

8/2017 PNG DISASTER MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING

Thursday 26 October 2017 at 1015hrs
National Disaster Conference Room

Present

Martin Mose	Dir NDC/ DMT Co-Chair
Roy Trivedy	UN Resident Coordinator/ DMT Co-Chair
Nige Kaupa	Australian High Commission
Willie Kunsei	ADRA
Udaya Regmi	IFRC
Wonesai Sithole	IOM
Kali Sete	UCPNG
Keven Koivi	UCPNG
Stella Vika	UCPNG
Khusrav Sharifov	UNDP
Mary Jr Konobo	UNDP
Karen Allen	UNICEF
Kencho Namgyal	UNICEF
Dr Monjur Hossain	UNICEF/ Nutrition Cluster
Kedar Poudyal	OHCHR/ Protection Cluster
Isimel Tuembe	Oxfam
Dr Venkat Dheeravath	WFP
Nola Ndrewei	WHO/ Health Cluster
Gerard Ng	UNDP/ DMT Secretariat

In Attendance

Julia Edwards	UCPNG
Regina Kiele	UPNG

Apologies

Miriam Mondia	FAO/ Food Security Cluster
Kasis Inape	National Weather Service
Koffi Koume	UNFPA
Sonia Yeung	World Vision/ WASH Cluster

Follow-Up Actions		
Item	Action	Action By
4	Share Disaster Loss Database data card	UNDP
	Disseminate Invitation Letter, Expression of Interest form and NAST TORs to members	DMT Secretariat
6	Convene inter-cluster group to review existing emergency stockpile arrangements	DMT Secretariat
	Discuss with DFAT focal point on ANGOs' continued to leverage on DFAT's stockpile hosting arrangement.	Australian NGO partners

Item 1. Opening Remarks by Co-Chair: UN Resident Coordinator

Mr Trivedy welcomed DMT members and called the meeting to order with a round of introductions.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

Item 3. Review of Minutes and Matters Arising

The previous meeting minutes were passed without amendments.

All matters arising were addressed as follows:

- Update on cluster plans to address risk of food insecurity triggered by other natural hazards. To be shared in the next DMT
- Provide an update of the emerging trends from the recent field testing of WASH in health facilities assessment at next meeting. To be addressed during Cluster updates.
- Inclusion of streamlining storage of emergency stockpiles on 9/2017 meeting agenda. Included in meeting agenda.

Item 4: Update by NDCNDC Disaster Loss Database

Ms Kiele briefed members that work on developing a Disaster Loss Database started in July 2017 and was progressing well with strong focus on the five provinces (Central, Madang, Bougainville, Chimbu, and Western Highlands) with support UNDP's DRM project. An alpha version of the database should be ready by November.

Mr Sharifov added that the database, to be managed by the NDC, will enable the trend analysis of disaster impacts for the country which allows for the tracking and reporting of the implementation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2017–2030. He noted that the data card being developed could be shared with members.

(See attached presentation for details.)

Redevelopment Interagency Rapid Needs Assessment Tool

Mr Ng shared that the ACAPS experts would be conducting the first scoping mission from 14-22 November and will also undertake field visits to both Western Highlands and Bougainville for consultations with provincial actors. He added that this was the first of three missions which would include field testing (Mission 2) and training of users (Mission 3).

He explained that consultations targeted both data collectors and data/information users across different levels of the government and humanitarian actors. He noted that the intent was not to reinvent the assessment tool but to leverage on current experiences from the regional and in-country contexts to refine the existing tool and ensure it remained fit-of-purpose while capturing the good humanitarian practices.

Mr Ng clarified the purpose of tool would be to provide a quick snapshot of the immediate humanitarian needs following a disaster to support immediate planning including the development of an initial response plan with sectoral priorities. In-depth technical assessments to support development of specific sectoral interventions are expected to follow thereafter.

He added that the reporting templates of the assessment tool will be digitised on the open-source KoBo application and available for use on mobile devices.

(See attached presentation for details.)

Joint Interagency Rapid Needs Assessment Team (NAST)

Mr Ng updated that the UNDP was working with NDC to finalise the TORs of reference by end of October after which an invitation would be sent to DMT members to register their interest to contribute to the NAST. Upon, expression of interest by members, final selection will be complete by end November and the team will be constituted and formally launched by December.

(See attached presentation for details.)

Action: Share Disaster Loss Database data card with members. [UNDP]

Action: Disseminate Invitation Letter, Expression of Interest form and NAST TORs with members when ready. [DMT Secretariat]

Item 5: Seasonal Climate Outlook

Mr Ng shared key highlights from the Seasonal Forum organised by National Weather Service (NWS) and RIMES which took place in early October. He noted that according to the NWS the wet season was likely to start at the end of October and conclude in May 2018. From the forum, Momase, Highlands, and Southern regions was expected to experience above normal rainfall average and was prone to potential floods and landslides while New Guinea Islands region was expected to experience below normal average rainfall.

(See attached presentation for details.)

Discussion

Mr Trivedy noted that it was important for the DMT to leverage on various tools and platforms (for example the NWS/RIMES seasonal projections overlaid with mVAM analysis) available to provide the best possible situational awareness for potential disasters.

Mr Kaupa highlighted that it was important for the relevant national agencies such as NWS and NDC to work together to provide early warning broadcasts.

Mr Sithole noted the need to establish clear early warning indicators to trigger early action.

Item 6: Streamlining of Emergency Stockpiles

Mr Ng briefed members that there was a need to review existing emergency stockpile arrangements to rationalise the stock levels, location of stockpiles as well as potentially explore ways to economise on the storage and handling. Members agreed with Mr Ng's proposal for the DMT Secretariat to work with the inter-cluster group to conduct a scoping of the existing issues and propose potential ways forward.

Discussion

To Ms Allen's query on standardised food and non-food relief items, Mr Ng clarified that each cluster was responsible for developing a standard sectoral list based on the Sphere standards and noted that some clusters have progressed on this further than others.

To Ms Allen's query on stockpiles being hosted by Australia DFAT for Australian NGO (ANGO) partners, Mr Kaupa shared that DFAT maintains two warehouses in Brisbane and Lae respectively where ANGO's emergency stockpiles are hosted together with Australian Government's. He added that the current hosting arrangement was up for review as the

current warehouse contract was expiring and DFAT needed to understand if there was continued need from ANGOs for this hosting. He requested partner NGOs to inform him of respective positions and needs.

Mr Mose echoed Mr Ng's point that while NGO stockpiles appeared to be well consolidated physically due to the DFAT hosting arrangement, there was also a need to further collective track stockpiles by the church partners and UN agencies to provide an overall picture of stockpiles in PNG.

Mr Kaupa also noted that some existing DFAT stockpiles was reaching its shelf-life and needed to be distributed to allow for replenishment. He called on any partners to reach out to DFAT if they were able to facilitate distribution.

Action: Convene inter-cluster group to review existing emergency stockpile arrangements. [DMT Secretariat]

Action: Discuss with DFAT focal point on ANGOs' continued to leverage on DFAT's stockpile hosting arrangement. [Australian NGO partners]

Item 7: Cluster Updates

Health

Ms Ndrewei updated that the previous joint Health-WASH cluster meeting took place on 6 Oct.

On the measles outbreak in West Sepik province, she updated that there was a recent measles outbreak in 2 LLGs within Vanimo-Green district. The outbreak appeared to have been contained but continued surveillance and monitoring remained. In terms of response, the provincial administration and health authority, supported by WHO and UNICEF have mobilised for the following response activities:

- Phase 1. This was ongoing and involved mass vaccination of children under 10 years old in schools and nearby villages. Another response team was being deployed the coming weekend to scale up enhanced surveillance activities. Dr Hossain added that 32% of the targeted 19,000 children have been vaccinated.
- Phase 2. Mass vaccination campaign nationwide in 2018 to be supported by GAVI and Measles and Rubella Initiative (MRI).

Dr Hossain added that UNICEF was supporting the installation of cold chain equipment in two affected districts and provision of vaccines and Vitamin A for outbreak response immunization.

Ms Ndrewei updated that results from the field testing of *WASH in Health Facilities* assessment. It was found that most facilities were in semi to poor state of conditions in all four provinces visited (EHP, Madang, Oro, and WNB). Only 35% of the facilities had sustainable/resilient water supplies but further water quality tests revealed that the water was however contaminated.

Ms Ndrewei further updated that a potential influenza-like outbreak was being reported in Tasman Island (Autonomous Region of Bougainville). This was similar to an outbreak reported in nearby islands in Solomon Islands. Reports were still being verified by the regional health authority.

Nutrition

Dr Hossain updated that training on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) was being held for expansion of IMAM services in two provinces (Simbu and AROB). IMAM had now expanded to 75 health facilities and 15 provincial hospitals.

He added that a costed Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for nutrition had been drafted with an estimated cost of PGK 385 million for five years (2018-2022). A validation of the plan took place on 25 October.

The cluster was also leading on the procurement of Vitamin A and Albendazole critical in the treatment of malnutrition as part of prepositioned emergency stockpiles.

Protection

Mr Poudyal updated that CARE recently conducted Community-based Disaster Management Training in Bougainville with strong focus on protection issues. He added that he was scheduled to attend a training on Human Rights in Humanitarian Action organized by UN OHCHR in Geneva from 6-10 November.

Next protection cluster meeting was being planned for the first week of November.

Education

Mr Namgyal updated that the cluster's Terms of Reference was being finalised while 3Ws mapping was in progress. He added that 113 teachers (60 from Jiwaka and 53 from AROB) had recently received training in integrating DRR/CCA in Child Friendly Schools through the values-based approach (e.g. respect for the environment, responsibility, stewardship, mindfulness etc.) in lesson plans. The training was conducted by Resource Conservation Foundation in partnership with Division of Education and supported by UNICEF.

He updated that the next cluster meeting was scheduled for 8 November.

Shelter/NFI/CCCM

Mr Sithole updated that there were currently sufficient stockpiles of NFIs for 1,000 households between various partners (e.g. CARE, Red Cross) prepositioned across several provinces (Mt Hagen, Goroka, Madang, Milne Bay, Kokopo).

He added that as an extension of the Mass Evacuation in Natural Disasters (MEND) training conducted in October, the cluster was currently working on mapping existing evacuation centres and their status.

The cluster was also planning to share shelter-related information on a Dropbox site. This information will also be hosted on the Global Shelter Cluster website.

The next cluster meeting was currently planned for 7 November.

Item 8: AOB

Fourth Round of PNG mVAM Food Security and Livelihood Monitoring Survey

Dr Dheeravath shared that the fourth round of the PNG mVAM Food Security and Livelihood monitoring survey was being planned for early November. Clusters were invited to contribute additional sectoral indicators which have not been included.

He added that a training for enumerators (Digicel Call Centre) was being scheduled for 3 November. Members interested to participate in the training were invited to inform him.

Invitation to Minister for Inter-Government Relations to attend next DMT

Mr Ng updated that an invitation from both co-chairs has been sent to the new Minister for Inter-Government Relations to attend the next DMT meeting planned for 21 November. That would be an opportunity for the Minister meet with heads of organisations and agencies and share his priorities on DRM/humanitarian action in PNG.

[Note: The portfolio of the Minister for Inter-Government Relations includes Disaster Management.]

UN Central Emergency Response Fund Review

Mr Ng shared key points from the recent in-country UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) review conducted in October:

- The review noted that in terms of timeliness, the overall response could have been timelier but acknowledged the circumstances and challenges preventing an earlier response. However, it was also found that the disbursement of CERF funds and subsequent implementation was timely;
- The CERF was also effective in responding to slow-onset disasters;
- Implementing clusters and agencies could consider the potential use of cash-based assistance. This would have to be informed by a study to determine the practicality of such an approach in different parts of the country.

He noted that the final consolidated global report would be published in early 2018 and available for members perusal.

Conclusion

Both co-chairs thanked members for their continued engagement and brought the meeting to a close.

The next DMT meeting is scheduled for 21 November 2017.