01.08.2018 – ad-hoc HCTT Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Venue: DDM Conference Room, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Participants:

- Satya Brata Saha, Additional Secretary, MoDMR, HCTT Co-chair;
- Abigael Nyukuri, UNICEF, Nutrition Cluster Coordinator;
- Amina Mohammed, WFP Preparedness Officer, Logistic Cluster;
- Dr. Alangir Murshidi, DPM, IPHN, Nutrition cluster (Govt. Counterpart)
- Dr. Hasan Mohiuddin Ahmed, National Professional Officer, WHO, Health Cluster;
- Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, ED, DAM (NAHAB NNGO Representative);
- Fadrick Suvro Nath, Oxfam Senior Program Officer, Cash Working Group (CWG);
- Golam Morshed, UNICEF, WASH Cluster Coordinator;
- Halima Neyamat, FAO, Food Security Cluster;
- Hasibul Bari Rajib, IFRC, Shelter Cluster;
- In Hye Sung, UNICEF Emergency Specialist;
- Jacklin Rebario, Save the Children, Education Cluster;
- Malik Kabir, WFP Emergency Officer, Logistics Cluster;
- Md. Iftekharul Islam, Director, DDM, Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG) (Govt. Counterpart);
- Md. Jafar Iqbal, CARE, Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG);
- Mohammad Mainul Hossain Rony, FAO-WFP, Food Security Cluster (FSC);
- Mohammad Mohabubul Alam, WFP, Needs Assessments Working Group (NAWG);
- Mukit Billah, Program Assistant, ECHO (Donor Representative)
- Nipin Gangadharan, Country Director, ACF (iNGO Representative)
- Rezaul K. Chowdhury, COAST (NNGO Representative);
- Sabina Parvin, UNFPA Program Officer, GBV Cluster;
- Saudia Anwar, UNDP, Early Recovery Cluster;
- Shabnaaz Zahereen, UNICEF, Child Protection Cluster;
- Shah Zahidur Rahman, UNDP, Shelter Cluster;
- Kazi Shahidur Rahman, UN RCO, HCTT Secretariat;
- Henry Glorieux, UN RCO, HCTT Co-chair.

Agenda:

1. Update on the current monsoon situation
2. Cluster and working groups inputs to the Floods Response Preparedness Plan
3. Next step for the finalization of the plan
4. AoB

Minutes:

1. **Update on the current monsoon situation**

   The RCO presented the current monsoon situation and the outlook for the next 10 days. It was stressed that floods were likely in the Northern part of the country. Close monitoring of the information provided by the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) as well as by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) is required. It was stressed that floods forecasting is improving continuously in Bangladesh. Moreover, it was reported that districts’ preparedness level for a response to regular floods was high. Indeed, most-at-risk districts were already allocated cash and rice by MoDMR as preparedness measure (ref. enclosed document).
Participants discussed the correlation between embankment damages and floods and stressed that more needed to be done to ensure embankment protection as DRR-related intervention. It was suggested that concerned authorities should promote embankment protection through the communities themselves. Reportedly, some pilots in the South were successfully implemented and could be further improved and/or replicated in other parts of the country. Participants agreed that ownership of the community committees was important for everyone to contribute to embankment protection/monitoring. In addition, it was suggested that indigenous knowledge could be formalized for its use as an early warning system for floods.

2. Cluster and working groups inputs to the Floods Response Preparedness Plan

As agreed during June HCTT meeting, clusters and working groups reviewed collectively the existing 2014 national response preparedness plan for the floods (inter-cluster and working group meeting of 12.07.2018) and realized that there was scope for updates using existing material produced by HCTT members, clusters and working groups. As part of the continuous process of strengthening national preparedness and response capacities and, of informing in a transparent manner of the humanitarian community’s response capacities, the initial draft of a response preparedness plan for the floods was circulated on 15.07.2018. The draft was produced based on the GoB’s floods response preparedness plan, the HCTT emergency response preparedness plan, the FSC contingency plan and START Network floods briefing paper.

Based on the above, clusters and working groups were invited to discuss it internally among their members, to provide inputs in track change mode by 30 July 2018 as well as to provide an update on the 2014 Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs). This ad-hoc HCTT meeting aimed at reviewing the inputs to the HCTT Floods Response Preparedness Plan and to provide an opportunity to each cluster and working groups to present and exchange on their inputs. The below paragraphs highlight key points/challenges or recommendations that arise from these exchanges:

- Most clusters and working groups indicated that partnerships and localization were key elements of their planned response strategy;
- FSC will share a tool use by the cluster to support other clusters/working groups in collecting information to facilitate contingency stock mapping and technical capacities mapping;
- As for the JNA process, the joint delivery of assistance (e.g. of emergency kits) should be promoted. The logistics cluster through the CONOPS system should be able to provide recommendations on the most cost-effective way to distribute relief items in a coordinated way;
- Referral mechanisms to be coordinated to support inter-sectoral work in a way that increases value for money, the speed and the quality of the response and ensures that emergency cases are not left behind. It is expected that coordinated referral mechanisms will support the work of several clusters/working groups (e.g. GBV, Child Protection, MAM/SAM cases, Health Emergencies etc.)
- Each cluster to communicate their GBV focal point to the GBV cluster coordinator;
- The mainstreaming of the prevention of acute malnutrition and early recovery principles in clusters’ work needs further strengthening;
- The NAWG to liaise with RCO to organize a training on Kobo for national authorities responsible for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) – as per their request following the June INSARAG Regional Exercise in the Philippines;
- Given the fact that several clusters have developed cash packages as part of their response modalities in addition to the agreed MPCG, it was recommended to provide clear information on cash assistance modalities included in clusters’ response packages. It will help our partners and donors to understand better the variety of cash assistance packages, their purposes/justification and, consequently, help them to make informed-decisions. It will also help HCTT Members to promote better cash assistance modalities in country. Once the information is compiled, it will be analyzed collectively to ensure that there is a real added value in having this variety of cash assistance packages;
- Requesting support from the military to provide direct assistance (distribution of relief items) to the beneficiaries is not recommended. Civilian alternatives for direct assistance should always be promoted as much as possible which is highly feasible in a country like Bangladesh;
• Inter-cluster coordination such as b/w Child Protection and Education clusters for bringing back children to school is encouraged.

3. Next steps for the finalization of the plan

Action points:

➢ Clusters/Working Groups to send revised/updated inputs to the plan by Monday 06.08.2018 to RCO for compilation;
➢ To include information about the inter-cluster coordination at district-level (notably on the coordination of safe-spaces). Discussion with NAHAB on district level response planning;
➢ To circulate the revised document for approval by HCTT members

4. AoB

It was announced that the next HCTT meeting will be co-chaired by honorable MoDMR Secretary, Md. Shah Kamal and by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ms. Mia Seppo. The meeting is scheduled on Thursday August 9th at 12pm at the MoDMR conference room.