

Minutes of IASC Task Force Meeting, South Asia EQ
Monday, 12th December 2005

1) The '90 Day Winter Plan'

- **OCHA:** According to the field, the feeling is that it should be possible to implement the '90 Day Winter Plan' with the currently available resources/ capacity. However, the country team stresses that there is a need to further strengthen capacity and to go beyond the objectives of the 'Winter Plan' in order to meet all needs.
- **Food cluster (WFP):** The geographical division of responsibility between WFP, the Government and ICRC is done. WFP is in charge of 1 million people and the rest of the 2,3 million people are split between the Government and ICRC. WFP thinks that the plan is doable.
- **Shelter cluster (IOM):** The cluster thinks they are able to implement the plan; yet, this will depend on whether the Government will procure and distribute all items as they have promised. There is a serious concern about funding for the shelter cluster, which only stands at USD 9 million. There is a further need of 2.4 million blankets and also more plastic sheetings. 1.3 million blankets are in the pipeline and should come through in the next days but there will be a need for partners to distribute them. When it is said that 75% of the tents are not winterised, some of these 75% are still considered as "adequate". The "Shelter Security Assessment is to be presented on Tuesday, 13 December in Islamabad.
- **Health (WHO):** The cluster feels that they can manage to implement the 'Winter Plan' but the situation is fragile. A major concern remains with the primary health care, especially for outreach services in the remote areas. Out of 23 primary health care centres, 12 have been set up. A key problem is the funding for NGOs that are providing these outreach services. A concern also exists regarding the timeliness of the implementation of the mass vaccination campaigns. The material is there but logistics is still a problem. The low number of female health workers is still an issue.
- **WatSan (UNICEF):** The plan focuses on the availability of safe drinking water. Also, sanitation is still a great concern and the focus is currently on building latrines. Another area of concern is hygiene promotion, where work is currently being done.
- **Protection (UNICEF):** The major concern is the availability of reliable data endorsed by all. A priority is also now to provide stronger policy advice to the Government to draft a policy for vulnerable people.
- **Camp management (UNHCR):** UNHCR is relatively well funded as of recently. It has the means to respond to the 'Winter Plan', however, this does not cover all the needs. Thoughts will have to be given to increasing the budget in the coming months. Also, UNHCR will increase its protection activities in camps. It was highlighted that we will soon need to think beyond the '90 Day Winter Plan' and about what should happen next.

Follow-up Action point: Mass information campaigns will have to be set up in view of avoiding any future fire incidents in camps like the one that happened recently.

- **Early recovery (UNDP):** In general, the 'Winter Plan' is seen as realistic, but some serious challenges remain, including the supplies of material (i.e. bringing corrugated iron sheets to remote places in the mountains). Information management will need to be beefed up in the Early Recovery cluster. UNDP has also put in place a national UNV program.

Follow-up Action point: The need was stressed for all agencies to have staff on the ground that can focus specifically on early recovery.

- **Education (UNICEF):** The cluster has been working on sites for temporary schools. The Government has promised to procure 31,000 tents for schools but the important factor now is more when these tents will actually arrive. Also, with winter coming, many schools will actually close for 2 months.

It was agreed at the meeting to keep the item above in agenda as a standing item in order to continue taking stock of problems/concerns/activities needed at HQ level to support the field.

General concerns:

- **Capacity** in general, especially in view of the **handover of responsibility** from the military to the civilian authorities. It is feared that the civilian authorities simply do not have the capacity.
- Availability of **shelter supplies** and other **NFIs**.
- **Logistics**: more helicopters will be grounded in the winter months. De-icing equipment and sling nets are needed.
- **Funding** in general and more specifically for NGOs.

Follow-up Action point: Pressure to be maintained on donors.

Update on logistics to be provided at the next meeting.

2) Implementing partners (introduced by OCHA)

- **3 options** are suggested by the field: 1) direct implementation by agencies on the ground through augmented presence on the ground, 2) expand collaboration and use of national and local NGOs, 3) expand collaboration with the Pakistani military and civil authorities with an emphasis on training and transfer of knowledge to national counterparts..
- The **private sector** was suggested as another option and it should be explored how the private sector could contribute. **UNOPS** also mentioned that it was present on the ground and that it has resources (i.e. helicopters and jeeps) available to be used by agencies and could assist with private sector engagement.
- In general, agencies said that all three options are being looked into. **WFP** mentioned that it was well covered in terms of implementing capacity. **WHO** highlighted that, apart from being a problem of capacity building, it is also one of revitalising capacity that already exists. With regard to camp management, **UNHCR** indicated that the Commission for Afghan Refugees (CAR) would take the responsibility for camp management within the civilian authorities and that they should have the capacity to do it. It was also recalled that for Afghan refugees, there were many NGOs in Peshawar and that it might just be an issue of getting them to Kashmir. **UNFPA** mentioned that they had no concern as such with implementing partners as they are working with the local health authorities. However, lack of funding could impede the ability of their implementing partners to carry out activities.

SUGGESTED NEXT AGENDA items:

- Regular update on concerns regarding the implementation of the '90 Day Winter Plan'
- Exit strategy (as proposed by Islamabad)
- Update on cluster review

NEXT IASC TF MEETING: Monday, 19th December 2005, 15:30 GVA time