

## Minutes

### REACT Meeting

2 February 2017, 10.00-11.40, UN Conference Hall

#### Co-Chairs:

Chairman, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES)

Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Tajikistan (UNRC)

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#### Key decisions taken:

Endorsement of the REACT workplan for 2017, which includes the following key outcomes<sup>1</sup>:

- Support Government to update damage assessment mechanisms to include elements of needs assessment through recruitment of a national project coordinator (ToR separately approved and initial co-financing interest expressed) and facilitation of activities of the two working groups (Government and REACT). This includes finalization and harmonization of REACT's MIRA-based assessment process.
  - Establish standard operating procedures between the Government and REACT on humanitarian coordination (key elements of SOPs separately endorsed).
  - Implement key minimum and advanced preparedness actions including contingency planning process for REACT (scenario and key elements of plan endorsed).
  - Conduct customs agreement workshop for key Government and REACT partners on development of SOPs and implementation of agreement in practice (dates agreed as 14-15 March).
  - Coordinate humanitarian assistance, including needs assessment and response planning following emergencies in support of Government of Tajikistan.
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#### Summary of discussion:

##### Welcome remarks:

- The co-chairs opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. The co-chairs stressed the need to strengthen overall national disaster risk management capacities in Tajikistan. It was noted that REACT and National Platform for DRR are some of the mechanisms that could streamline joint efforts to enhance Government's leading role in emergency response preparedness and risk reduction and establish functional linkages with the longer-term recovery and development efforts. The co-chairs proceeded with introduction of agenda and participants.

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<sup>1</sup> See endorsed REACT workplan for 2017

#### Recent avalanches and preparedness for potential spring flooding/mudflow

- Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, the Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), informed participants on the recent avalanches that occurred following heavy snowfall, which resulted in 11 deaths and large-scale road infrastructure damage, and warned about potential seasonal flooding/mudflow, should the air temperatures get warmer. Mr. Nazarzoda called for support in preparedness through increasing emergency stockpiles, including non-food items.

#### Update on review of Government damage and needs assessment process following natural disasters

- Mr. Jamshed Kamolov, Head of Department for protection of population and territories of CoES briefed the participants on the ongoing process of review and upgrade of Government-led damage assessment process, which was initiated following progress made at global level on damage assessment and considering lessons learnt from previous emergencies in Tajikistan. According to the update, a working group by Government on this matter has been established. At the same time, a REACT working group has been established to support the Government in this process and integrate international good practices on needs assessment to the ongoing review of damage assessment. The sessions resulted in a decision to recruit a national assessment expert/coordinator who could facilitate the works of the two working groups and come up with an assessment form which would include damage and needs assessment elements and consequently endorse by the Government.

#### Implementation of minimum and advanced preparedness actions and contingency planning process

- Mr. Kamolov proceeded with an update on the implementation of minimum and advanced preparedness actions, which are part of the IASC emergency response preparedness guidelines. The session also included a scenario for contingency planning process, as part of the advanced preparedness actions, identified by REACT on a workshop and based on risk analysis. The scenario, which includes a large-scale mudflow in Zarafshon valley, identified a total of 150,000 people affected as a humanitarian caseload. The session approved the scenario and other key elements of the contingency plan, that will be developed in the coming weeks.

#### Customs agreement implementation

- Mr. Marcel Vaessen, Head of OCHA Regional Office for Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine briefed the participants on the Government-UN customs agreement signed in 2016. He informed that implementation plan and SOPs need to be agreed between key actors involved in customs implementation. For this purpose, the session endorsed the plan to undertake a consultative workshop on 14-15 March.

#### REACT workplan for 2017

- Ms. Firuza Tursunzoda, CoES/WFP Emergency Officer briefed the participants on the draft workplan for emergency response preparedness developed by REACT partners. The workplan, which is based on consultations and recommendations concluded throughout 2016 included key outcomes, that need to be implemented in a collective manner, including joint resources mobilization. The session provided detailed information on each expected result of the workplan, many of which require resources and co-financing by REACT partners. The session concluded by endorsing the workplan.

#### SOPs on Government – REACT humanitarian response coordination

- Mr. Vaessen briefed the participants on the need to establish clear and step-by step standard operating procedures for coordination of joint response actions between the Government and REACT. The session presented key elements of such SOPs, which range from information management to response planning, monitoring and implementation. The partners acknowledged the need to agree on key triggers for REACT to involve in response operations in support of Government during emergencies, which could be included as part of the SOPs. The session consequently endorsed the key elements of SOPs, which would be developed and presented to REACT for endorsement in its next meeting.

#### Any other business

- a) Mr. Andrea Bagnoli, WFP Deputy Country Director proposed to include expansion of REACT through establishment of functional local REACT teams in different regions of the country and establishing clear communication lines between the different structures of Government and REACT.
- b) Mrs. Marjan Montazemi, UNICEF Deputy Representative noted UNICEF's commitment to support the inter-agency emergency response preparedness actions and called for stronger cooperation in terms of establishment of baselines data profiles and access to demographic and other types of information for effective preparedness measures.
- c) Ms. Pratibha Mehta, the UN Resident Coordinator called for REACT workplan and specifically the contingency planning process to be as comprehensive as possible and include all aspects of disaster risk management cycle, such as DRR, risk assessment, early warning and resilience. Ms. Mehta noted the need to strengthen the leading role of Government, support the capacity of the Government and to enable strong linkages between the different mechanisms, such as REACT and the National Platform for DRR. Ms. Mehta also noted for a need to include in the end-of-year meeting the agenda item to reflect on implementation of the REACT's workplan and its overall performance to improve the disaster risk management mechanisms in Tajikistan.
- d) Mr. C.C.Yu, ADB Country Director noted ADB's specific mandate on supporting the Government with recovery process and ADB's potential support in improving the roads safety through building additional anti-avalanche galleries. Decision on potential funding for such intervention is yet to be finalized and may take long periods due to internal decision-making process.

#### Closing remarks

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