

Minutes of the Disaster Management Working Group

Date: 31st August 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: Presentation by Ha Van Nhu, Head of Disaster Prevention & Management Department, Hanoi School of Public Health

Health Consequences of Flash-flood and Coping/Recovering Strategies of the Affected Community: A case study of the 2005 flash-flood in Van Chan District, Yen Bai Province.

Dr. Nhu presented the main findings from the quantitative part of the research, which examined the secondary data retrieved from district and commune health centres, regarding mortality rates, morbidity rates and types of morbidities and injuries. Please find attached the presentation.

Questions after presentation:

Why do people rebuild on the same area of land where their house was washed away, or on a piece of land very close by?

People do not want to move for many reasons. One example is that if their old house was by the road, they know that they can conduct good business along the road, and so rebuild on the roadside to continue their business. Others feel that if they move further away,

they will probably still have the same problems, if such a severe flood comes again, so they don't see the point in moving from the area they know.

Were there any diseases found due to water contamination?

It is difficult to pin point the exact reasons for increase in morbidities. All that can be said is that there was a notable increase in morbidities one month after the event, when compared to one month before.

Why did you decide to carry out a study only on flashfloods?

There is not much literature or research reports on flashfloods in Vietnam, and in time the school would hope to carry out similar studies, in areas of Vietnam affected by different kinds of natural disasters, such as river floods, or inundation in the Mekong Delta. When these studies are complete, comparison of results can be made between the different kinds of events, and the differing health impacts they have.

Why did you not give more detail on the "others" category of the morbidities.

The data is not there in the commune health centres. Any illness which is not recognizable to the health worker is categorized as other. These are often recorded as headache or stomach ache, or just symptoms. There is not a standard classification for illnesses and often symptoms are recorded rather than the actual illness. ICD needs to be implemented, and health workers trained more comprehensively on the illnesses which might affect their communities.

One problem that Nhu did mention was the issues surrounding results of malnutrition and reproductive tract infection. The results for these cannot be used, since data is only collected maybe twice a year on these morbidities. There is not a consistent system for collecting the data, and since there is often an increase in data collection after a disaster,

the results for illnesses which are not monitored closely throughout the year, often present skewed results.

Item 4: Joint Assessment

Agencies were asked to nominate staff members (preferably Vietnamese speaking) who would be available for DMWG joint assessment. They were asked to provide names and contact details of those who could be released at short notice. The table below gives details of those who have preliminarily committed to the joint venture. When agencies have committed members of staff, then OXFAM will organize a workshop for these participants. The workshop will be in Vietnamese.

Agency	Names of staff members available	Contact details
ADRA Vietnam	Lieu Cong Dinh	84 4 852518 dinhadra@adravn.org.vn
CARE	Trinh Ho Ha Nghi	thhnghi@carehcm.org
CARE	Nguyen Trong Ninh	ntninh@care.org.vn
Church World Service	Ngo Quoc Dung	091 2390604 dung@cws.org.vn
HSPH	Cong Ngoc Long	0902091208 cnl@hsph.edu.vn
HSPH	Do Hang Trang	84 4 2662331 dtht@hsph.edu.vn
Oxfam	Nguyen Thi Yen	04 9454406 yennt@ohk.org.vn
Oxfam	Provash Mondal	091 3520770 pmondal@oxfam.org.uk
Oxfam	Nguyen Quoc Tuan	
Plan International	Nguyen Anh Tuan (to be confirmed)	5146952 Tuan.nguyenanh@plan-international.org
Samaritans Purse	Minh Trung Le	090 4388043 mtmissiontothepoor@wacip.com
Save the Children UK	Le Thi Bich Hang	8325319 (209) lhang@scuk.org.vn
Save the Children USA	TBD	info@savechildren.org.vn
Vietnam Delegation IFRC	Dang Van Tao	091 3361581 tao.vandang@ifrc.org / dytao04@yahoo.com
VNRC	Ha Chai Binh	9428907 binhctxh@gmail.com
VNRC	Thieu Binh Hang	

World Vision Vietnam	Le Van Duong Relief & Disaster Mitigation Coordinator	Tel: 84-4-9439920 Fax: 84-4-9439921 le_van_duong@wvi.org
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Item 5: DMWG Coordinator

Provash Mondal, OXFAM UK, had drawn up the TOR for a DMWG coordinator, who will hopefully work in conjunction with the NDM partnership.

The responsibilities will be solely:

1. To co-ordinate the DMWG.
2. Follow up on the TOR of the DMWG and ensure that these are being implemented.
3. Develop and organise research framework for DMWG, keeping the group updated on the research of NDMP. Possibly co-ordinate the research input of the different agencies within the DMWG, into the research of the NDMP, ensuring no overlap. (The DMWG should ensure that government based research is evidence based only, in future. DMWG research should focus on socio-economic topics.)
4. Proposal writing for small projects as determined by the DMWG.
5. Focal point for joint assessment and other activities which DMWG can get involved in.

Item 6: Proposed SPHERE training.

Provash Mondal drew up a tentative schedule for the Sphere workshop, to train the trainers. The participants should be emergency response managers, Red Cross trainers, disaster preparedness, managers, project managers, trainers from Government departments, International organizations and UN Agencies. At the end of Sphere training workshop the participants will be able to provide training to the Humanitarian practitioners, managers and policy makers to advocate and apply the SPHERE handbook within their work in order to disaster preparedness and response.

Comments from DMWG members:

- Have a one day seminar with top level government representatives to promote the use of Sphere standards at governmental level.
- OXFAM tried to organize such a meeting before but high level representatives would not come!
- UNDP working on incentives to attract them
- UNICEF: In this context we would like to mention the work undertaken recently in the UNICEF/Committee for the Flood and Storm Control's workshop on emergencies with respect to children and women issues and our plans to support the testing/piloting of UNICEF Core Corporate Commitments (CCCs) indicators into the database system of a few provinces (based on provincial planning/meeting)

Item 7: Agencies with presentations to make in upcoming DMWG monthly meetings.

Name and Agency	Topic for presentation	Approx amount of time required	Month available to present
Ha Phan Thu NGO RC	Briefing on NGO RC website		September
Julie Bergeron UNICEF	Child Protection Issues and Emergencies	15/20 minutes	September
Le Thi Thu Huong PLAN International			September / October??
Provash Mondal OXFAM UK	Flood Response in Nam Dinh and Drought Response in Ninh Thuan	1 hour	September
Qui Yi Khut CARE International	Community Based Programming for AI	15 mins	November
WHO	Update on AI situation		

Item 8: Selection of the host agency/agencies for the next round of meetings.

UNICEF has offered to host the meetings for a 6 month period in the new year. If a DMWG coordinator has not been recruited by this time, the DMWG would warmly accept this offer from UNICEF. The remaining 4 months of 2006 need to be hosted by an agency/agencies. HSPH has offered to host the September meeting. OXFAM offered to host the October meeting. Agencies are asked to volunteer for November and December.

Item 9: Agency updates

ADRA Vietnam:

It is developing national preparedness and response plan, focusing on sector and location, when disaster occurs. The plan will be implemented in locations where the agency has ongoing projects, i.e. Central Vietnam. It is also working on intervention, to have a quicker and more effective response in times of emergency. The development of this intervention plan is almost complete, hoping to have it approved before the Typhoon season. There are two elements to the agency, the regional office responds to major disasters, whereas the country office, responds to smaller scale emergencies.

Samaritans Purse:

New staff intake. Although agency present in Vietnam for ten years, all the staff is new, so training activities for staff is currently occupying most of time.

World Church Service:

Just finished a three year project on health care development and will conduct a final workshop in the near future. At the moment it is focusing on equipping its staff and partners with training, for example Sphere training, and as a result is very interested in the Sphere workshop proposed by DMWG.

HEKS:

A Swiss INGO, working and funding project in Vietnam mainly for the holistic development projects, for example on repair and emergency response. It is very concerned with linking disaster management to its development, including emergency response, disaster preparedness and relevant capacity building activities.

CARE:

There will be a continued presence at the DMWG meetings, as they are very committed to disaster preparedness and response. They are moving offices to Tay Ho, so with all the upheaval which that will involve, CARE is unable to offer the facilities to host the DMWG meetings, over the next four months. CARE International in Vietnam is the implementing partner of the CARE International network. CARE has recently employed a Regional Emergency Response and Preparedness Manager, Philippe Gatineau, who will be based in the Representative Office in Hanoi. Philippe will also be working with CARE Country Offices in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.”

OXFAM Hong Kong:

The pilot for training the trainers took place recently for the DANA project. Improvements are being made based on the findings of this pilot training session. Forms and guidelines are constantly being updated and input from DMWG members is very welcome. The next phase is to expand the DANA project with help of UNDP and World Bank. Work is underway to involve provincial TV in an initiative to promote awareness on disaster preparedness and mitigation. Provincial TV has never done this kind of thing before, so Red Cross shared some examples of VTV2 awareness campaigns that they organized before. Rodger suggested contacting the Media Officer in WHO.

Save the Children UK/Alliance:

Not so much to update, as agency is undergoing a big change with coordinator having received a scholarship to study overseas and the agency is awaiting funding for the next phase of its work. Poster regarding Mekong Delta is available for dissemination from Save Children.

NGO RC:

Continues to update DMWG activities. DMWG members are invited to submit their agency websites as possible links from the DMWG website. The RC is updating its AI matrix and is calling for all agencies to submit any recent work which they have conducted.

IFRC:

The new country coordinator Irja Sandberg attended the meeting. This is her first couple of weeks after arriving in Vietnam, and was interested in meeting agencies and hearing about the current and planned activities. She hopes to coordinate all the Red Cross agencies to develop emergency preparedness plans together. The Evaluation of Damrey project has come to an end, and a workshop will be held to present the findings and lessons learned. Currently their main interest is in AI, an international appeal was recently launched, but there has been a very slow response. Rodger suggested that WHO can provide an update on AI situation in one of the upcoming meetings.

Netherlands Red Cross:

Results of the application to DIPECHO on its action plan for South East Asia focusing on floods, storms and droughts will be announced end of October.

A community development project will be conducted on 20 – 22 September. This will be an experience sharing workshop focusing on health, social issues and disaster preparedness. Invitations will be distributed via the DMWG mailing list.

Vietnam Red Cross:

The Mangrove tree planting project funded by Japanese RC through IFRC has moved into the next phase and 3,000 hectares of mangrove will be planted in 6 provinces, building capacity for government staff and RC, teachers and children at school about Disaster Management. Hazard, vulnerability and capacity assessment will be main tool for carrying out CBDM. Other projects funded by DFID will be carried out until

December in Can Tho and Ben Tre to promote the CBDM in 8 communes, organized by HVCA, to implement small scale projects and train CCFSC members and RC staff at provincial level about CBDM and Sphere.

VNRC is also involved in the DANA project.

HSPH:

Completing research report on health consequences of Damrey storm. See presentation attached. Dr. Nhu took the opportunity to thank Dr. Doran and WHO for their support for the recent study but also for their support to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Management in the HSPH. Other activities in the school at the moment, is the translation of three documents: 1 the IFRC guidelines for damage assessment, 2&3: psychological protocol for UNICEF. These documents should be available end of September.

UNICEF:

UNICEF see the need to conduct a "wide review of existing community based disaster preparedness planning training (materials/plans, etc). They are planning to do this exercise for UNICEF's training materials and courses in a near future, but it may be more interesting/valuable if the whole WG join this exercise so that UNICEF have a better vision about how they should strategically move forward about training etc (due to an improved understanding of limitations and strengths). Hence they would like to propose that we ALL work on a ToR and if possible pull some money in for doing this exercise

WHO:

Any resources which are particularly relevant and useful at provincial level can be submitted to WHO for translation. WHO can fund translation of resources deemed appropriate.

Item 10: Next meeting to be held in the Hanoi School of Public Health 138 Giang Vo Street, on Thursday 28th September 2006.

Attendance:			
Name	Organisation	Phone	Email
Cong Ngoc Long	Hanoi School of Public Health	0902091208	cnl@hsph.edu.vn
Do Hang Trang	Ha Noi School of Public Health	84 4 2662331	dtth@hsph.edu.vn
Ha Chai Binh	VNRC	9428907	binhctxh@gmail.com
Ha Van Nhu	Ha Noi School of Public Health	091 2 353 189	hvn@hsph.edu.vn / hsph1@yahoo.com
Irja Sandberg	IFRC	9422983	Irja.sandberg@ifrc.org
KARYN ADAMS	Centre for Sustainable Community Development	(84 4) 628 1768/88	karyn_adams@hotmail.com
Le Thi Bich Hang	Save the Children UK	8325319	lbhang@scuk.org.vn
Lieu Cong Dinh	ADRA Vietnam	84 4 8525183	dinhadra@adravn.org.vn
Minh Trung Le	Samaritans Purse	090 4388043	mtmissiontothepoor@wacip.com
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Phan Thu Ha	NGO RC	8328570	Haphan@ngocentre.org.vn
Qiu Yi Khut	CARE International in Vietnam	(84 4) 716 1930 M: 0912 126 752	qykhut@care.org.vn
Rodger Doran	WHO	091 917 4876	doranr@vtn.wpro.who.int
Tran Thu Men	Save the Children USA	9425696 (ext 11)	mentt@savechildren.org.vn

Tran Tu Anh	Dutch Red Cross	9425572	Tran.tuanh@nlrc.org.vn
Trine Glue Doan	NGO Resource Centre	090 3449644	Director@ngorc.org.vn