

Minutes of IASC Task Force Meeting, South Asia EQ
Friday, 14. October 2005

OCHA

- **Flash Appeal:** Should there be any changes that need to be made before the full-fledged revision of the Appeal in a couple of weeks (date still to be determined), they would need to be reported to Isabel Fougery (CAP Section) today

Cluster and agency/NGO updates

WFP

- **On the food pipeline:** the first flight of biscuits has arrived. Today another flight of biscuits should arrive and tomorrow a flight of BP5. 50 tons of dates from Afghanistan are in the pipeline. Also currently trying to get 4,000 tons of dates from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan.
- The regular food pipeline tracking system should be functioning within the next few days.
- **Transport:** 30 of the 75 trucks from Afghanistan are already in Pakistan. In the process of negotiating with commercial transporters.
- An assessment team will be deployed next week (for about 2 weeks) to assess the needs and focus on the exact number of affected people.

UNICEF

- **Nutrition:** UNICEF will take the lead for this part of the cluster.
- **WatSan:** There is simply no water on the ground. UNICEF is moving ahead with NGOs by positioning tanks of water. UNICEF is also working mainly with Islamic Relief in Muzzafarabad on latrines and started to fix the whole water system in the town.
- **Education:** UNICEF is still assessing the number of schools that were destroyed and children killed. Saturday was a school day and this is why children are particularly affected. 740 school-in-the-box kits are being shipped over this weekend. Each kit is for 80 children and UNICEF is working on this together with Save the Children and WFP. Further 200 kits are already in Karachi and another 2000 kits are still needed.
- **Protection:** Rapid assessments are still ongoing. ICRC is taking the lead in Muzzafarabad for protection in general and is providing non-food items and tracing especially children and their family links.

WHO

- **Health:** The strong message is – as reported yesterday in the Member States information meeting – that donor supported field hospitals should respect local coordination arrangements. Further, health providers are strongly encouraged to hire local health personnel. There are already some reports of people dying of cold. The top priority is to focus on measles vaccination.
- By Tuesday, a sector-wide overview will be available, which will be consolidated and updated once or twice a week (depending on capacity).

IOM

- Shelter: The cluster has 16 members (mostly NGOs). There is a shortage of tents and of warehouse space. It was highlighted that Pakistan is a major producer of tents and if there is a shortage of tents already, this might create further serious shortages with impacts worldwide in case of another emergency.

UNHCR

- It is expected that 60-70% of affected areas can be reached very soon. The response is quite chaotic in many places and distribution is sometimes even impossible. By Monday, major airlifts will be coming in from Dubai, Amman and Copenhagen. There are also major stocks still in Turkey and the High Commissioner has contacted the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs (yesterday) to try to facilitate the transport of these stocks to Pakistan. UNHCR has also approach Iran and Norway where further stocks are available. The aim is to have everything in place by Thursday, next week.
- Camp management: The coordination is going reasonably well. Contacts have been established with the Government on questions that need to be solved (i.e. security issues) before going ahead.

UNDP

- Early recovery: The next meeting is this afternoon. Separate ToRs were established for the country level and for the HQ level so as not to duplicate work.

FAO

- A preliminary assessment mission is going to be deployed next week.

IFRC

- One helicopter is on its way. IFRC has established a tent production line and is aiming to get it up to 5000 tents per week.

ICRC

- Currently 50 international staff are on the ground, of which 25 in Muzaffarabad. The total should soon be 70 international staff. 2 choppers are operational by now. One First Aid post/triage unit is functional in Muzaffarabad and might be sent to remote places once the field hospital (100 beds) is operational, which should be by mid-next week. ICRC has sent a assessment mission to Neelum valley and has found a very high rate of casualties.

Additional information/ messages

Information reporting

- The cluster leads were asked to come up with regularly updated and consolidated analytical overviews as of next week.
- HIC will be established by tomorrow. Information should be compiled locally and from there it comes to HQ level.

Pipeline management

- There is an urgent need for a comprehensive pipeline management system to facilitate coordination of relief items (i.e. tracking deliveries against needs and gaps). Building on its food pipeline management system, WFP agreed to take the lead in trying to come up with a system for the aid community managed by the JLC. WFP will deploy an expert to Islamabad next week. Cluster lead agency buy-in will be essential for such a system to work.

Affected population

- Women and children are the most affected – agencies to ensure targeted response and reporting.
- It is important to have information on the coverage and on distribution.
- On the figures, everybody was encouraged to use the official Government figures (of dead, injured and affected people).
- Clarity is needed on terminology used: “affected and seriously affected”
- Everybody is encouraged not to use the term of “IDPs” but rather stick with the “vulnerable” and “population of humanitarian concern”.

Communication

- Communication is difficult on the ground because no landlines exist and mobile-to-satphone communications are blocked. Only satphone-to-satphone communications are possible.

Logistics

- UNJLC is there for strategic coordination but the field level logistics are the responsibility of the agencies.
- It was confirmed that NATO will allow IOs and NGOs to use the NATO air bridge from Ramstein Airbase in Germany to Islamabad, Pakistan. The focal point for Requests for Assistance (RFAs) is the UNJLC. The exact format of RFAs is to be agreed.
- The first Inter-agency base camp will be arriving this weekend.

Transport

- 4 helicopters are on the ground and operational and 2 are arriving within 2 to 3 days. WFP/JLC is deploying a helicopter-expert will be arriving on the ground today in order to manage the helicopters and assess the further needs. He will come up with more precise information by Monday.

Flash Appeal

- A full-fledged revision will be issued in a couple of weeks. Discussion on parameters of this Appeal was postponed to next meeting (Monday) due to time constraints.

NEXT IASC TF MEETING: Monday, 17 October 2005, 16:30 GVA Time

Meetings will be twice a week as from now: Mondays and Thursdays, 16:30 GVA time