Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) meeting minutes

Date: March 21st 2016

Venue: Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Co-chaired by: Dan Ayliffe (Humanitarian Adviser, DFID-Bangladesh) and Satya Saha (Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

Participants

Clusters: Khurshid Alam, UNDP Shelter and Recovery; Emmanuel Drouhin, WFP Logistics; Damien Joud, FSC; Andrew Musyoki, UNICEF WASH; Mohammad Mohsin, UNICEF Education; Shabnaz Zahereen, UNICEF, Child Protection; Md. Zahidul Rahim, WHO, Health; Edww Sawaador, WHO, Health; Jacklin Reberio, SAVE, Education cluster;

NGOs: Snehel Soneji (INGO Representative/Oxfam); Umme Khadiza (nNGO Representative/BDPC);

Donors: Michelle Cicic (ECHO);

Secretariat: Kazi Shahidur Rahman (HCTT Secretariat/ UNRC).

Other representatives: Mahbubur Rahman, CARE; Azmat Ulla IFRC; Shammi Ahmed, IFRC; Md. Adith Shah Durjoy, IFRC; Razwan Nabin, RSG WHS; Mrityunjoy Das, Brac; Shashanka Saadi, BRAC; Md. Abdus Sattar, MoWCA; Nadia Rahman, UNFPA; Peppi Siddique, IOM; Md. Mahbubul Alam, WFP; Md. Anwarul Islam, DDM; Chris Hunter, UNWOMEN; UNDSS

1. Review of last HCTT minutes – Kazi Shahidur Rahman

Kazi Shahidur Rahman briefly reviewed the last meeting minutes which were validated by attendees.

2. Security update – UNDSS, Charles Tive

Charles Tive provided a brief security update to attendees noting that in general the security situation across the country has improved since September 2015.

UNDSS assesses Bangladesh to be at level II out of VI i.e. there is a “low” threat level.

Charles Tive also noted that there has been a discernible increase in police presence in Dhaka and across the country with police deployed to man checkpoints etc. This has coincided with an increase in reported crime which UNDSS assess is because police personnel have been deployed on security related operations and away from day-to-day activities.

3. Food Security Cluster update - Damien Joud and Mahabubul Alam

Damien Joud presented on the latest and draft IPC findings following assessments of Haor, Chittagong Hills Track (CHT) and Cox’s Bazaar districts. Bandarban and Sunamganj districts are assessed to be in ‘level IV’ (severe chronic food insecurity (CFI), while the other 8 districts are in level 3 (moderate CFI) according to latest chronic analysis. Final IPC findings to be released in mid-April.
Damien Joud (FSC-CC) introduced the 72 hours assessment developed by WFP as an example to improve the quality and speed of needs assessment. The aim is not to replace the JNA but to complement it. Mohammad Mahabubul Alam from WFP’s Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping unit provided an overview of latest assessment approaches by WFP including “rapid” 72 hours assessments.

Attendees questioned whether 72 hours could still be considered “rapid” given near instantaneous reporting about the impacts of disasters via social media etc?

Attendees also noted that the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) process due to its broad multi-sectoral focus provided humanitarian agencies with the ability to assess a range of needs and not just food security-related ones. In addition ECHO stressed that from a donor perspective a single assessment which covers a number of thematic sectors using a shared methodology was preferable to a series of separate assessments. DFID agreed with this and also pointed to the JNA’s Secondary Data Reviews as important preparedness planning documentation.

Damien Joud also presented on lessons learned following the Cyclone Komen response in the south-east of the country. Key constraints which impacted response operations included:

- Tardy trigger of the Joint Needs Assessment process;
- Slow pace of proposal development by relief agencies;
- Inability of donors to provide resources in a timely manner;
- Limited donor base; only two donors, ECHO and the UK, funded the response;
- As a conclusion, the recommendations are the same after a few Lesson Learned exercises were conducted in May 2013, after the tropical storm Mahasen (ECHO, ACAPS/JNA, FSC)

Both ECHO and DFID stressed that the above issues were not new and had hindered response activities since Tropical Storm Mahasen in May 2013 (if not before). ECHO expressed disappointment that there had been little positive progress in addressing such issues.

More broadly ECHO also made the point that the HCTT needed to drastically improve its performance so that it could fulfill its Terms of Reference. More focus needed to be brought to HCTT meetings with meetings limited to HCTT members only – were two issues ECHO highlighted.

**Action:** The Co-Chairs agreed to convene a small group meeting to assess HCTT functionality and to provide recommendations on how to improve HCTT performance. This meeting will be convened during w/c 3 April.

The Needs Assessment Working (NAWG) is to be re-activated with Mahbubur Rahman to convene an initial meeting of the NAWG,

4. **Cyclone preparedness update – Md. Anwarul Islam Khandker, DDM**

The Department for Disaster Management provided an overview of GoB cyclone preparedness planning. Individual clusters also provided an update which included the deployment of 10,000 shelter kits by the Shelter Cluster along with 500 inter-agency health kits by the Health Cluster.
Action: Kazi Shahidur Rahman to develop a consolidated overview of preparedness planning by Clusters.

5. IFRC humanitarian response mechanism and mandate – Md. Adith Shah Durjoy, IFRC

Md. Adith Shah Durjoy provided an overview of the role of the IFRC in Bangladesh noting the availability of disaster preparedness equipment and supplies, the ability of the National Society to quickly access seed financing from the IFRC to help kick-start responses to disasters etc.


7. Framework on disaster risk reduction and education in emergencies - Jacklin Rebeiro

It was agreed that points six and seven would be covered via an email update from respective Clusters.

8. World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) – UN RC’s Office

Razwan Nabin, BBC Media Action and member of regional WHS steering committee, and Kazi Shahidur Rahman briefly updated on WHS preparations.

Generally speaking it was felt that more needed to be done to ensure that the HCTT was properly acquainted with GoB planning regarding the WHS.

Action: The MoFA to convene a meeting on 6 April with stakeholders to update them on the GoB’s preparations and how Bangladesh will position itself in Turkey in May 2016.

9. Any other business

- INSARAG training has been shifted on July/August 2016 which supposed to organize on April 11-12, 2016.