

# Kyrgyzstan inter-agency table-top simulation exercise report

## 24-25 November 2016

### Objective

- Improved understanding of roles & responsibilities of in-country disaster response actors
- Opportunity to practice policies, plans and procedures in an open learning environment
- Initiation of an initial response to a large- / medium-scale impact emergency practiced and identify mechanisms and resources available
- Identification of preparedness measures that can be put in place to enhance in-country response readiness and identify gaps, challenges and corresponding mitigation measures
- Strengthened partnerships, coordination and communication between Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, UN agencies, international and local NGOs.
- Identify lesson learned and next steps to enhance the interagency preparedness

### Participants

- Representatives of relevant Government entities dealing with emergency preparedness and response
- Heads and emergency focal points of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRC, IFRC, RCSK)
- International and national non-governmental organizations

### Exercise proceedings

#### Welcome remarks

Mr. Alexander Avanesov, UN Resident Coordinator and Ms. Jyldyz Toktorbaeva, Head of international cooperation department of Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic delivered their opening remarks by welcoming participants and noted importance of the exercise. Mr. Marcel Vaessen, Head of OCHA regional office for Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine also provided welcoming remarks and noted that the goal of the exercise was to test the existing emergency response coordination mechanisms to a large-scale emergency that could potentially occur in a densely populated area in Kyrgyzstan. Based on the results of the exercise, areas will be identified where participants could work on to advance in emergency response preparedness actions in 2017. He also briefed the participants on the proceedings of the exercise, noting the required coordination elements that needed to be in place in response to a large-scale emergency and the importance of close coordination between the Government counterparts, as well as among the different cluster/sectors.

#### Emergency announced

Following opening remarks, a short (fake) video with a BBC presenter announced a 7.4 Magnitude earthquake hitting Bishkek and surrounding districts. The video triggered participants to immediately consider collective response actions. Under the guidance of RC, the Kyrgyzstan Humanitarian Country Team was established, upgrading the existing mechanism to enable a large-scale response. The HCT immediately triggered activation of seven clusters initially to coordinate immediate inter-cluster response actions. Extensive amount of phone calls and emails, issued by the team of facilitators to participants simulated elements of communication between the Government, the regional and global emergency response coordination mechanisms. The exercises also simulated elements of public statements, situation reports and involvement with the media, all of which are considered as one of the immediate actions that the partners need to undertake following a major emergency. Under the guidance of RC a.i. (later also

appointed Humanitarian Coordinator) and the decisions made by the HCT, the participants also simulated issuance of CERF request to OCHA NY and developed and simulated a launch of a flash appeal.

## Debriefing

On the second day of the exercise, the participants worked in groups to discuss the major areas that the exercise looked at related to the coordination of response, information management and other aspects. The groups looked at the elements of the exercise that worked well and the areas that needed improvement. In their discussions, the participants also linked the elements of the exercise to the existing preparedness context of DRCU and the Government of Kyrgyzstan. The debrief, lasting for about two hours, resulted in a number of action points and recommendations, that need to be implemented in the coming months and throughout 2017 to advance emergency response preparedness in Kyrgyzstan (see annex for the results of the debrief).

## Action points

Table 1. The action points

No	Action	Responsibility	Deadline
1.	Share 0 draft of exercise report with participants	DRCU, Secretariat, OCHA	1 December 2016
2.	Prioritize exercise recommendations for implementation in 2017	DRCU council members	19 December 2016
3.	Share final workshop report with prioritized actions list	DRCU, Secretariat, OCHA	25 December 2016
4.	Follow-up with Government/DRCU on implementation of the prioritized actions	DRCU, Secretariat, OCHA	2017