

**Minutes of IASC Task Force Meeting, South Asia EQ**  
**Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005**

**BRIEFINGS:**

**1. Report from WFP/JLC on status of NFI pipeline tracking system:**

- WFP reported that a commodity tracking specialist was sent to Islamabad to revise/ review the current existing system, especially looking at the software systems. Another person will be sent to the field within a week to support the system.
- The Emergency Coordinator from IOM, who had just returned from Pakistan, stressed that overall information on distribution of tents and NFIs is generally available but that the challenge now is to disaggregate the data down to the field/ village level, which is very difficult. Another problem is to receive the right data from the Government. WFP mentioned that all the information (overall and disaggregated) is available but not necessarily published in the SitReps; this can be done if so requested.

**Follow-up Action point:** WFP to keep the IASC informed on any progress made in the pipeline tracking system and any information is needed from Clusters.

**2. Report from UNDP on outcomes of Reconstruction Conference, held on 19 November in Pakistan:**

- The objectives of the conference were to share the findings of the assessments done by the UN and the IFIs and to present the Government's strategy for reconstruction. The "Early Recovery Framework"- document was presented. The conference was a success in so far as a total amount of USD 5,8 billion were pledged (or which USD 3,8 billion as loan and USD 1,9 billion as grant). However, it is as of yet unknown how much will go to bilateral aid and how much to multilateral aid.
- It was agreed by all IASC members that while it is important to look at recovery for planning purposes but it is still crucial to have the emphasis remain on the relief operations, as these will last throughout the whole winter.

**Follow-up Action point:** UNDP to inform on how much of the 5.6 billion is being targeted to relief activities.

**3. Report from UNHCR/ IOM on population movements and current international response:**

- It was clarified that UNHCR and IOM are each working separately but in an inclusive manner with the respective cluster members and Government counterparts on revised strategies for camp management (UNHCR) and for shelter (IOM).
- **UNHCR reported revised strategy for camp management** should be available for the IASC members in the coming week. Elements of this strategy include 1) the provision of humanitarian winterised equipment, 2) assistance to the Government, local authorities and NGOs in camp management and coordination with an emphasis on community-based approach, 3) the continued mapping of spontaneous camps (there are thousands and they are constantly moving), 4) the linking up of these efforts with early recovery activities.
- The IASC discussed some of the **reasons populations are remaining in the remote areas**. They included: 1) the fact that all their assets buried under the houses and that they do not want to leave them, 2) a land tenure issue, which can become a legal issue since papers are lost and rumours already exist on forged papers; also people are afraid to lose their lands if they are not occupying it, 3) the fact that they want to remain close to their animals. As a result, families might split with parts of them migrating to camps and parts staying.
- **Monitoring movements:** It is extremely difficult for the UN to have adequate figures on the movement of populations. It was highlighted that people in the mountains often do not know themselves if they will move in the near future or not as this

depends, amongst others, on the eventual reach out of assistance to them. For contingency planning purposes, agencies have to work with the official Government figures. Assistance efforts should be concentrated on shelter and food.

**Follow-up Action point:** UNOSAT, on the request of HIC Islamabad, will assess the available satellite imagery for mapping locations of IDP camps, especially in view of getting a clearer picture of the spontaneous camps.

## AOB

- **Decision on cost and use of base camps (led by WFP):** It has been agreed to extend the duration of the base camps for another 3 months and to further expand them in order to accommodate the increased demand (currently, 190 places are available, yet 300 are needed). Payment for the use of the camps is not requested at this stage.

**Follow-up Action point:** Agencies are requested to provide OCHA and WFP in the field with information concerning the exact number of staff remaining in the base camps for the next three months. Agencies are requested to seek alternative solutions as soon as possible.

- **Update on the discussions held on the cluster approach in the IASC WG 21 Nov:** It was made clear that any observations presented in the IASC WG were based on anecdotal evidence as no in-depth evaluation has yet been made. It was stressed that the cluster approach is a coordination tool/ a means to the end, which is an increased delivery of assistance. Whilst there was considerable positive feedback, concerns were raised about the large number of meetings. Also, there is a need to be cautious of “rampant clusterisation” as agencies seek more profiling. Negative feedback came in particular from the NGO side and it was felt that a good advocacy campaign on the actual objectives of the cluster approach is needed.

**Follow-up Action point:** OCHA will be working on a real-time review on the ground of the Cluster Approach with a view of evaluating what adjustments are needed.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGES/ CONCERNS RAISED

- **Relocation:** A concern about protection of the 14,000 people to be relocated from camps around Islamabad was voiced.
- **Casualty figures:** It was highlighted that the casualty figures haven't changed for more than a week now. We need to get updates on this.
- **Improvement of the IASC TF meetings and cooperation with the field:**

**Follow-up Action point:** Field to be asked on how the IASC TF can be of better support. Field also to be asked if they want to be linked up with the IASC TF meetings. Agencies to actively suggest agenda items to OCHA.

- **MoU between UNOSAT and WMO:** An MoU has been signed by UNOSAT and WMO allowing the international humanitarian community access to detailed and customized weather forecasts (for example temperature, precipitation and snow depth) during disasters. This information has been passed on to field staff involved in the South Asia EQ relief operation as well as the Pakistani Government, who are already benefiting from this MoU. UNOSAT also made the meeting participants aware of the snow cover maps it produces on a daily basis covering the South Asia earthquake affected area.

***Follow-up Action point:*** Should IASC members be interested in more information on this issue, please contact [ainar.bjorgo@unosat.org](mailto:ainar.bjorgo@unosat.org) .

**SUGGESTED NEXT AGENDA items:**

- Security

**NEXT IASC TF MEETING: Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005, 15:30 GVA time**