

19 April 2016

UN Conference Hall, Dushanbe

#### List of Participants (attached as annex)

#### Key decisions:

- Continue improving emergency response coordination at strategic and technical levels through effective functioning of REACT, regular meetings and other inter-agency activities.

#### Key issues discussed:

- Ms. Lucia Elmi, Resident Coordinator a.i. and lieutenant-general Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), opened the meeting by welcoming participants and noting the importance of supporting the Government and leadership of CoES for emergency preparedness and response in Tajikistan. The CoES Chairman briefed participants on natural disasters occurred in Tajikistan in 2015, such as the mudflows in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) and Direct Rule Districts (DRD), and an earthquake in GBAO, underlining the need to learn from the past disasters and to build on lessons learned. Co-Chairman called on stakeholders to stay engaged and committed to emergency preparedness and response.
- Chairman of CoES gave an overview of CoES' functions and its longer-term emergency response preparedness and recovery strategy. The Chairman noted the limited resources within CoES to effectively coordinate both preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation as well as response and recovery. The Chairman noted CoES's willingness to cooperate with the UN, NGOs, humanitarian and development partners as well as donors and diplomatic missions to improve the existing emergency response, risk management and recovery interventions.
- After the Chairman's presentation, a number of participants followed-up with comments/inputs to the discussion. Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) mentioned the use of new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technologies for assessments. Swiss Cooperation Office (SCO) noted its support to community-based disaster risk management initiatives and stressed the need to improve two-way communication, including information access. World Health Organizations (WHO) informed of the delivery of health kits to Ministry of Health and Social Protection to enhance its emergency response preparedness, OXFAM Great Britain noted the need to establish linkages with REACT, State Commission for Emergency Situations, and National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. A number of other partners suggested to improve emergency response coordination, including the use of unified damage and needs assessment methodologies and common situation analysis.
- In response to comments from partners, CoES Chairman informed that the agency will take all required actions to improve overall cooperation with the international humanitarian community and once again called for support to enhance existing capacities of CoES. In addition, Chairman assured REACT partners that CoES will take a leading role on coordination activities and organization of REACT meetings at both technical and strategic level.
- Marcel Vaessen, Head of UNOCHA Regional Office for Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine (ROCCA) followed-up the discussion with an overview of key issues and lessons learnt from the recent emergency response experiences in Tajikistan. He noted that REACT partners held two inter-agency meetings in January and April 2016 to derive required lessons from the response to July Mudflows and December Earthquake in 2015. The presentation highlighted a number of key lessons learnt, including:

- Need to improve overall emergency response and preparedness coordination between Government and REACT – call for predictable coordination mechanisms
  - Need to improve needs assessment and joint information sharing processes – common call to unify to the extent possible Government and REACT damage and needs assessment processes
  - Need to improve common situation analysis to ensure rapid release of available international assistance and mobilize required funding for relief and recovery
  - It was agreed that REACT meetings will be conducted on a regular basis
- ROCCA Head of Office highlighted that the two lessons learnt meetings also resulted in a number of recommendations to address identified issues. These recommendations include enhancement of response preparedness and risk management coordination through predictable REACT meetings at both technical and heads of agencies level, joining efforts to harmonize needs assessment as well as situation analysis to better mobilize required international support, and a need to improve two-way communication, information sharing and access to information.
  - The CoES Chairman acknowledged the points made in the presentation and noted CoES' commitment and willingness to collaborate with the international community to address the issues.
  - The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting by thanking all participants for their presence and called once again for commitment and support to improve national emergency response preparedness and recovery capacities.

## Annex - List of Participants

- 1) Toirova Shoiria - GNT
- 2) Qurboniyon Bahodur – Red Crescent Society
- 3) Talibov Baylar – IFRC
- 4) Andre Paquet – ICRC
- 5) Kevin Allen – UNHCR
- 6) Hoshiaripour M. – Iranian Embassy
- 7) Abbasali Hasanov - Embassy of Azerbaijan
- 8) Fahed Al Osaimi - Embassy of Saudi Arabia
- 9) Luc Patenande - FSD
- 10) Jan Harfst – UNDP
- 11) Gulchehra Usmonova – World Food Programme
- 12) Giorgi Dolidze – WFP
- 13) Davlatbibi Imomberdieva – Welthungerhilfe (German AgroAction)
- 14) Romy Lehns - Welthungerhilfe (German AgroAction)
- 15) Giuseppe Bonati – CESVI
- 16) Saad Al Asmari – Embassy of Saudi Arabia
- 17) Karimov Mirzo – CoES
- 18) Shamsudin Mubudihor - IFRC
- 19) Farghot Mirzoeva – Save the Children
- 20) Rustam Nugmonov - Save the Children
- 21) Adriani Wabjanti – UNHCR
- 22) Zhukov Oleg – Embassy of the Russian Federation
- 23) Igor Pokanevych – WHO
- 24) Bojan Kolundzija - OXFAM
- 25) Husnoro Dodikhudoeva – Danish Refugee Council
- 26) William Trigg – USAID
- 27) Chie Tamura – Embassy of Japan
- 28) Takashi Kamada – Embassy of Japan
- 29) Amanigdieva G. - Embassy of Turkmenistan
- 30) Surtukenov S. – Embassy of Kazakhstan
- 31) Rahmatullaev S. – Embassy of Uzbekistan
- 32) Rashid Javaid – Embassy of Pakistan
- 33) Sarivaev Ermen - Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic
- 34) Salimzoda Muhamadjon – CoES
- 35) Lucia Elmii – UNRC a.i. (Co-Chairman)
- 36) Rustam Nazarzoda – CoES Chairman (Co-Chairman)
- 37) Marcel Vaessen – OCHA
- 38) Abdulloeva Mavzuna - Asia Plus
- 39) Regina Gujan – SDC/SCO
- 40) Firdavs Faizulloev – UNDP DRMP
- 41) Shodmon Hojibekov - FOCUS
- 42) Augusto Bozzi – ACTED
- 43) Rano Mansurova – ACTED
- 44) Parviz Abduvahobov – UNICEF
- 45) Mahvash Kalandarova – DFID
- 46) Zaitoona Naimova - UN Women
- 47) Faridun Sanginov – World Bank
- 48) Munisa Vahobova – USAID
- 49) Vladimir Budnik – UNDSS
- 50) Parviz Saidov - UNDP DRMP