

## 17.09.2018 – HCTT Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

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**Venue:** DDM Conference Room, Dhaka.

### **Participants:**

- Abigael Nyukuri, UNICEF, Nutrition Cluster Coordinator;
- Surandra Regmi, Program Coordinator, IFRC
- Mehedi Hasan Shishir, Sr. Officer, Livelihood & Cash, IFRC
- Mukit Billah, Program Assistant, ECHO (Donor Representative)
- Sajid Raihan, Country Manager, Start Fund BD
- A.K.M. Musa, Country Director, Concern World Wide (INGO Representative)
- Tazrina Habib, WASH Emergency Officer, UNICEF
- Ni Ni Wir, Program Specialist, UNICEF
- Arif Abdullah Khan, Program Analyst, UNDP, Early Recovery
- Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman, ED, DAM (NAHAB NNGO Representative);
- Golam Morshed, UNICEF, WASH Cluster Coordinator;
- Jacklin Rebario, Save the Children, Education Cluster;
- Malik Kabir, WFP Emergency Officer, Logistics Cluster;
- Md. Jafar Iqbal, CARE, Needs Assessment Working Group (NAWG);
- Sabina Parvin, UNFPA Program Officer, GBV Cluster;
- Edith Akiror, UNFPA Program Officer, GBV Cluster;
- Saudia Anwar, UNDP, Early Recovery Cluster;
- Shabnaaz Zahereen, UNICEF, Child Protection Cluster;
- Shah Zahidur Rahman, UNDP, Shelter Cluster;
- Kazi Shahidur Rahman, UN RCO, HCTT Secrétariat;
- Henry Glorieux, UN RCO, HCTT Co-chair.

### **Agenda:**

1. National government counterparts
2. Inter-cluster collaboration at local level
3. Floods preparedness plan
4. Cyclone preparedness plan
5. Forecast-based financing
6. AoB

### **Minutes:**

#### **1. National Government counterparts**

As a follow-up to the special HCTT meeting which took place on 9 August 2018 during which MoDMR Secretary, Mr. Shah Kamal provided HCTT Members with the opportunity to communicate officially to clusters/working groups' national government counterparts, HCTT Members reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen national ownership and leadership of the clusters and working groups. HCTT Members recognized that clusters/working groups' work should be aligned with national authorities' priorities, policies, objectives, structure/organigram for national government counterparts to be interested in, participating to and guiding clusters/working groups' work. Clusters and working groups agreed to send a one-pager document to the RCO to inform on the rationale behind each clusters/working groups' recommended government national counterpart(s). The information will be analyzed and shared with MoDMR for its review and further action/decisions, as agreed on 9 August 2018.

Complementing the above, the RCO presented draft terms of engagement [see attached presentation] between national government counterparts and leading/co-leading agencies as a follow-up to the inter-cluster/working group meeting of 6 September 2018 during which clusters and working groups indicated that generic Terms of Engagement should be developed for all clusters and working groups to clarify to all relevant parties the spirit of the expected enhanced cooperation. The draft terms of engagement include reference to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreed guidance/documents, state the general objectives of their development. HCTT Members shared their comments. It was agreed that the draft terms of engagement will be revised to include reference to preparedness and resource mobilization. It is understood that once approved by HCTT Members, notably by the MoDMR, these terms of engagement should be annexed and/or incorporated as is in clusters/working groups' ToRs. Clusters/working groups' ToRs should inform how these terms of engagement will be operationalized through clusters/working groups' work.

#### **Action points:**

- All clusters and working groups to send the one-pager document to the RCO to inform on the rationale behind each clusters/working groups' recommended government national counterpart(s) by 29 October 2018.
- RCO will share with HCTT Members a revised version of the draft terms of engagement with national government counterparts by 29 October 2018.

## **2. Inter-cluster collaboration at local level**

As a follow-up to the 9 August 2018 and the 6 September 2018 referred above, the RCO presented the outcome of clusters and working groups discussion on a possible way to improve inter-cluster collaboration at local level. This endeavor was requested to respond to several needs, challenges and requirements, notably:

- Need to strengthen the linkages within the cluster system at central and local levels for the information from the field to guide decision-making processes at central level and, for the decisions made at central level to be implemented at local level;
- Clusters do not necessarily have “cluster focal point” at local level;
- Most clusters' partners at local level are the same for all clusters;
- All coordination fora must be respective of the Disaster Management legislation;
- introducing a platform that cannot be sustained could eventually be damageable, humanitarian partners.

Based on this, recommendation was made to promote the establish of light informal technical information-sharing group on disaster risk management (DRM) in flood and cyclone prone districts [see attached presentation]. The information-sharing group would be hosted by a NGO present in the district (ideally, a national/local NGO). It is expected that it would add significant value to the work of the humanitarian partners in a district (synchronization, less overlapping/duplication). The forum will not be represented in the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) or other development coordination forum. However, it will support evidence-based decision-making processes though the members of the DDMC or other fora. Moreover, it will strengthen the information sharing from local to central level, both through the DMCs-MoDMR and through partners to cluster coordinators. The system could also help to assess if DMCs would require capacity building assistance and help to synchronize eventual support to DMCs.

HCTT Members discussed the recommendation and shared their views. Some of the key points raised were: (1) the need for that mechanism to remain simple and not to generate too high expectations; (2) to ensure that there is no duplication or replacement of the NGO coordination mechanism and/or district development committee at local level; (3) to collaborate with DC's spokesperson and, (4) to revise the title "inter-cluster collaboration at local level" to avoid the possible generation of misperceptions. It was agreed that a revised version will be shared by RCO to HCTT Members.

**Action points:**

- RCO will share to HCTT Members a revised version of the document presenting the informal technical information-sharing group on disaster risk management (DRM) in flood and cyclone prone districts by 29 October 2018.

**3. Floods preparedness plan**

RCO presented an update on the current monsoon situation [see attached presentation] as well as the latest floods response preparedness plan that included all inputs received. HCTT Members agreed to consider the plan as final with the understanding that this is a living document which should be updated on a regular, when required [see attached].

**4. Cyclone preparedness plan**

HCTT Members agreed that some revision of the 2018 Cyclone Preparedness Plan will be required [see attached].

**Action points:**

- Clusters/working groups to send their updated inputs to RCO for consolidation by 15 October 2018;
- RCO will synthesize all Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs) of all clusters and working groups for earthquake, floods and cyclones and circulate to all concerned stakeholders for facilitating monitoring on progress and regular updates, when required by 15 October 2018.

**5. Forecast-based financing**

The START Network presented to the HCTT Members the concept of forecast-based financing/Scaling Early Action (FbA) [see attached presentation]. The presentation informed on the definition of FbA, the rationale behind this agenda, information on funding opportunities. HCTT Members were informed that Bangladesh was one of the three cases study to consolidate evidence for the promotion of FbA. The study is funded by DFID Wiser programme and, it brings together the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), START Network, Red Cross-Red Crescent Climate Centre, Bangladesh Red Crescent / German Red Cross, and CARE Bangladesh. The presentation highlighted findings on barriers to scaling up FbA in Bangladesh. The study took a so-called 'political economy' approach to explicitly consider values and ideas, institutions and power/authority as well as more technical barriers. HCTT Members requested to continue to be kept informed on the development of this agenda and engaged in the discussions on the possible implications the introduction of FbA could have on the current humanitarian coordination framework.

**6. AoB**

- a. As a follow-up to the ad-hoc HCTT meeting of 1 August 2018, clusters were reminded to send detailed information about their cash-package to the Cash Working Group for analysis. Deadline is 29 October 2018.
- b. RCO suggested that regular training on international humanitarian tools and procedures be organized at DDM's Training and Research Centre. More information to come on that following discussion with Sphere Community Bangladesh.

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