



## MINUTES

### Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting

**Project:** “Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacities”

**Date:** 07 December 2020

**Venue:** Hilton hotel, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 48 Ayni Str., Dushanbe, Tajikistan

#### **Project Steering Committee (PSC) members:**

1. Dr. (Ms) Pratibha Mehta, Resident Representative, UNDP Tajikistan – Chairperson
2. Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
3. HE Mr. Takayuki Miyashita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Tajikistan
4. Mr. Kholmurod Rahmon, Director of the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
5. Mr. Dustzoda Dilovarsho, Director of the Agency for Hydrometeorology of the Committee of Environment Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

#### **Participants:**

1. Mr. Sharipov Hotamsho – Head of Construction Department, CoES
2. Mr. Marizoev Mahamadnaim -Head of International Cooperation Department, CoES
3. Mr. Sayvalizoda Firdavs - Deputy Head of Finance Department, CoES
4. Mr. Mahmadulloev Habibullo, Head of Pumping Station and Electrical Sub-stations Department of the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation
5. Mr. Burunov A., Staff of the Committee of Emergency Situations
6. Mr. Ramzizoda C., Staff of the Committee of Emergency Situations
7. Mr. Kiyomiddinov T.B., Staff of the Committee of Emergency Situations
8. Ms. Yusufi T., Staff of the Committee of Emergency Situations
9. Ms. Tursunzoda F., Staff of the Committee of Emergency Situations
10. Mr. Ahmadzoda M., Staff of the Committee of Emergency Situations
11. Mr. Christophoros Politis, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Tajikistan
12. Ms. Nargizakhon Usmanova, Programme Analyst, UNDP Tajikistan
13. Ms. Malika Khakimova, Programme Associate, UNDP Tajikistan
14. Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, Programme Manager, UNDP DRMP
15. Mr. Ilhom Safarov, Project Analyst, UNDP DRMP
16. Mr. Odina Sharipov, Admin Assistant/Warehouse Manager, UNDP DRMP
17. Mr. Burkhanov Abduvali, Engineer, UNDP DRMP

#### **Agenda of Project Steering Committee meeting:**

1. Presentation of project results achieved in 2020;
2. Presentation of Multi-hazard Risk Assessment portal;
3. Presentation Annual work plan for 2021;
4. Discussions, decisions.



### **Opening remarks:**

The PSC meeting was opened by *Dr. (Ms) Pratibha Mehta*. Ms. Mehta welcomed all of the participants and highlighted the role of the UNDP and partners in implementation of the project objectives and activities. She also emphasized the importance of feedback from the PSC members on the presented progress and annual work plan 2021. Ms. Mehta thanked the Government of Japan and HE Mr. Takayuki Miyashita for extending the project duration. She mentioned about the challenges faced during the year 2020 caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, Ms. Mehta reemphasized the importance of CoES, AoH and ALRI in project implementation and passed the word to Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for welcoming remarks.

*Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda*, greeted all meeting participants and government officials emphasizing the importance of the project for the national country objectives and appreciated its extension until August 2021. Mr. Nazarzoda underlined the results achieved by the project, in particular the Risk assessment conducted in 58 districts, municipality plans developed in the city/town level, implemented DRR sub-projects and used eco-system mechanisms and improved capacities of the Search and Rescue Teams through the provision of equipment. He confirmed the use of the equipment procured in the frame of the project during emergencies and disasters.

Mr. Nazarzoda invited UNDP and the Embassy of Japan to consider Phase 2 of the project and start developing new project proposal from the next year. He mentioned that some of the work started during current project needs further support such as further development of bilateral cooperation on search and rescue between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. He proposed to support the second phase of the project by developing a training ground for the search and rescue teams (the first phase was supported by OSCE). This training ground will be used to train not only SAR teams of Tajikistan but also other neighboring countries, especially Afghanistan. He mentioned CoES readiness to establish diving training center. Mr. Nazarzoda noted that CoES is required to examine reservoir of the hydro-electric stations for any damage, thus there is a big need for divers that can dive below 50-60 meters to implement such works. Mr. Nazarzoda as well anticipated the need for renovation of communication system in the CoES. At the end, Mr. Nazarzoda, ensured that CoES is ready for cooperation.

*HE Mr. Takayuki Miyashita* welcomed all meeting participants and appreciated UNDP's and other partner's support in providing the opportunity to see project achievements. HE Mr. Takayuki Miyashita noted that project was extended until August 2021 and he emphasized that it is important to finish remaining activities by the end of the extended period. He was delighted to see that activities are implemented despite challenges faced by COVID-19 pandemic. As an example, he mentioned handover ceremony of the Search and Rescue equipment and opening ceremony of Search and Rescue building. HE Mr. Takayuki recalled that project has some extra funds (exchange rate gain) that can be used to support project activities. He stated that budget of current project was approved by the Government of Japan several years ago and is fixed. HE Mr. Takayuki noted that current project should utilize the available budget to its most extent however, the Embassy is prepared to support new activities on DRM and if needed, is ready to review new proposal. In conclusion, HE Mr. Takayuki noted project's very well progress hoping that all project activities will be finalized during the remaining eight months.



*Mr. Kholmurod Rahmon*, greeted all the participants and briefly introduced functions of the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation. He mentioned that Agency is responsible for policy making related to land reclamation and irrigation, projecting construction, rehabilitation and management of hydrotechnical structures and restoration of agricultural lands. Mr. Rahmon mentioned that Agency and UNDP have long history of cooperation and in the frame of the current project 25 DRR projects were implemented benefiting more than 300,000 people. He stated that Agency is satisfied with the progress of the project in 2020, especially building the capacity of the Agency and provision of 15 units of heavy machinery. He ensured that that the Agency will implement 20 DRR sub-projects and continue this practice in the future. At the end he thanked UNDP and the Government of Japan for the assistance.

*Mr. Dustzoda Dilovarsho*, greeted all of the participants. First of all, Mr. Dustzoda mentioned timely support provided through this project and thanked UNDP personnel for the fruitful cooperation. He noted that forecasting capacity of the agency has been improved by provision of 13 types of measurement equipment, conducting 5 days training for the Agency's staff on WRF weather forecast model. Agency also working with UNDP on procurement of hydrological equipment that will build the capacity of the Agency on hydrological data collection. Mr. Dustzoda supported proposal of Mr. Nazarzoda on Phase 2 of the project that will help in enhancing capacities on the use of the products procured in the frame of the project, as well as further development of the mudflow zones inventory. In conclusion, Mr. Dustzoda thanked participants for their cooperation.

### **Proceedings:**

*Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev*, UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme Manager, presented project results achieved in 2020 and targeted activities for 2021. In 2020, project, with the support of ALRI and local authorities implemented 8 DRR projects and used ecosystem-based interventions which benefited more than 43,000 people. Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev mentioned that in 2021, it is planned to further support the ALRI and CoES in implementation of 20 more projects. Noteworthy, Municipality DRM Improvement Plans for Jaykhun and Tursunzoda districts were developed, and trainings conducted on cost-benefit analysis for DRR and enhancing understanding of urban risks among local communities. In 2021, UNDP will help municipality authorities in implementation of these plans. The project strengthened the capacity of the Agency of Hydrometeorology through provision of weather forecast equipment and weather modelling training. Emphasizing the importance to strengthen search and rescue capacities, Mr. Faizulloev highlighted efforts towards improved capacities of 39 community-based search and rescue team members through trainings and well as CoES SAR teams through provision of 267 unit of equipment and rehabilitation of the CoES SAR administrative building. In 2021, UNDP is planning to continue conducting SAR trainings in 10 more districts and further support CoES with equipment. Mr. Faizulloev presented progress in construction of two warehouses in Kushoniyon and Khorog cities. He mentioned that during the remaining time of the project warehouses will be completed and NFIs will be procured and delivered.

*Mr. Ilhom Safarov*, presented results of the Countrywide Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment conducted throughout 2018-2019 in Tajikistan covering 58 districts of Tajikistan and demonstrated the country wide dataset gathered during the assessment which was reflected in the Tajikistan's Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment Portal. He highlighted the purpose of the data developed, especially for the



scientific and policy decision-making purposes, for investment purposes and to reduce cost and time for conducting various studies in this direction.

### **Discussions:**

*Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda*, noted that despite the COVID19 impact the construction of warehouses in Kushoniyon and Khorog are too much delayed and needs to be pushed forward. Mr. Nazarzoda asked to simplify the procurement procedures as well as processes of developing detailed specifications. In conclusion, Mr. Nazarzoda proposed to meet at the end of Murch 2021 to review project progress and availability of funds to assess what can be/and what cannot be done until project end date. He highlighted the impossibility of implementation/achievement of project activity # 3.3 related to integration of Tajikistan into INSARAG and due to COVID19 implications and proposed to re-allocate these funds to other activities which can be implemented further in 2021.

*Mr. Dustzoda Dilovarsho*, proposed to include Agencies staff in selection of the project sites. He showed interest on the Countrywide Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment conducted in Tajikistan and wished to have detailed information on its development and results. Mr. Dilovarsho stated that Agency has over 150 stations which collect data that can be used in this portal and proposed that portal should be also translated into Tajik language.

*In response Ms. Mehta* noted that a separate meeting will be conducted at the technical level to present detailed presentation on the portal and it features. She requested the project team to organize the meeting as soon as possible with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

*In response to Mr. Nazarzoda's* concerns on utilization of budget, *Ms. Mehta* proposed to organize a meeting in February 2021 to present the remaining project budget funds utilization plan (until August 2021) including activities and timelines. She noted that the plan will take into consideration lessons learned (including COVID-19) ensuring pushing forward the construction related activities and other activities to achieve all project objectives.

*Ms. Mehta* noted that discussions related to the Second Phase of the project can be conducted later as there are many details that need to be considered. The meeting on discussion of the Second Phase of the project can be conducted later.

*Mr. Christophoros Politis* noted that Annual Work Plan for 2021 that has been presented during the PSC meeting is in line with the project objectives and there is a need to continue implementation of the project so that activities continue without delays.

*Ms. Mehta* confirmed the remarks made by Mr. Christophoros and confirmed that AWP for 2021 will be endorsed in order to continue project implementation but a more detailed plan with all mentioned earlier details should be presented.



### **Conclusions:**

*Dr. (Ms) Pratibha Mehta*, expressed appreciation to participants and local partners for positive feedback and raised challenges in the project implementation. She emphasized that UNDP will ensure that all objectives of the project are achieved by the end of August 2021.

Members of the Project Steering Committee agreed that another meeting will be held in February – March 2021 to review progress and agree on further actions to ensure that all the project activities will be completed by the end of August 2021.

Participants agreed that there is a need to speed up project implementation and decided to endorse presented AWP for 2021 so that project do not put on hold until February – March 2021.

Project Steering Committee agreed that discussion on designing new phase of the project will be held during the separate meeting. During the meeting participants will have an opportunity to seek the possibility of developing new proposal and outline its goals and objectives.

### **PSC decisions taken:**

1. Project results achieved in 2020 were evaluated positively.
2. Project annual work plan for 2021 was unanimously approved;
3. The next PSC meeting to present detailed project budget expenditure plan for 2021 to be organized in February 2021 with consideration of lessons learnt, delivery acceleration efforts, activities and timelines.
4. The presentation of the Countrywide Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment results for key stakeholders to be organized in January 2021.
5. The discussion of the next phase of the project to be initiated in 2021.

Prepared by:

Mr. Ilhom Safarov, Project Analyst, UNDP DRMP.

Agreed by:

Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, Programme Manager, UNDP DRMP

Approved by:

Dr. (Ms) Pratibha Mehta, UNDP Resident Representative

### *Annexes*

Annex 1. Agenda

Annex 2. Presentation on project's progress and results in 2019

Annex 3. Presentation on the results of the risk assessment

Annex 4. Presentation on project annual work plan for 2020

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