Minutes of IASC Task Force Meeting, South Asia EQ
Monday, 31st October 2005

ACTION POINTS

1. **From now on the IASC meeting will focus on discussion of strategic issues rather than on pure information sharing which can be obtained in the various sitreps. Any suggestions should be sent to OCHA.**

2. **Cluster focal points to liaise with the Government focal points in their clusters on what type of humanitarian information is available from the Government.**

3. **Agencies in severe need of funding were encouraged to request funds from the CERF. Please request through OCHA New York.**

4. **Agencies to follow up individually with donors that have pledged against the Appeal and report to FTS and in next IASC.**

5. **Ensure that sitreps and other information being sent from OCHA references non-UN members.**

6. **Contingency Plan/Strategy needed to respond to possible evacuations and migrations from high-valleys.**

7. **Letter from Jan Egeland to Donors highlighting the funding gap and Islamabad Country Team's capacity for the next 30 days.**

Proposed agenda for Meeting
- Three discussion topics were put forward and discussed as various length:
  - The need for a real strategy for further action, in particular on relocation.
  - The need for precise information on the IASC's capacity to deliver in the next two and in the next four weeks.
  - The funding gap.

Summary of discussions
- <u>Plans for future action</u>: Plans are being formulated but at the same time the funds are not forthcoming and it was stressed that any planning and actual availability of funds need to be tied together.
- <u>Capacity to deliver</u>: Agencies are aware of the deadline to provide information (COB Tuesday, 1/11/05) on their actual capacity to deliver in the next 2 and 4 weeks and are planning to provide this information.
- <u>Information sharing with the Government</u>: Information from the Government is very difficult to obtain. There are cluster focal points within the Government from whom more information can be expected soon. It was suggested that these focal points be asked ASAP what type of information can be expected from them and by when. According to the HC, little information is available from the Government on the USD 1,2 billion pledged on a bilateral basis.
- The UN agencies and NGOs are <u>only a very small player</u> on the ground compared to the army. In order to maximize the outputs of all actors involved, more information sharing is needed and especially information on what the army does and plans to do.

- <u>Difficulty in obtaining reliable information:</u> It is very difficult to have a complete overview of the situation and of all the relief activities that are taking place since many actors on the ground are simply not part of the clusters.
- <u>Relations with the Government</u>: It was suggested that within a week, if necessary, a letter from some bodies within the UN be drafted to the Government of Pakistan (the Prime Minister or the President) where the current issues of concerns be highlighted: the poor funding situation of the agencies, the capacity of the agencies vis-à-vis the capacity of the Government, knowledge of each others plans of action. Solutions to some concerns should maybe also be proposed, such as the possibility of a geographical delimitation of responsibility.

Current plans, updates and issues of concern

Food (WFP)
- The food cluster has put a document together on how to proceed with further action and is meeting with the Government today to try to figure out who should be doing what.

Shelter (IOM)
- Two shelter strategies were already put in place. The Government figures on tents are often contradicting (the military has different figures that the civilian authorities). The message is that tents are still needed.

Camp management (UNHCR)
- The current strategy is 1) to send as much shelter material as possible; 2) to create mobile teams in the affected areas to assist the people in setting up the makeshift camps; 3) to identify areas for new camps. As of today, 17 locations have been identified with a total capacity of 20,000 families. On the mobile teams: a full proposal is ready but it might be blocked due to lack of funding.
- No full strategy currently exists for a potential massive population flow out of the mountains once winter sets in. IOM and HCR are working on a case-by-case basis when they see that the potential for a population movement is there.

Health (WHO)
- The key point is access! Once access is provided, the health assistance has been very successful. The health cluster is in that sense specific because it is entirely dependant on the logistics provided by others. Lack of funding does not seem to be a problem for the immediate operational activities in the health cluster.

AOB

- <u>CERF</u>: agencies in severe need of funding were encouraged to request funds from the CERF. Jan Egeland has been alerted of this possibility and is willing to consider any requests. Currently, USD 36 million are available in the CERF.
- <u>Early recovery:</u> The donor meeting scheduled for 18 November in Pakistan was rescheduled for the 19 November. The UN joint assessment has finished all its fieldwork and will have a first draft of its results available on 3rd November. The World Bank assessment will be completed by 7th November. Both are trying to agree with the Government on a set of guidelines to bridge the short and long-term recovery needs.
- <u>Update by Donor Relations Section (OCHA):</u> Most of the donors that have pledged against the Appeal have indicated that they are in the process of committing the pledges. Funds can be expected by the en of this week. Agencies are asked to follow

up individually with the respective donors. The immense sums pledged by the Golf States are very unlikely to be committed against the Appeal.

- <u>HLWG meeting in NY</u>: OCHA NY informed the IASC members that a HLWG meeting was scheduled for the same day and that some donors have indicated their willingness to provide funds for immediately operational programmes.