

## **Minutes of the Disaster Management Working Group**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2006

Venue: WHO Office, 63 Tran Hung Dao

Chairperson: Dr. Rodger Doran (WHO)

### **Item 1: Introductions**

Round table introduction of those present. (See table at bottom of document)

### **Item 2: Minutes**

Minutes were accepted by all attending.

### **Item 3: Outcomes of DMWG Core Group Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

Dr. Doran went over the main topics on the agenda of the core group meeting held on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The main issues addressed in this meeting were

- How can we realize/practice the TORs of the DMWG.
- What should be the role of DMWG, working under which agency, where does the funding come from, who is the coordinator?
- Are we prepared for a mega disaster?
- How do we prepare for the joint assessment in the coming flood/storm season?

Discussions have not been finalized, and the core group will hold another meeting when all core group agency representatives have returned from annual leave. This meeting is likely to occur in September. After which, minutes will be circulated to the DMWG and outcomes discussed in the monthly DMWG meeting, which follows the core group meeting.

Initial topics for further consideration by the core group include:

- How DMWG can participate in the DANA project.

- A concept paper prepared by Dr. Doran for the Human Security Fund (Japan). This concept paper looks at two possible projects for the DMWG to conduct.
  1. preparation and maintenance of public access community profiles for use in planning relief and recovery
  2. undertaking periodic capacity and vulnerability assessments of communities to inform and guide disaster risk reduction projects and programs
- How to promote SPHERE guidelines at government level. Possibility of holding a meeting with senior government members to explain how SPHERE can be adapted into their work, in an affordable and manageable way. This could be conducted by OXFAM since they have the training material required. This could take place towards the end of the year.
- Drug donation/dumping. Drug donors need to commit to certain standards, to ensure that supplies which are actually of use to the local community get delivered, in time, with instructions in local language, before the expiry date, and that the community have prior notice of when donations will arrive and what exactly they will receive. Organisation of community needs.
- Joint Assessments by DMWG members i.e. having a coordinated post emergency/disaster joint assessment, where all DMWG members work together, rather than all agencies doing their own assessments.

All of these concepts will be finalized by the core group and put to the DMWG for debate and discussion.

#### **Item 4: Plan Vietnam Presentation**

Postponed until a meeting in the following months.

#### **Item 5: Issues for consideration for next meeting**

DMWG members have been asked to consider their agencies as the DMWG facilitators for the next 6 month period October to March inclusive. Nominations and selection will be made at the next monthly meeting. This agency will take over from the current

facilitating agency, WHO, in hosting the monthly meeting, organizing a presentation by one member each month, making agenda based on what group wishes to discuss, taking minutes, circulating agenda and minutes and reminding the group on the lead up to meetings.

In order to conduct a joint assessment within the DMWG each agency is being asked to think about two team/staff members who can make an annual commitment to the DMWG joint assessment. During this time these individuals (one or both) may be called on at any time to participate in the joint assessment. These people must be available to participate and the agencies will support their staff members during this time. Any questions in relation to this can be addressed at the next meeting.

#### **Item 6: Agency updates**

NGO RC:

New website is still being developed and has not yet been launched. Next month Ha will briefly introduce what exactly NGO RC does and how the DMWG website functions. The NGO RC can also offer a room to conduct the monthly meetings in if an agency wishes to put itself forward for the facilitation period Oct – March, but doesn't have a room.

Netherlands Red Cross:

Last month Ms. Tran Tu Anh, programme coordinator NLRC in Vietnam presented the project: **Lessons learned from the project "*Preparedness for Disasters related to Climate Change*" (2003-2006)**. As a follow up from that project NLRC is commencing a new project to plant trees to among other things counteract greenhouse gases. They initially intend to carry out a small scale pilot project with a view to gaining support for a more large scale tree planting program.

Similarly the planting of elephant grass on steep hillsides with unstable soil and with potential soil erosion can help protect the land against landslides, erosion and infrastructural damage caused as a result. Elephant grass is an ideal plant due to its deep

roots system, its ability to grow very fast, its relative cheapness and its potential use for local handicraft production. It can also help to stabilize soil pollution. If DMWG are interesting in organizing an elephant grass planting project, NLRC can organize a presentation on the use benefits of the elephant grass.

NLRC is also requesting funding or advice on where to apply for funding for a community development project, integrating primary healthcare, sanitation and disaster management. To offer advice contact Melanie at [melanie.miltenburg@nlrc.org.vn](mailto:melanie.miltenburg@nlrc.org.vn)  
Tel: 04 9425573

Samaritans Purse:

A new member of DMWG, the organisation has recently got a new director and staff and is looking to expand into the field of development and disaster management issues.

UNICEF:

Last month UNICEF held a meeting to review emergency planning. The outcomes are being reviewed by resident consultant. Training for government agencies in the area of emergency planning and preparedness is in the process of being organized and will be conducted in the coming months. The training will be facilitated by two regional consultants and a draft agenda will be circulated through the DMWG mailing list.

Hands of Hope - USA:

Area of work focuses on disabilities especially for people living in poor conditions in rural areas. This NGO provides funding for hospital attention and organizes classes for family and community members to support the necessary on going rehabilitation process which is essential after surgery. This NGO hopes to learn from the DMWG members, in order to improve the work they are doing. Dr. Doran suggested perhaps looking into disaster related disabilities, for example what happens to injured people disabled by disasters. Who looks after them etc.

IMMAP/VVAF:

This agency works in the area of rehabilitation, mental health and post conflict reconstruction. Advising policy makers post disaster, with experience in the recent tsunami and earthquake. Interested in information management. This agency has also recently carried out a survey on the impact of landmines and bombs, with a focus on social economic issues such as infrastructure and agriculture.

HSPH:

Currently finalizing report on recent research carried out which looks at the long term health consequences of the 2005 flash-flood in Van Chan District, Yen Bai Province, following typhoon Damrey. Report expected for end of August. Findings will be presented to the group when available.

Developing a Rapid Needs Health Assessment Curriculum for Public Health Students in the HSPH and health providers outside of the school.

USAID:

New project called the Promise Project looks at flood proofing for houses. This project is five months under way, with baseline surveys and workshops completed. Models are being constructed of low cost flood proofed housing. USAID is moving towards regional disaster mitigation, rather than country specific. Unsolicited proposals are always welcome at USAID. They can be sent to Bret at [bjones@usaid.gov](mailto:bjones@usaid.gov) and she will pass them onto the relevant personnel.

WHO:

National survey being carried out to assess if health services are meeting the needs of the community. From this survey advice will be offered to the CCFSC.

PHEMAP 6 is being held next month in Thailand. Open to health or health related personnel. PHEMAP Program's goal is to strengthen national capacities for managing

health risks of emergencies in the WHO Asia and Western Pacific regions. Six courses have already been conducted in Vietnam with over 200 health staff trained, creating a pool of skilled staff to draw on in times of need.

Epidemic Preparedness 1 week course being carried out in Thailand, with a focus on AI but could be applied to any epidemic.

International seminar on rabies control in HCMC.

**Item 7: Any other business**

Worldbank announced at DANA National Workshop in Hanoi on Wednesday July 26, 2006 that they are willing to fund reconstruction projects in Vietnam.

**Item 8: Next meeting to be held in WHO conference room, 63 Tran Hung Dao on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006.**

<b>Attendance:</b>			
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