

Disaster Management Working Group Meeting

September 11, 2009

NGO Resource Centre

Chaired by: Mr. Nguyen Van Gia – SC

Noted by: NGORC

1. General Update (including disaster situation, policies, working environment, diseases, etc) (45 minutes)

- Actions to be taken and by whom (final comments for next month's meeting)
- Majority of areas will be flooded and storm will arrive this afternoon
- 2010 April minister of agriculture will organize conference- international conference – broaden scope pandemic rather than HN1 and will be chaired by prime minister and we're expecting 1800 people from 150 countries- 3 day event funded by USAID and UN – held in international conference center. Maud is taking leadership in connection with Ministry of Health
- Next week there will be a meeting by Red Cross- at the Melia Hotel (training) – regional area (action X will share information)
- H1N1
 - becomes more serious and number of dead rise- it often becomes less advertised- is there a way for information sharing? (A. the information are often shared on CCFSC and NGORC website, DMWG mailing list) (for example, ratio of dead versus number of infected. Often times people are brought to the hospital when it is too late and the disease is already spread). UN speaks: what is relevant for this group is to be ready in case the situation worsens- contingency) (In Thailand people don't use a mask, one of the comments is to be infected now rather than later- motto in Thailand). (China they believe they found vac has been developed- flu has become more dangerous in winter). Hung says that at organizational level (for example, CARE- has training on this)
- **Other comments:**
 - UN Meetings: Meeting on rapid assessments held on 2 weeks time- 24th and 25th Bangkok and others will facilitate 2 day session. Thursday will focus on disaster management to build capacity of our teams- will use scenarios and have senior

officials from governments. 2 people from each ministry. From the UN side we will have head of agencies and one technical person and we would like to invite NGOs. On the 24th seats are limited (50 seats, 20 for government and 20 for UN, and 10 invited from NGOs- directors plus 1 person from disaster management team). 25th is about rapid assessments- facilitated by OCHA (UN side)- they will share with us common understandings and the DM working group (20-25 people from DMWG can take part in the session on the 25th in the morning- email invitations have already been shared)

- If we don't have good disaster management- we need to raise issues of cluster. ACTION: for next meeting, maybe someone could present points on Cluster for the next time! (UN will do this)
- Oxfam GB Consultation- agreement to integrate climate change into our programs (before it belonged to disaster management but now we are integrating climate change and disaster management) □ ½ day workshop will be offered.
 - Action: technical corner should address this issue
- UN Update: mission on logistics- how logistics will be affected or handled during major disaster. WFP will be assessing the logistic sector from 21st to 25th so he might approach DMWG to gain an understanding of the sector (what are protocols, customs, etc)
 - Second point- October 7th purpose is to establish national platform funded by AUSAID- 150 people will participate. International orgs
- Ian (UN) sent around draft on disaster contingency plan to DMWG- background: looked at models in existence taken by Oxfam and UN as a template. Then we plagiarized from Oxfam- sections 2 have added some relevant webpages. Section 3 we outline 5 different types of scenarios and bullet points to keep it succinct- the bulk of the document is actually taken up by annexes. Which organization is working in which province and what with email addresses- annex looks at other agencies including PCG 10 including contact information- ACTION: please look at this during the next month and between now and then, please submit feedback to Ian who will have another go at a revised edition. Deliberately want to keep it thin...to make it user friendly and accessible.
 - UN challenge is to find balance between detailed information and friendly/useful document- revision is needed
 - Why put two issues in one document? Question- pandemic (health-related issues) with disaster? We had 2 different working groups- pandemic is kind of disaster and the reaction from government is very much alike. Considering the scenario and the options- the stakeholders would be the same in either disaster (containment – Ministry of Health, prime minister are also involved) although

there are substantial differences- there are similarities... (the title of the document is still DM Working Group and will be using this document). But this document is focused on this working group!

- Question: when it comes to implementation, does it require a certain amount of skills? No, says UN. We will provide steps and Scenario number 4 – what is role of DM working groups in major disasters? Different NGOs- what is role of working groups (we have clusters and then those working in).
- Save the Children is working to prepare International Disaster Reduction Day- 14th October in Hue (all are welcome to attend). We will invite leaders
- Vinh from PACCOM- floods in the plateau and central coast – death number is now at 7 persons- with 9 injured and 4 missing. Total value is up to 300 million VN dong. PACCOM has sent letters to concerned provinces to get updated information and they will let us know soon by Wednesday of next week (ACTION)
- **Disaster Tour by CECI- DWF workshop** and Save the Children- 2nd phase- 60 people will visit project site- because location is SAPA. Communication Campaign and it will take place through competitions- disaster stimulation. One communications section through unions- attend in November will (lessons learned). Who is participating in this? 14 Chinese partners + their partners
 - Question: June, August □ lessons learned will be sent- final report from Care International can be sent! From nationwide- all disaster contacts will be put in final report (shared experience from north to south, and experience with dealing with issues of children and integrating programs into social-economic development)....
- Oxfam will join with UNICEF on water and sanitation training – for four days
- September 15-18th DRR Practitioners Workshop in Thailand - Thu Ha will go on behalf of DMWG working group to make presentation on the partnership mechanism of DMWG. Other 15 participants from different organisation also join this event.

Thu Ha can bring (UN) copies of report on what is going on in Vietnam. JANI' document and other relevant report to Thailand. Mr. Nhat -CECI integration into planning process- will bring experience from Vietnam

2. **Organization updates (training, workshop events) for cooperation or participation) (event on rapid assessments from PCG 10 - 25th of September) (45 minutes)**

1. **ActionAid** : media campaign from selected organizations. 20 articles with 1 videotape produced with activities of INGO members . good advocacy tool for community to reach many people. They organize a contest among many media circles including journalists to visit project site to write articles (describing the good work of disaster reduction activities in the provinces). Interest among journalists from disaster response ACTION: share webpage with information on the film
2. **OXFAM GB-** consultation workshop on integration of DRR and Climate Change into programs- this workshop purpose is to get an agreement of step by step or Oxfam international roadmap to factor into programs.
 - a. **We organized another training workshop at the end of September or early October relating to WASH cluster training workshop for four days in Hanoi.** This is co-organized with UNICEF.
3. **Special Update: NDMP New Structure (Jan-UNDP) (30 minutes)**
 - Tim- 2 main topics- final evaluation of partnership and to design a phase 3
 - I. Partnership NDMP Phase II Performance
 - a. Partnership has 4 main objectives. We would like your opinion on the strengths and weaknesses on this partnership
 1. Overall- Valuable contribution but inconsistent
 2. Information sharing- major strength
 3. Policy dialogue- some achievements, some limitations
 4. Capacity development- weakness
 5. Resource coordination- strength
 6. Other
 1. Gateway- strength
 2. Flexibility- strength and weakness
 - b. Some ministries believe that the establishment of natural disaster management and climate change adaptation should be developed. Another option is that a new department would be established. The DMG would be the core and would become a department and carry management functions and provide technical advice. This mission just started 2 weeks ago so we appreciate your feedback!
 - c. What is your opinion on the aforementioned objectives?
 1. UN quick comment: there isn't enough time to discuss this issue- brainstorming in 20 minutes is not enough (photocopy emails) (his email is

tmgrath@hn.vnn.vn or ngogiatrung@yahoo.com) his name is Tim. So today, we will spend the first 10-20 minutes on this....

2. Information sharing has improved a lot! Criticism however, that with information sharing that the information is very general- and little analysis. Has not been directed at policy dialogue (no explicit link between information sharing and policy)
 1. Vinh from PACCOM: last year there were several workshops in this area...did you gather inputs and comments from those workshops? Secondly, what is evaluation of the partnership? During this time, did ministry of agriculture receive funds from other donors? With inputs and overall objectives- so we can judge and assess the developments we don't know those documents..
 2. ACTION: give Tim photocopy of attendees
 3. First phase during second phase the points changed (inconsistent)
 4. Did people have much information or contact on the partnership? Sometimes and occasionally. When is the question? We look at the website when there is a typhoon or if there is something new....the interaction is the number of times- you can go back to the minutes of the last six to eight months- there is usually someone from UNDP meeting and they have presented something- UNDDP is a donor and you can go to meeting . in phase 2, there were probably 2 phases- so one thing is the partnership and the people working in the partnership- and also the evaluation should focus on ownership from government- the government decided to stop funding UNDP to support ownership and integration of these five pros into the existing governmental structures.
 5. Comment: Useful previous workshop that integrated international perspectives and studies on decision structures in Vietnam that these studies looked at district and provincial level (reports on this are helpful and useful for policy dialogue). Studies have looked at gaps...
 6. Tim's comment: phase 3- how do you think partnership should change? They attended meetings and made presentations during phase 2 but should be there something more? A closer cooperation?
 - a. Answer: each organization must do their own work with their own resources. Why can't we merge both groups together . this is a bridge between government and international community (however we need to discuss further how to create this integration!) . question is raised if we even know phase 3 (shouldn't government provide information?). my main concern today is with partnership or whatever (part of this new department...)

- b. Tim: What do people think about relationship? It's volunteer (no budget) and resolve issues- or if do we merge with department? Perhaps we could do this and discuss to get people's opinions

3. Technical corner (90 minutes)

- **Mr. Hung of Care presents on Four-On-The-Spot**

- This is not representing CARE and has nothing to do with Spot
- This research has not been done, but will be done by another center. This is another activity from JANI partners including NDM-P, Oxfam, action aid, adpc, save the children, adra, care, European commission, Netherland red cross, world vision, dw, ceci
- What are four on the spot principles? Or sometimes policies ...
 - Principles (leadership, human resources, means and logistics) have been regularly applied in flood and storm control activities over a long period of time, yet have not to date been compiled and documented into a handbook)
 - Goal: do this either this week or next week! ACTION
 - What is the purpose of having this guideline? The government uses this all the time, but so far they don't have anything written on a piece of paper (but no document) or platform towards- who is target audience? Who will be the user? Why are we asking to know...
 - Promote ownership of local people and preparing local people (local authorities do not understand what this means- they are also confused over logistics and means)—so that the main is local authority is for the commune level and it's very useful guideline...
 - Initial step: we will visit and chat with government at district, provincial levels to see how people are applying these principles...
 - Before we discuss methodology, we need to be clear about target audience, and needs assessment and who is target audience (do they need it or not) and how we from the NGO community can even tell people (otherwise it would not be useful).
 - Who is the handbook for? It's for practitioners, and community leaders.
 - How do you link it to government efficacy? If we want to document this, there needs to be representative list

- The purpose or the objective so people are confused- but we don't have common understanding of objective. We should try to explain in further detail in spot and the principles- choose the main objective of the handbook and necessary for us
- If it is not officially approved by government, then they will not use it. The guideline is something they always use...what if this is not the case...
- What are requirements for households? We need approval from government! Otherwise no one will use it!
- How will it become integrated
- UNDP – did you find any gaps in these principles? I think the government where does this initiative come from?
- ACTION: do you want to fill out questionnaire or do you want to do a meeting?
- How do you respond to Sri Lanka? In Sri Lanka, we wait for central authority to respond. The responsibility is clearly outlined on what they need to do.
- Implemented differently in various provinces but it creates a unified idea of preparedness in the community and gives us community based management . sometimes we need to understand more clearly than more than 4 on the spot we need a link on the higher level (government response) but how do other people respond and how can we help? What is link between other communities and our community? Or the cluster approach?