

HCT Meeting Minutes: 23 December 2015, 2 pm.

Chair: RC/HC a.i., Craig Sanders, Representative, UNHCR

- The Chair welcomed all the members and briefly shared the agenda for the meeting.

Briefing:

1. Current situation update (political development, Reconstruction Bill, Winter Support by GoN):

- The Chair made references to the media reports and latest political developments which he believed all had been following closely. As also indicated in the last HCT (14 Dec), political dialogues and formal talks aimed at ending the current crisis and political deadlock continue between the Government and the agitating parties. Broadly speaking it is still a 'wait and see situation'.
- **Reconstruction Bill:** On 16 December, the Parliament unanimously endorsed the Reconstruction Bill-2072, paving the way to establish a national body to coordinate earthquake reconstruction activities and expediting post-earthquake rebuilding efforts in the country. The Bill titled as "Bill on Reconstruction of Earthquake Affected Structures-2072 BS" was authenticated by the President on 20 December. The Chief Executive Officer of the National Reconstruction Authority is yet to be selected.
- **Winter Support by GoN: Distribution of Rs.10,000 support as 'warm relief' (as per White Paper):**
- Reportedly, GoN has released the money and it has reached to all 14 earthquake affected districts for winter support. The distribution has commenced in the 11 EQ affected districts starting from the 'colder' villages in the high altitudes. As indicated in the White Paper (issued by MoF on 25 Nov), the Government is providing Rs.10,000 cash grant to the earthquake affected families (with fully destroyed houses) to purchase warm clothes for the winter. For the other 3 districts, the money has been sent to bank account of VDC Secretaries and distribution is expected to start soon, as per media sources.
- The GoN has directed the respective District Administration offices (DAOs) to prioritize the mountainous region's affected population for distribution of the support considering the increasing cold in higher altitude.
- Reportedly, this distribution will not take place in locations/VDCs, already covered by the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) winter support program, to avoid duplications.

WFP/Logistics Cluster Update:

- WFP/Deputy Country Director shared short updates on the fuel situation and its impact on Logistics Cluster operations.
 - WFP has officially requested Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) for 48,000 Liters of diesel/per week to support humanitarian operations of the Logistics Cluster. The fuel is going to serve the affected people.
 - This week, WFP received 36,000 Liters from NOC (at various WFP offices in Nepalgunj, Kathmandu etc) and through the Logistics Cluster, subsequently served fuel to 49 partners.
 - With things slowing down due to the holidays, major requirements are not expected in the upcoming week, but starting January first week, 48,000 Liters/week will be required to manage the operations effectively, she added.
 - The Chair noted that that the fuel requirement for logistics operations is being met slowly, although not at the level required for optimum functionality and expressed hope it would be fully met in the upcoming weeks.
- On a similar note, UNICEF and UNFPA Representatives mentioned that the recent UN House Operations Management Team (OMT) had, on behalf of 20 UN Agencies, requested the Government to ensure 10,500 Liters of fuel /per week to allow agencies' to maintain critical operational capacity, including to allow it to continue its humanitarian operations. There was no update on the results of the request yet.

Action point: The HCT was requested to be regularly updated on the status of fuel requests.

Emergency Response Preparedness Phase-II Update

- The Chair then invited the UNRCO/NRRC/Senior Resilience Advisor, to brief on the background and the ERP Phase-II

- NRRC Advisor shared regarding the recent meeting of the Pre-EQ HCT operational team (cluster co-leads) held on 17 December, organized by RCO & OCHA ROAP colleague. She further shared the background: In February 2015, the HCT had endorsed the roll-out of the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) in two phases (Phase 1 focusing on a flooding scenario in the Terai and Phase 2 on a major earthquake scenario). When the OCHA Regional Office was in Kathmandu in November, the HCT signed off on the implementation of the ERP phase 2. Since then, significant progress has been achieved. Durham University has developed a scenario and various impact models. Durham University has a long history of collaboration with Government counterparts, academic institutions, and national NGOs. They will work closely with everyone as the scenario will be refined. [*Background document ERP phase 2 Concept Note to be shared for more details*]
- The RC/HC a.i. then reminded that he was briefed and was aware of the tight timeline and thus encouraged everyone again to do the utmost to submit relevant documents to the RCO and OCHA ROAP by 15 January 2015. He emphasised on keeping the exercise light.

Action Points:

- The Concept note and Contingency Planning Timeline will be shared separately by UNRCO/NRRC.*
- Also, further instructions on the deadline for submission of relevant documents to RCO and OCHA ROAP will be communicated by and shared separately by UNRCO/NRRC.*

2. Updates and presentations by ERU/RCO: Community Feedback Project & UNICEF:

- The Chair then invited and handed over to the Emergency Response Unit (ERU), UNICEF and Community Feedback Project (CFP) colleagues for respective briefings as per the agenda. Presentations/discussions followed:
 - November feedback - Communicating with Communities (CwC), (*Briefing by CFP/RCO*)
 - Winter assistance update - (*Briefing by Head of ERU/RCO*)
 - Evaluation of Social Assistance programme - (*Briefing by UNICEF*)
- [*Note: Updates/Briefs on these 3 presentation will be shared separately by the respective units/offices*]

General Information/announcements/AOB:

OCHA office closure by 31 December: Transition Messages:

- The Chair thanked Rajan Gengaje, Head of OCHA Office Nepal, for his contributions and leadership and the entire team for OCHA contributions during the past months of Earthquake Response. Rajan will return back to OCHA ROAP in Bangkok on 25 December.
- OCHA Head of Office in turn thanked the RC/HC a.i. for his guidance and support and to all HCT members and UN Agencies for their continued support and cooperation to OCHA Mission throughout past 9 months.
- He shared some final transition messages including the establishment of ERU within RCO: the transition of clusters to pre-Earthquake mechanism; Logistics cluster continuing to provide common services till April 2016: UNHAS services discontinuation from 31 Dec; recovery/reconstruction activities kicking in, among other updates.
- He informed everyone that there will be no OCHA staff based in Nepal as of 1 January 2016.
- Following the closure of the OCHA Operations in Nepal, the OCHA Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP) in Bangkok will provide a range of support to the office of the Resident Coordinator as necessary.
- Rajan also urged HCT members to take note of the availability of trained OCHA national staff and mentioned that a separate communication will be shared with members on this.

The Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year 2016.

Next HCT meeting: 05 January 2016