

Minutes of the Disaster Management Working Group

Date: 27th April 2006

Venue: Hanoi School of Public Health

Chairperson: Dr. Rodger Doran (WHO)

Item 1: Introductions

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

Item 2: Introduction of Hanoi School of Public Health

Dr. Ha Van Nhu (Head of Disaster Management Department) gave an overview of the school. It was the first public health school in Vietnam. The current school was established in April 2001. The school offers public health training in the form of a four year Bachelors in Public Health and a two year Masters in Public Health. The Disaster Management Department is four years old. It has two full-time staff (Ha Van Nhu and Do Thi Hanh Trang) and currently has a UNV (Padraic Fleming) who is working in collaboration with the Emergency and Humanitarian Action Program with WHO. The department and its research are currently supported by MoH and WHO. The school is open to suggestions for capacity building activities, or joint workshops or as a base for future training activities organised by the working group (WG).

Item 3: Minutes

Minutes were accepted by all attending. Issues to be further discussed included the core group and its activities (please see item ...)

Item 4: Briefing on Workshop to improve the compilation of reliable data on disaster occurrence and impact, 2-4 April 2006, Bangkok, Thailand

Tran Van Tuan (VIE/01/014) gave a briefing on the workshop which himself and Nhu attended in Bangkok. In summary the workshop brought together countries from South-East Asia to discuss the issues surrounding reliable data and the reporting, storage and

access to such data. Presentations were given on three current databases. GLIDE which uses a globally common unique ID code for disasters as proposed by Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). The other databases presented were CRED (Belgian), looking at the experiences of operating an international database and Desinventar (UNDP) on Latin-American experiences. Based on these three databases discussions were held to find a suitable concept for South East Asia. If a suitable database was identified for Vietnam, the issues which were highlighted in the workshop were:

Who would maintain and support the database?

Where would be the home for this database?

What would be the financial framework for the database?

Who would offer training for maintaining the database?

Where would the hardware and technical assistance come from?

What kind of software would be used?

What facilities should be used to report data? Mobile phones? Faxes? Emails?

One suggestion was that DANA in Viet Nam, after completing a pilot, it would be good to organize a workshop towards the end of this year, to share experiences.

Item 5: Plans for contributing to the CCFSC 60th anniversary meeting

Pham Thanh Hang (UNDP) discussed the email she circulated regarding the CCFSC 60th anniversary meeting.

- On the morning of the 22nd of May there will be a high-level celebration meeting. The UN will present a speech during the morning celebration session.
- That afternoon there will be a workshop to review the past 60 years and hold discussions about the future. The workshop will be a critical reflection, looking at what worked, what didn't, the challenges experienced and how partners can work together in the future.
- There will also be a week long awareness campaign on T.V.
- There will be an exhibition held on the 21st and 22nd of May on the Water Resources University. There will be booths each about 9m². The cost of each

booth is 15,000,000 dong and agencies are welcome to register for a booth. The UN will have a booth for all UN organisations.

- The discussion which followed determined that 15 million dong was too expensive for most individual agencies to commit to, and the suggestion was put forward for agencies within the DMWG to get together and jointly host a booth.
- Hang offered to organise a meeting for interested agencies to discuss the topic and put forward their ideas.

Item 6: Structure and proposed activities of DMWG for 2006

- At the last meeting (14th March) it was decided to formulate a core group for the DMWG.
- The initial members who put themselves forward as members of the core group were WHO, UNDO, HSPH and OXFAM
- Vietnam Delegation International Federation of RC (Vietnam Red Cross) was asked to join this group and Mr Tao agreed to this.
- It was decided that the core group will draw together a plan of action for the future of the group, in particular for 2006. It will also draw up TOR for the core group. Dr. Doran offered to organise a meeting of the core group before the next DMWG meeting to hold discussion regarding these issues.
- WHO agreed to be the first member of the core group to facilitate and host the DMWG meetings for the first 6 month period (April 06 – September 06), after which another member of the core group will take over the responsibility. Padraic Fleming (UNV/WHO) will be the focal point for the first 6 month period.
- Melanie Miltenburg (Netherlands Red Cross) suggested that it would be valuable to have presentations from the group members, perhaps a different agency each month, in order to facilitate technical discussions. Melanie agreed to present the Netherlands Red Cross findings of their recent disaster preparedness project and offer recommendations to the group based on this study, in the June DMWG meeting.

- Dr. Doran suggested that the group plug into major events throughout 2006, such as World Disaster Day, Media Events, Advocacy and Awareness campaigns. He also suggested combining resources of the group for data collection and research, since a report generated by the group might have more influence at governmental level than individual agencies submitting a report.

Item 7: Agency Updates

- Netherlands Red Cross
 - Finalizing their program on Disaster preparedness related to Climate Change (DPCC)
 - Looking for further funding for their DPCC programme and community development project.
- Plan Vietnam
 - Making a move to longer term commitments. It is organizing a disaster preparedness study covering all of Vietnam.
 - Moving forward, Plan intends to participate more in the DMWG and share experiences.
- World Vision Vietnam
 - Disaster relief response – Drought response – Storm Damrey
 - Disaster mitigation – implementing 23 development initiatives
- UNICEF
 - Roll out of an early warning system to be used by all UNICEF agencies worldwide. \$56,000 has been allocated for this. \$6,000 for capacity building and \$50,000 to develop the system in Vietnam.
 - Information will be circulated to the DMWG in the coming days.
- UNDP
 - Workshop in late May/early June to bring stakeholders together. A proposal will be circulated soon, with a draft agenda. Ultimately UNDP wants to bring the partners together to learn from each other.

- Developing the next 5 year country program. Formulating projects and plans so that projects are up and running by end of year. Climate change and disaster will be major considerations in these plans.
- Draft of the National Strategy and National Plan is expected around the 15th May.
- OXFAM
 - Currently there are two emergency response projects, nearing the final workshops and evaluation.
 - Suggests the DMWG have an activity to unify the sets of guidelines among agencies, or at least ensure that the messages being sent out by agencies are consistent.
- HSPH
 - Currently carrying out research in the form of a case study of the 2005 flash-flood in Van Chan District, Yen Bai Province. This research will focus on health consequences of the flood and coping and recovering strategies of the affected community. Report expected for end of June.
- WHO
 - Organising and facilitating PHEMAP course in Lao Cai and Sapa in June 2006, in partnership with MoH. After this year, WHO hopes to move these courses into institutes, making them part of on-going training curriculum.
- VNRC/IFRC
 - Community based disaster preparedness funded by DFID in Bac Can, Yen Bai and Quang Ninh focus on Capacity building in CBDP and community based small scale projects
 - Damrey response operation on rehabilitation by providing 1000 livelihood option and 200 houses for affected people in Lao Cai, Yen Bai, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Phu Tho
 - Mangrove DP project funded by Japanese RC for the period of 2006-2010 is continuing in north coastal provinces.

- Completion of DP project funded by Dipecho through Spanish Red Cross in Vietnam and apply for another one
- Continuation of raising public awareness on Avian Influenza and ToT training for RC volunteers

Item 8: Next meeting to be held in WHO conference room, 63 Tran Hung Dao on Thursday 25th May 2006.

Attendance:			
Name	Organisation	Phone	Email
Dang Van Tao	Vietnam Delegation IFRC	091 3361581	tao.vandang@ifrc.org / dvtao04@yahoo.com
Do Thi Hanh Trang	Ha Noi School of Public Health	090 4320132	dtth@hsph.edu.vn
Ha Van Nhu	Ha Noi School of Public Health	091 2 353 189	hvn@hsph.edu.vn / hsph1@yahoo.com
Le Thi Thu Huong	Plan	091 2309447	huong.lethithu@plan-interneational.org
Le Van Duong	WVV	090 4162634	le_van_duong@wvi.org
Melanie Miltenburg	Netherlands Red Cross	04 9425573	melanie.miltenburg@nlrc.org.vn
Nguyen Thi Thu Ha	UNICEF	091 2280892	nttha@unicef.org
Nguyen Thi Yen	Oxfam Hong Kong	04 9454406	yennt@ohk.org.vn
Padraic Fleming	UNV/WHO	091 5 804 912	padraic.fleming@un.org.vn
Pham Thanh Hang	UNDP	091 2 173 719	pham.thanh.hang@undp.org
Rodger Doran	WHO	091 917 4876	doranr@vtn.wpro.who.int
Sujeeven Das	WVV	091 3043591	jsj_sujeevandas@wvi.org
Tran	Vietnam Red Cross		
Tran Ngoc	Social Service Dept.		tranchienvn2003@yahoo.com

Chien	VNRC		
Tran Van Tuan	VIE/01/014	0913552649	tranvantuanga@pmail.vnn.vn