



MINUTES

Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

Project: “Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities”

Date: 18 February 2020

Venue: UNDP Conference Hall, 39 Ayni Str., Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Project Steering Committee (PSC) members:

1. Dr. (Ms) Pratibha Mehta, Resident Representative, UNDP Tajikistan
2. H.E. Mr. Takayuki Miyashita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan
3. Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
4. Mr. Karimjon Abdualimov, Deputy Director of the Agency on Hydrometeorology
5. Mr. Habibullo Mahmadduloev, Head of the Basin Management, Agency on Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

Agenda of Project Steering Committee meeting:

1. Review of project results achieved in 2019;
2. Presentation on progress and achieved results on risk assessment;
3. Presentation and/or approval of the project Annual work plan for 2020;
4. Request for cost neutral extension of the project until 2021;
5. Other issues.

Opening remarks:

The PSC meeting was opened by Dr. (Ms) Pratibha Mehta, Resident Representative of UNDP in Tajikistan. Ms. Mehta welcomed H.E. Mr. Takayuki Miyashita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan as well as representatives of the government partners and local community.. Ms. Mehta highlighted the role of UNDP and partners in a 4-year effort in disaster risk reduction emphasizing the importance of quality assurance, lesson learnt and alignment with the results and required procedures while implementing the project.

H.E. Mr. Takayuki Miyashita welcomed meeting participants, highlighting the importance of project’s achievements, which determine its success to ensure future collaboration. H.E. Mr. Takayuki Miyashita invited all participants to have a productive discussion, emphasize best results and lessons learnt, which will set the course of action for 2020 and further continuation of the project.



Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, greeted participants and government officials emphasizing the importance of the project, its alignment with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2019-2030 and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, as well the significance of disaster reduction, preparedness and response activities in Tajikistan. Mr. Nazarzoda underlined that challenges encountered throughout the project implementation should prompt the PSC to reconsider certain implementation approaches in order to ensure effective utilization of funding provided by the Government of Japan.

Presentations:

Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme Manager, presented the following project results achieved in 2019 at the outcome level, against the set targets:

- 1) Implementation of 11 disaster risk reduction infrastructure and ecosystem-based approach interventions, benefiting more than 212,000 people (including through signing the Letter of Agreement with the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation);
- 2) Development of Disaster Risk Management Improvement Plans for Panjakent, Shaartuz and Rasht and conduction of trainings on DRR cost-benefit analysis ensuring enhanced understanding of urban risks among local communities.
- 3) Procurement of weather forecasting equipment and conduction of capacity building activities for staff of the Agency of Hydrometeorology (including weather modelling training);
- 4) Strengthening capacities of 65 community-based search and rescue teams through provision of specialized trainings;
- 5) Strengthening capacities of CoES search and rescue teams through procurement and delivery of 178 units of equipment and rehabilitation of administrative building;
- 6) Establishing partnership with Afghanistan on cross-border disaster preparedness and response (though signing the bilateral agreement between Tajikistan and Afghanistan)

Mr. Kavinda Gunasekara, International Expert from Asian Institute for Technology in Thailand reported on progress achieved in risk assessments conducted as well as informed on remaining activities planned for implementation in 2020. The Asian Institute for Technology (AIT) jointly with the Geoinformatics Center and University of Twente (ITC) in the Netherlands prepared an Inception Report on works accomplished and conducted two-weeks Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment Workshop for national and international specialists in Dushanbe. The team also prepared country scale dataset conducted Hazard and Exposure Assessment for Sughd Region, which was reflected in the Final Risk Assessment Methodology report. Mr. Gunasekara noted that until May 2020, AIT will finalize Disaster Risk Assessment for Khatlon, Districts of Republican Subordination and GBAO and focus on completion of Disaster Risk Information visualization platform and GeoNode data portal, which will be presented for beneficiaries at the final workshop in Dushanbe.

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of CoES raised a question whether parameters developed for Hazard and Exposure Assessment for Sughd Region can be used for other regions of Tajikistan and requested translation of produced reports and findings into Tajik or Russian languages.

In response to question of Mr. Nazarzoda, *Mr. Kavinda Gunasekara* informed that translation of the Inception Report and summary of the Risk Assessment Methodology is available, and translation of the final platform is in process. He confirmed that all parameters and indicators developed in the methodology apply to the whole country.



Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda raised a question of certification of community-based SAR teams and their integration into the national system, which should be coordinated by CoES not by the local authorities. Further, he requested to clarify the training module for women and youth in search and rescue activities to CoES for review and further proceedings.

In response to questions from Mr. Nazarzoda, Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev highlighted that capacities of 18 CBDRM teams were assessed and trainings delivered in 3 districts (Hissar, Tursun-zade and Shahrinav). The official letters were sent to CoES by district authorities, requesting to integrate the volunteer teams into the CoES SAR system. It was mentioned that in 2020, assessment of 20 additional districts in Rasht and Khatlon regions are envisaged. Afterwards, produced reports and training plans for women and youth will be provided to CoES for consideration.

Further, *Ms. Nargizakhon Usmanova*, UNDP Team Leader on DRR, Climate Change, Energy and Environment, presented the project work plan for 2020. In 2020, the project will focus on finalization of risk assessments across Tajikistan and integration of findings into District Development Plans and local DRM plans, continue disaster risk reduction infrastructure interventions in 30 districts, strengthening the capacities of Hydromet and CoES SAR teams, development and launch the early warning mobile application as well as facilitate cross-border cooperation with Afghanistan.

Discussions:

Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of CoES raised concerns regarding the delivery and hand-over of SAR equipment and telescopic lift vehicle as well as an update on current status of on-going rehabilitation works on CoES SAR administrative building and of the warehouses in Kushoniyon and Khorog. In addition, Mr. Nazarzoda asked to double-check the specifications of NFI items expected to be procured for the warehouses and raised specific concerns of prices quoted by the supplier being over market price and not being competitive.

In response to questions from Mr. Nazarzoda, Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev noted that delays in handing over of SAR equipment were caused by the fact that certain initially requested items were phased out by the manufacturer, namely “Radar 01 and Lifeguard helmet”. On 30 January 2019, UNDP sent an official letter to CoES informing about the phase out of these 2 items and requesting confirmation to proceed with other options (*Ref:UNDP/DRMP/2019/052*). On 16 April 2019, UNDP sent another letter to CoES with request to review and confirm the proposed replacements of phased out items (*Ref:UNDP/DRMP/86*). The official response from CoES was received on 19 June, 2019 (*Ref: 12/1-1026*) confirming the acceptance of proposed alternatives and delivery timeframe. The confirmation was communicated to the supplier and order was placed to the relevant manufacturers. An alternative equipment was delivered by the supplier on 28 November, 2019 (helmets) and 09 December, 2019 (Radar RD-400).

Regarding the rehabilitation works on CoES SAR administrative building, Mr. Faizulloev informed that all works are on-going and are in accordance with the approved schedule of works. He stated that design documents have been developed in line with the architecture standards of the Republic of Tajikistan and verified by the technical personnel of CoES on 16 August 2019. Additional documents on approved design, bill of quantity and construction process will be provided to CoES.



Mr. Karimjon Abdualimov, Deputy Director of the Agency on Hydrometeorology proposed to create weather forecast model to inform the population of Tajikistan about natural hazards and apply available data developed by the specialists of the Agency on Hydrometeorology in UNDP project activities and knowledge database.

Mr. Khisrav Abdunazarov, member of the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan on behalf of the communities of Panjakent District thanked UNDP for continuous support to the local population living in disaster-prone areas highlighting the impact of disaster risk reduction efforts in jamoat Amondara and Zebon flood canal of Panjakent District.

Mr. Habibullo Mahmadulloev, representative of the Agency on Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan mentioned the positive impact of cleaning and bank protection activities, which protected households, public infrastructure as well as agricultural and irrigation land.

Mr. Khushvakht Mukhtorov, representative of Jamoat Yangishahr thanked UNDP and the Government of Japan for continuous support and disaster risk reduction initiatives in Lyakhsh District and on behalf of Yangishahr community presented appreciation letter to HE Mr. Takayuki Miyashita.

Conclusions:

Dr. Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative expressed appreciation to participants and local partners for positive feedback and for sharing their concerns and recommendations for improvement. She emphasized that UNDP puts utmost importance to national ownership and leadership and has zero tolerance towards lack of compliance and ensured that all comments will be addressed within the applicable UNDP rules and procedures. She suggested to establish joint committee to review and address the shortcomings for each case. From UNDP side, she appointed Mr. Christophoros Politis, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative to lead the joint committee and from the CoES, the deputy head of the International Department Mr. Azam Rahimzoda was appointed to undertake first joint assessment of equipment procured and stored in UNDP and CoES premises. Dr. Mehta also gave instructions for regular monitoring visits to the project sites and to take any course correction. She also suggested that these monitoring visits could be undertaken jointly with CoES.

With regards to planned activities for 2020, *Mr. Nazarzoda* informed participants that CoES identified 630 disaster prone sites across the country. He suggested UNDP to coordinate the locations with CoES prior to realization of DRR infrastructure sub-projects in the regions, to ensure alignment with the Government's priority list.

Mr. Jamshed Kamalov, Head of the CoES Territory and Population Protection Department, proposed to replicate the early warning experience of Belarussian counterparts and develop identical mobile application "Help is on the way" to assist the population with 50 different scenarios during emergency situations.

In response to suggestions from Mr. Nazarzoda and Mr. Kamalov, Ms. Nargizakhon Usmanova noted that all activities envisaged in the AWP for 2020 will be confirmed with local partners and



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activity on creating an early warning mobile application is included in the plan of activities for 2020.

Other issues discussed:


Mr. Nargizakhon Usmanova proposed to consider the possibility of no-cost extension of the project until 2021 to ensure effective completion of all project activities.

Dr. Pratibha Mehta highlighted that cost neutral extension should be discussed with the Embassy of Japan separately and UNDP will determine realistic time, which will allow to complete all planned activities for this project.

PSC decisions taken:

1. Approve the Annual Work Plan for 2020.
2. Ensure close coordination and alignment of UNDP's activities with the Government priorities.
3. Organize a joint monitoring mission to the project sites to ensure effective spending, timely delivery and high quality of delivered services.
4. Consider the recommendation for no-cost extension of the project and discuss with the donor and partners, separately.

Approved by:


04/08/2020

Mr. Pratibha Mehta, Resident Representative,
UNDP in Tajikistan

Annexes

- Annex 1. List of participants
- Annex 2. Agenda
- Annex 3. Presentation on project's progress and results in 2019
- Annex 4. Presentation on progress and achieved results on risk assessment
- Annex 5. Presentation on project annual work plan for 2020