

MINUTES

Programme Steering Committee Meeting Disaster Risk Management Programme, UNDP

Date: November 30, 2018
Time: 09:30 – 12:00
Venue: UNDP Conference Hall

Participants:

1. Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
2. HE Mr. Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan
3. HE Mr. Igor Lyakin-Frolov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tajikistan
4. Mr. Jan Harfst, Country Director, UNDP in Tajikistan
5. Ms. Walburga Roos, Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan
6. Ms. Svetlana Jumaeva, Senior National Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan
7. Mr. Mahmaddulloev Habibullo, Head of Riverbank Reinforcement Department of the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation
8. Mr. Salimzoda Mukhamadjon, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
9. Mr. Oleg Pilkevich, Head of Search and Rescue Department of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
10. Mr. Zarif Saidov, Deputy Head of Search and Rescue Department of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
11. Mr. Madaliev F. - Deputy Head of Finance Department of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
12. Mr. Behruz Sodikov, Head of the Humanitarian Aid Unit of International Cooperation Department of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence
13. Mr. Manzul Kumar Hazarika, Director of Geoinformatics Center – Asian Institute of Technology
14. Mr. Mubin Rustamov, ARR/Programme, UNDP Tajikistan

15. Ms. Nargizakhon Usmanova, Team Leader on Climate Change, DRR, Energy and Environment, UNDP Tajikistan
16. Ms. Malika Khakimova, Programme Associate, UNDP Tajikistan
17. Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, Programme Manager, UNDP DRMP
18. Mr. Ilhom Safarov, Project Analyst, UNDP DRMP
19. Ms. Khursheda Aknazarova, Project Analyst, UNDP DRMP

General Information

Joint Programme Steering Committee Meeting is organized by UNDP on an annual basis. The main objective of the meeting is to discuss the implementation status of the projects, review the achieved results, as well as lessons learned, and challenges encountered. During the meeting jointly with national partners and donor representatives planned activities for the coming year are also discussed.

Partners review the progress and achievements of the following three projects: (a) Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities, funded by the Government of Japan, (b) Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, (c) Strengthening Disaster Response Capacities funded by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Agenda

1. Welcoming remarks

Welcoming remarks were made the following persons:

- Mr. Jan Harfst, UNDP Country Director;
- 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;
- HE Mr. Igor Lyakin-Frolov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tajikistan;
- Ms. Walburga Roos, Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan.

2. Presentation of Progress results for 2018 and Annual Work Plan for 2019

- a) Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities;
- b) Strengthening Preparedness and Response Capacities;
- c) Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance.

3. Presentation of the Risk Assessment Methodology

4. Questions & Answers / Discussions

5. Conclusions and wrap up

Minutes

Mr. Jan Harfst, UNDP Country Director, welcomed all meeting attendees and expressed his gratitude to the Committee of Emergency Situations, State Agency of Hydrometeorology and Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation for their partnership and collaboration, and thanked the Governments of Japan, the Russian Federation and Switzerland for the significant support to the sustainable and resilient development of Tajikistan.

Mr. Harfst briefed the participants about the Sendai DRR Framework shifted the concept of disaster management towards a more comprehensive understanding of hazards and vulnerability and forward looking longer-term strategy for anticipating and managing risk with focus not only on disaster preparedness, but also on building resilience.

Mr. Harfst outlined the agenda of the meeting and highlighted the continuous collaboration with all partners for the achievement of better results in 2019.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, greeted all meeting participants and thanked UNDP for organizing the meeting providing the opportunity to discuss implementation of joint projects, which started in 2016. Mr. Nazarzoda mentioned the activities held and achievements made under each project and shared his comments and recommendations on further improvement of the activities in certain areas. Mr. Nazarzoda thanked UNDP and donor organizations for their support and proposed to establish a working group for the development of new project concepts for continuation of the ongoing initiatives for the benefit of Tajikistan.

HE Mr. Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan, welcomed all participants. His Excellency highlighted that two and half years ago his first assignment in Tajikistan as a Japanese Ambassador started with the signing ceremony of the Project Document on Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities project between Government of Japan and COES, thus this project has a very special importance for him. Moreover, the Ambassador stated that Disaster Risk Management is a matter for people's lives. Further HE stated, "therefore our responsibility today is very serious, because if we examine better, the more people's lives we could save in the future". At the end of his speech, His Excellency pointed that he was always encouraged by Mr. Nazarzoda, by his strong leadership, knowing so many details and Mr. Jan Harfst being always a friendship bridge between the governments of Tajikistan and Japan, which is not at all an easy task. Therefore, the Japanese assistance in the field of disaster relief is not bilateral, but definitely trilateral among the Committee of Emergency Situation & Civil Defense, UNDP and the Japanese Government. And this trilateral cooperation must continue, and be strengthened in future, as addressing natural disasters is not a goal, but a continuous process.

HE Mr. Igor Lyakin-Frolov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tajikistan, greeted participants and mentioned the longstanding and successful cooperation with UNDP on implementation of various projects and highlighted the completion of the project on Strengthening Preparedness and Response Capacities, that was implemented with the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defence of Tajikistan from

2016 to 2018. Concerning the project on Facilitating Climate Resilience in Tajikistan, His Excellency advised to give more detailed information about this project. At the end the Ambassador expressed satisfaction with the work done and advised in future to improve coordination and reporting during the implementation of the projects.

Ms. Walburga Roos, Director of Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan, greeted participants. She briefly informed about project supported by SDC and expressed their readiness on further cooperation in this direction. Ms. Roos have raised several issues to be considered by the partners: 1) appointment of Mr. Mamadtohir Zokirzoda, Deputy Prime Minister as DRM Focal Point in Tajikistan, which is very significant for the government and international partners. She highlighted the effort of UNDP on this achievement and recommended further to focus on strengthening the awareness and capacity of DRM focal point. 2) Data collection and data availability for the partners - she pointed the importance of solid data for the identification of measure to be taken to reduce the risk and save the lives of the people. 3) Integration of achieved results into the water sector reform process. Ms. Roos mentioned that different agencies, such as Hydromet, ALRI etc. are involved in this process and a huge work need to be done in order the increase capacity of relevant stakeholders, through various measures and activities. A Study Tour to Switzerland which was organized by UNDP in 2018 can be considered as one the best examples.

Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, DRMP Programme Manager, presented an overview of all projects, activities implemented in 2018. Mr. Faizulloev mentioned about following main achievements of the projects: development of a Flood Management Guidelines, identification and implementation of DRR infrastructure sub-projects, conduction of first Cross-border coordination meeting between CoES and Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), assessment of Urban Disaster risk management system of Khujand city, capacity building of CoES SAR teams, and appointment of National Focal Point for Disaster Risk Management at the Prime Minister office.

In the course of the meeting it was mentioned that the project on “Strengthening Disaster Response Capacities” funded the Government of Russia was successfully completed. This project focused on building the technical capacity of the Search and Rescue Teams of CoES through provision of 196 units of search and rescue equipment and heavy machinery. It is expected to conduct the final evaluation of this project by the end of 2018 or begging of 2019.

Mr. Ilhom Safarov, DRMP Project Analyst and *Ms. Khursheda Aknazarova, DRMP Project Analyst* presented the 2019 Annual work plans of two projects to the participants. Main activities planned for 2019 activities are the following:

Under the “Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities” project: Conduct risk assessment in 58 districts of Tajikistan; Implement 20 risk reduction sub-projects at the community level; Delivery and install meteorological equipment; Design and establish the framework of the early warning messaging system; Assess urban disaster management challenges and opportunities and develop Municipality disaster risk management improvement plan for Bohktar, Shaartuz, Kulyab, Khorog, Gharm municipalities; Develop training modules and tools for capacity building activities for the Community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) teams; Support CoES SAR teams to meet INSARAG modality and protocols; Support cross border cooperation and signing of the agreement between Afghanistan National Disaster Management

Authority (ANDMA) and CoES; Initiate construction of the warehouses in Bokhtar and Khorog; Procure light SAR equipment for SAR teams based on INSARAG requirements; Integrate CBDRM into national SAR system.

Under the “Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance” project: Engage with DRM National Focal Point, GoT officials and other stakeholders on need to improve risk governance and DRM coordination with the Government; Provide support on strengthening the capacity of DRM Focal Point; Organize at least 2 (two) workshops for the Government officials on National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (NDRRS) for 2019-2030; Organizing 2 (two) NP meetings with the interested counterparts involved in DRM to discuss disaster risk governance issues; Increase Platform and other stakeholder awareness of risk governance approaches used outside Tajikistan through participation at the Conferences and Global Platforms; Expand and integrate the private sector into the disaster risk governance process; Provide technical trainings for CoES staff members on proper management and utilization of the National Platform website; Support in conduction of Regional Conference on DRR for CA countries plus Afghanistan, Pakistan and India; Training on inclusiveness of vulnerable groups; Conduct risk assessment in four (4) districts of Tajikistan; Based on conducted RBOs analysis continue conduction of a training on gender and alternate approaches to water-related hazard management such as EbA and ecosystem DRR, as well as climate adaptation for use in RBO planning and local risk management efforts; Technical support to the Government/relevant government structure on development of a short-term State Programs, based on the endorsed NDRRS for 2019-2030.

The presentation on Risk Assessment Methodology was agreed by all participants to be presented during the next REACT Meeting.

Issues and Comments:

HE Mr. Hajime Kitaoka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan, raised a question on outcome 2 on risk assessment. As the risk assessment is conducted for the safety of the local community, better understanding on how UNDP plans to communicate /share the results of the assessment with the people is required. Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev explained that based on the conducted risk assessment, the district profiles (passports) will be developed and handed over to each village, jamoat and district. Along with that, the awareness raising campaigns will be carried out among local populations in the villages in order to increase awareness and preparedness for the potential risks.

HE Mr. Igor Lyakin-Frolov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Tajikistan, requested to share more information and explain the implementation status as well as recruitment processed taken under the “Facilitating Climate Resilience in Tajikistan” project which is funded by the Government of Russia. In addition, the Ambassador advised to consider the riverbank reinforcement activities in Temurmaliq district during the assessment of potential areas, due to the risk of floods in that area.

Ms. Nargizakhon Usmanova, Team Leader on Climate Change, DRR, Energy and Environment, UNDP Tajikistan, briefed the participants about the project on Facilitating Climate Resilience in

Tajikistan, being implementing with the Committee of Environment Protection under the Government of Tajikistan. The main objective of the current 2 years project is to support the Government on giving access to climate financing and mobilizing the resources for managing the climate related hazards. During the current implementation period two project documents on climate change adaptation were developed. The first project proposal was submitted to Green Climate Fund (GCF) on enabling the national adaptation planning process in Tajikistan, to mobilize approx. US\$ 3 mln. Another project proposal was developed for the small-scale farmers along Kafarnigan river basin and submitted to the Adaptation Fund, to mobilize approx. US\$ 10 mln. The intermediate report of the project was developed in July 2018 and submitted to UNDP Russian Trust Fund. UNDP is also expected to have another separate Steering Committee Meeting for this project with the relevant partners to discuss in detail the results and strategic plans for 2019. As for the vacancies, she mentioned that they are announced globally at UNDP website. The process of hiring is carried out based on the certain UNDP Standard Operation Procedure. The recommendation about the issue in Temurmalik will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, requested to clarify the situation on construction of the warehouses which has to be completed in the short period of time. Also the Chairman raised a question on the delay with the procurement of machinery for COES and asked about the criteria of hiring the national consultants. In order to avoid any misunderstandings in the future, it was requested to consult with COES prior to hiring any consultants. Mr. Nazarzoda highlighted the changes in the COES legislations, codes and decrees of emergency unified system, search and rescue works and civil defence. Thus, there is a need on provision of the support on revision of the final legislative documents by the experts.

Furthermore, he recommended to provide training on English language skills for the relevant COES staff members in order to prepare the Search and Rescue Teams for the integration into INSARAG, review the documents for Sendai Framework and development of the potential project documents. *Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev*, have reported on the progress and pointed to consider the given recommendations and suggestions.

Mr. Habib Mahmaddulloev, Head of Flood Retention Facilities Unit, Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) mentioned the close collaboration of UNDP with the Agency of Land Reclamation and Irrigation (ALRI) on the joint activities aimed to prevent the risk of natural disaster through the rehabilitation of mudflow canals, strengthening of irrigation canals and the river bank reinforcement activities. Also he has highlighted the participation of the members of the River Based Organizations and National Platform at the Study Tour in Switzerland and BiH, that was very important and a lot of experiences were taken from this trip.

Mr. Salimzoda Muhammadjon, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, expressed his concern about the activities that have not been achieved in 2018, if the activities were shifted to 2019 it is expected that not all the activities, such as (risk assessment, strengthened the capacity of community search and rescue teams, and the constructions of warehouses) will be fully achieved by the end of the project. Thus, the results of 2018 have to be reviewed in detail and then the work plan for 2019 need to be discussed. *Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev* explained that the process of project implementation depends on both parties, the intersectoral working group for the risk assessment which was established is not gathering at all and not making their jobs properly which also need to be considered. Further during hiring the national consultants by UNDP the consultations will be conducted with COES. Concerning hiring the COES staff members as a national consultant for the projects, Mr. Faizulloev asked to assist on recruitment of them, as according to the policy of the Government of Tajikistan, if the government employer is

hired by international organization he/she should resign from the current job at the Government or get special permission. Therefore, this procedure does not let to hire the national consultants from the COES staff members. If COES can make any changes in this procedure for UNDP also will be easier to push the work further.

Ms. Svetlana Jumaeva, Senior National Programme Officer asked to focus on risk assessment. As various project carried out in the targeted areas by different organizations, she recommended before starting the risk assessment and development of the district development plans to coordinate the activities with the relevant agencies and organizations in order to avoid the duplication. *Mr. Ilhom Safarov*, agreed with the given suggestion and pointed that the coordination is in the process and will be continue with the relevant partners.

PSC meeting conclusions:

In conclusion, *HE Mr. Hajime Kitaoka*, requested to pay specific attention to the outcomes of the project, which are linked straightly with the life of the people that is very important for the Government of Japan.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, pointed that the comments and recommendations which were highlighted were for the effectiveness of joint work and sufficient use of donors' resources.

Mr. Jan Harfst thanked all meeting participants for their participation and contribution and requested to focus on the next steps and finalize detailed work plans for 2019.



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