

MINUTES

First Joint Steering Committee Meeting

Disaster Risk Management Programme, UNDP

Date: January 19, 2017
Time: 09:30 – 12:00
Venue: UNDP Conference Hall

Participants:

1. Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative in Tajikistan
2. Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense
3. H.E. Mr. Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan
4. Mr. Valeriy Dergachyov, Minister-Consular of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tajikistan
5. Ms. Walburga Roos, Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan
6. Ms. Regina Gujan, Senior Programme Manager, Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan
7. Mr. Jan Harfst, Country Director, UNDP Tajikistan
8. Ms. Sanja Bojanic, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Tajikistan
9. Ms. Svetlana Jumaeva, Senior National Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan
10. Ms. Tamura Chie, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Dushanbe
11. Mr. Salimzoda Muhammadjon, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
12. Mr. Oleg Pilkevich, Head of Search and Rescue Department, CoES
13. Mr. Idibek Buriev, Deputy Head of Territory and Population Protection Department, COES
14. Mr. Shodi Karimov, Head of the International Affairs Department, COES
15. Ms. Khayri Khasanova, Officer of Media Service, COES
16. Mr. Bahrom Ghaforzoda, Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation
17. Mr. Suhrob Olimov, State Agency of Hydrometeorology of the Republic of Tajikistan
18. Mr. Valijon Ranoev, National Disaster Risk Adviser, UN OCHA
19. Mr. Mubin Rustamov, ARR/Programme, UNDP Tajikistan
20. Ms. Malika Khakimova, Programme Associate, UNDP Tajikistan
21. Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, DRMP Programme Manager, UNDP Tajikistan
22. Mr. Michihiro Tanabe, DRMP Programme Analyst, UNDP Tajikistan
23. Mr. Ilhom Safarov, DRMP Project Analyst, UNDP Tajikistan
24. Ms. Khursheda Aknazarova, DRMP Programme Assistant, UNDP Tajikistan

General Information

In 2016 UNDP signed three project documents on implementation of disaster risk management activities in Tajikistan. The projects aims to strengthen disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response capacities, as well as disaster risk governance in Tajikistan. These projects build on the priorities of the national disaster risk management strategy, the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)”, the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as achievements and lessons learned from UNDP’s many years of successful collaboration with the Committee of Emergency Situations. First Joint Steering Committee meeting conducted in January 19, 2017 with the participation of all project stakeholders and donor organizations. During the meeting, the progress achieved in 2016 and planned activities for 2017 presented and discussed. Moreover, the meeting provided opportunities for the partners to discuss linkages, challenges and interventions envisaged within projects funded by the Government of Japan, Russian Federation - UNDP Trust Fund for Development (RTFD) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Agenda

1. Welcoming notes

- Welcome remarks by Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative in Tajikistan;
- Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan;
- HE Mr. Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Mr. Valeriy Dergachyov, Minister-Consular of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ms. Walburga Roos, Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan.

2. Disaster Risk Management Programme annual work plan 2017

- a) Strengthening disaster risk governance and response (Japan, SDC, RTFD);
- b) Building the capacities on disaster preparedness and response (Japan, RTFD);
- c) Improving disaster management planning and cross-border cooperation (Japan, SDC).

3. Questions & Answers / Discussions

4. Conclusions and wrap up

Minutes

Ms. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative in Tajikistan, welcomed all participants and informed about signed agreements between UNDP and the CoES on implementation of three new projects funded by Government of Japan, Russian Federation - UNDP Trust Fund for Development and SDC. She mentioned that while there is no specific SDG on Disaster Risk Management, there are targets and indicators under at least ten of the Goals that are related or directly relevant to increasing the resilience of people and places to natural disasters. In that sense, Disaster Risk Management is rightfully treated as truly crosscutting in the Global Agenda 2030. She outlined the agenda of the meeting and gave short information on the projects. She outlined strong partnership with the government entities, which will support achievement of goals and objectives of the programme. Ms. Mehta, highlighted the importance of innovation in the implementation of the projects and plans of UNDP to identify innovative solutions and opportunities.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, greeted all SC meeting participants and expressed his satisfaction on organization of the meeting that gives the opportunity to discuss planned activities. He proposed to have such meetings in a semiannual basis to enable stakeholders to review implementation process. During his speech, Mr. Nazarzoda shortly reported on achievements made so far on implementation of each project. He remarked that assessment of the SAR capacities was conducted in Dushanbe, which urges to review suitability of conducting another assessment within project funded by the Government of Japan. He called to intensify implementation of the project in 2017. At the end of his speech, the Chairman stressed importance to improve effectiveness of the response capacities of Search and Rescue teams, including Diving Unit, Mountain Search Unit, the rescuers who can work in mines. He also suggested review the possibility of upgrading the early warning system of Sarez Lake, expanding it up to the border with Uzbekistan so it could cover Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. He proposed to create the stockpiles (planned by the project funded by the Government of Japan) within the CoES premises that are located in Khatlon and GBAO. For establishment of community disaster risk management SAR teams, he proposed that retired CoES soldiers to be considered. He mentioned that the CoES is working on harmonization of the national legislation to bring it in accord with the international requirements. He also highlighted that the National DRM strategy for 2017-2030 which is being developed to be finalized by April 2017.

HE Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan, saluted all participants and highlighted the professionalism of the senior management of the UNDP, and mentioned the importance of the project funded by the Government of Japan. He stressed that the project is significant in terms of funds as well as scope of activities. He also mentioned that the project aims to benefit 8.2 million people in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Mr. Valeriy Dergachyov, Minister-Consular of the Embassy of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tajikistan, thanked UNDP for provided opportunity to discuss planned activities on the projects planned to be implemented within DRM. He mentioned intensification of the disaster occurrence and its effects to the economy of Tajikistan. He noted the importance of

improving preparedness and response capacities and mechanisms. He informed participants on the past and current cooperation between the Ministry of emergency situation of Russian Federation and the CoES such as delivering specialized equipment and humanitarian assistance during disasters. He positively evaluated function of the Russian Federation – UNDP Trust Fund for Development’s work in Tajikistan and its effectiveness. At the end, Mr. Dergachyov ensured that Russian Federation will continue assistance to Tajikistan on creation of sound response system and will consider remarks made by the Chairman of the CoES on their plans and priorities.

Ms. Walburga Roos, Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan, greeted all participants and welcomed the idea of having programme approach for Steering Committee meeting. She emphasized that experience of Switzerland showed that to find a right measures to effectively response to disasters and reduce vulnerability of the community is a challenging to any country of the world especially when the population of the country leave in poverty. Considering that, SDC is working in the national and community levels to establish a system that reduce risk and damage of disasters. She noted that SDC is working to improve function of the National Platform and Expert Group as well as they plan to work in the district level on risk governance. She mentioned that SDC work is also include cross cutting issues.

Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, DRMP Programme Manager, presented the overview of all projects, activities implemented in 2016, planned activities for 2017 and interlinkages of the projects. During presentation, UNDP DRMP’s main areas of intervention (in line with Sendai Framework) were mentioned such as 1) Reduce losses from the most significant causes of death and damage. 2) Address risks from emerging threats. 3) Integrate disaster risk reduction into the development process. 4) Enhance the efficiency, impact, risk reduction and resilience building of disaster response. Presentation consisted presentation of intimation on each project and activities planned.

Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities project funded by the Government of Japan to be implemented within September 2016 - August 2020 with the budget 10,682,973 USD. The project implemented with involving Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Agency of Hydrometeorology, Department of Geology and Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority.

The project aims to support the Government of Tajikistan in undertaking a nation-wide risk assessment and mapping, establishment and implementation of risk reduction measures, improvement of early warning and disaster management planning as well as strengthening capacities of search-and-rescue teams in 9 mid-sized municipalities, including three close to Afghanistan.

Strengthening Preparedness and Response Capacity project funded by Russian Federation - UNDP Trust Fund for Development to be implemented within August 2016 – July 2018 with the budget 1,650,000.00 USD. The project implemented with involving Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of RT and Ministry of Emergency Situations of RF.

The project supported by the Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development aims to strengthen capacities of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense through the establishment of a Unified Emergency Preparedness and Response System for emergency situations to ensure better coordination amongst government structures and strengthening the search and rescue capacities in Dushanbe.

Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance in Tajikistan project funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to be implemented within August 2016 – July 2019 with the budget 804,650 USD. The project implemented with involving Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of RT and members of the National Platform for DRR.

The goal of the project is to reduce the negative impacts of disasters on Tajikistan and ensure an improved management of associated risks. In addition, project aims to improve the risk governance in the country at national and community levels and broaden the engagement of key government, private sector and external organization actors in disaster risk governance in Tajikistan. The project also increase the awareness of River Basin Organizations on managing water related hazards.

Mr. Faizulloev highlighted, cross cutting, especially gender issues, interlinkages between these projects and how they complement each other. At the end, he briefly updated on activities implemented in 2016.

Issues and Comments:

- It was suggested to clarify what is meant by the term “Tajspas”. Whether it refer to both the SAR teams and community volunteers or it refer to the SAR teams only.
- It was noted that there are some similarities in the annual work plans. For example, assessment of SAR teams was already conducted in the frame of the RTFD project.
- It was highlighted that training center needs to be built (planned by the project funded by the Government of Japan) in Dushanbe and stockpiles for Afghanistan could be built in the provinces (Kurgan-Tyube and Khorog).
- It was suggested that the past works supported by SDC (development of risk assessment methodology and strengthening SAR team) needs to be taken into account in activities to be undertaken by projects supported by the Government of Japan and Russian Federation for efficiency.
- It was noted that success of three projects could be achieved: 1) if these projects are aligned and complements with each other; 2) if these projects are aligned with other projects implemented by DIPECHO partners; and 3) all the resources provided by donors and the government itself are directed to systematically address priorities stipulated by the CoES.
- It was proposed to establish a working group that will meet, if needed on regular basis, to review Annual Work Plan for 2017 based on the suggestions and remarks made during the meeting.

PSC meeting conclusions:

- The term “Tajspas” will be changed to the officially accepted term within CoES for SAR teams.
- It was agreed that assessment conducted in the frame of RTFD project covered only SAR team in Dushanbe and assessed needs on heavy equipment, only. The need for in-depth assessment of Dushanbe SAR and provincial SAR teams needed.
- Initially, the training center was foreseen to be built in Khatlon oblast (with the consultation of former Head of CoES), however if there is a need to review it, UNDP in consultation to donor will seek the possibility of revision of this activity.
- The suggestion on considering previous achievements constituted by SDC accepted.
- Establishment of the working group to review and finalize annual work plan for 2017 supported by all participants. It was decided that the Programme Manager, in consultation to the stakeholders, will set the date of the meeting of the working group.
- The tentative date of the next meeting was set to December 2017.

Ms. Mehta once again thanked participants for their participation and supported the idea to establish the working group. She mentioned that this working group is not aimed in changing the project documents but to improve the Annual Work Plan for 2017 in order to make sure that national priorities and interlinkages taken into account. She thanked Mr. Nazarzoda for fruitful cooperation and thanked all donor organizations for their contribution and partnership.