

## ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2012

### United Nations Development Programme Tajikistan Disaster Risk Management Programme

01-01-2012 – 31-12-2012



Earthquake affected house in Tavildara district, Rasht Valley, 2012 (Photo by UNDP DRMP)

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United Nations Development Programme, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, REACT partners

## Table of Content

Table of Content.....	2
Executive summary.....	3
I. Context.....	3
II. Project results summary.....	4
III. Performance review.....	12
Progress review.....	14
1. Overall progress towards the CPAP outcome and output(s).....	14
2. Capacity development.....	14
3. Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries.....	14
Implementation strategy review.....	15
1. Participatory/consultative processes.....	15
2. Quality of partnerships.....	15
3. National ownership.....	15
4. Sustainability.....	15
Management effectiveness review.....	17
1. Quality of monitoring.....	17
2. Timely delivery of outputs.....	17
3. Resources allocation.....	17
4. Cost-effective use of inputs.....	17
IV. Implementation challenges.....	19
Project risks and actions.....	19
V. Lessons learnt and next steps.....	20
Lessons learnt.....	20
Recommendations.....	20
VI. Financial status and utilization.....	21
Financial status.....	21
Financial utilization.....	22
Annexes.....	24

## Executive summary

The Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP) is the primary mechanism through which UNDP addresses disaster preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction in Tajikistan and will be running its third phase (2010-2015). DRMP was originally established in 2003. DRMP's efforts have grown, both in scope and in value, over the past four years: in 2006, the Programme budget was \$0.5 million, in 2007 \$0.8 million, in 2008 \$3.9 million and in 2009 \$ 2.8 million.

The overall objective of DRM Programme is to "decrease the risk of natural and man-made hazards to rural and urban livelihoods, and ensure infrastructure and recovery mechanisms in place". In terms of technical areas the Programme consists of 5 main outputs: A) Enhanced operational disaster risk management capacities; B) Strengthened risk assessment, monitoring and warning capacities; C) Strengthened disaster risk management institutional and legal frameworks; D) Disaster response enabled and efficient, and E) Disaster risk management coordinated.

UNDP, through implementation of Disaster Risk Management Programme (DRMP) will support the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in reducing the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities by strengthening national capacity to prevent, coordinate, respond and recover from disasters. UNDP will continue to strengthen the capacities of the Committee of Emergency Situations at the national and regional levels, while building regional mechanisms for DRM and mainstreaming DRM into state policy at the national and sub-national levels.

## I. Context

Results achieved over the implementation of DRMP for 2012 contribute to the UNDAF for Tajikistan, which incorporates outcomes on disaster risk management into three pillars: Quality Basic Services; Food and Nutrition Security; and Clean Water, Sustainable Environment and Energy. In particular, DRMP contributed to the following focus areas of the UNDAF:

- Improving early warning and information systems;
- Ensuring the right policies and procedures are in place to ensure the integration of disaster risk reduction into developmental policies;
- Developing capacities to prevent and mitigate, respond in case of an emergency or disaster;
- Support early recovery linked with mid and longer term development; and
- Ensuring emergency supplies are available in the country.

The achieved results over the implementation period of 2012 justify the country's needs in the field of disaster risk management and in particular risk reduction. Establishment of National Platform for disaster risk reduction will be the driving force in the country to monitor the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action recommendations as well as National Disaster Risk Management Strategy for 2010-2015. It will also be the guiding structure in fostering the integration of disaster risk reduction initiatives into national and local planning and development. National Platform, as is a standing body consisting of line ministries and agencies, as well as international donor agencies and UN agencies, will ensure the sustainability over the results achieved within the reporting period.

Development of capacities of national partners, specifically Ministry of Economic Development and Trade will ensure the timely effective, user-friendly issuance of monthly early warning and monitoring reports trending from economic issues to weather related alerts. Gradual transformation of activities in collection and development as well as compilation of database to MEDT has been

implemented within the reporting period, where the National partners, under the coordination of MEDT improved their technical and knowledge capacity.

Introduction on integration of disaster risk reduction initiatives into national and local development programmes and its implementation were one of the three outcomes of DRMP for the reporting period. This outcome encompasses conduction of local level DRR activities to pub awareness raising events and similar activities. Mainstreaming DRR into local development planning set out in the recommendations of Hyogo Framework for Action as well as CPAP. The results achieved over the reporting period (discussed in more details below) ensure the results of NDS, HFA as well as CPAP, while ensure the cross cutting issues of gender, disability and age are all taken into consideration during the implementation phase.

The key partners of Disaster Risk Management Programme are the Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defence under the Government of Tajikistan (CoES), Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MoEDT), State Agency on Hydrometeorology (Hydromet), REACT partners, donors and others. Programme has also made a concerted effort to strengthen partnership with line Ministries and Government officials at all levels.

## II. Project results summary

The project results and outcomes achieved over the reporting year vastly contribute to the country's overall progress in DRR (Annex 3 – Government Resolution on establishment of National Platform). For example, establishment and running of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction designed as a standing sub-committee to the State Commission for Emergency Situations – the highest avenue for disaster management, chaired by the President is one of the county's strategic results achieved over the reporting period. It is one of the bold steps towards shifting the disaster management focus to reduction of risks, rather than facing their consequences, with an ultimate goal to have DRR integrated in development planning. At the same time UNDP DRMP supported CoES in the continuation of monitoring implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy (NDRMS) 2010 – 2015 by state and non-state actors. Above mentioned developments are encouraging signs, indicating the last decade shift from disaster response to disaster prevention.

In addition, Tajikistan continues to run Risk Monitoring and Warning System (RMWS) – a multi-faceted early warning mechanism, which brings together about 14 specialized institutions and looks at the risk factors beyond disaster preparedness. The System is evolving from serving specific interests of specialized actors to becoming of interest for wider public, i.e. being used as a reference source for the main national media service – Asia Plus.

While 2010 and 2011 were witnessing vastly improved national capacity to respond to and recover from rapid onset disasters, the response and recovery operations in May 2012 earthquake in Rasht Valley indicated that this is not yet a systemic change in performance by the national/state agencies. This includes both insufficient (to sometimes satisfactory) response efforts by the government and very low attention from the international partners. UNDP DRMP invested significant efforts in information collection, coordination and actual engagement in recovery processes. It has led international support to recovery after this earthquake, by conducting needs assessments and issuing REACT Recovery Appeal (Annex 4) and providing assistance to rehabilitation activities. These, however, did not generate expected level of assistance. Analysis is yet to be made to identify whether this indicates overall reluctance of the international community to engage in disaster response or different factors had prevented the actors from active engagement (as compared to 2006 – 2010 period).

UNDP DRMP has also piloted the provision of funding to the micro-finance activities that should help in the establishment of 3 revolving DRR funds that should be funded by the profits coming from micro-finance activities. At the same time, several community-based DRR activities were carried out aimed at reducing the risks of vulnerable population to natural disasters, including structural and non-structural mitigation, awareness-raising on integration of DRR into local planning, community

level monitoring and early warning (Annex 5 – DRR Small Grants intervention final narrative reports).

Also, In 2012 UNDP DRMP has piloted a sociological study on “Gender in Disasters” looking into gender aspects of disaster risk reduction at national level. This study is an attempt to define and assess differences in how women and men experience, respond to and recover from disasters, in Tajikistan. It is, in turn, expected to provide entry points for better disaster preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction. The study largely confirmed the set hypothesis, based on the internationally available information, highlighting the existing vulnerabilities linked to massive male migration, female-led households, poverty level, overall poor conditions of vital infrastructure and limited DRM awareness raising/training events at local (village) level. (Annex 6- Gender in Disaster Research report).

Overall, UNDP produced tangible results in enhancing national capacities in the area of response to disasters. National institutions now are much better prepared in various areas related to emergency response such as search and rescue, rapid deployment teams, information management, planning and coordination of emergency response activities. Progress has also been achieved in generating political commitment for Disaster Risk Management through the approval of key strategic policy documents and mechanisms such as National Disaster Risk Management Strategy, inclusion of DRR section in mid-term development strategy for 2013-2015, continued monitoring of the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

The pages below, describe in details all targets set and activities carried out to achieve the outputs set in the Annual Work Plan:

#### **Output 1. Support to the unified and coordinated disaster risk reduction policy and practice in Tajikistan**

##### **Activity Result 1: Implementation of the National DRM Strategy is promoted at all level through effective National Platform on DRR:**

This activity includes overall implementation process and monitoring of National Disaster Risk Management Strategy for 2010 – 2015 as well as establishment of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. Following actions were carried out to achieve the above-mentioned activity of the output 1:

- A unified action plan on implementation of NDRMS outputs was developed which includes representatives of over 25 state entities that are some home related to response to natural disasters in Tajikistan. This had led to unified understanding and approach amongst state entities in disaster response.
- Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense is supported by the Government of Tajikistan on monitoring the implementation of Action Plan of the Strategy. CoES's Operations Department is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan of the Strategy and this department is given full support by both DRMP international experts as well as relevant government institutions on conduction of thorough monitoring of the implementation process.
- The above-mentioned member state entities bear further responsibility to ensure the relevant resources are allocated for the implementation of respective components of the strategy for the given year. This initiative was also supported by UNDP DRMP throughout the reporting period.
- A number of presentations on Action Plan of NDRMs for 2012 have been developed and conducted for REACT partners as well as national stakeholders. Consequently, these organizations, both national and international conducted a number of mitigation, response and risk reduction activities that complied with the Action Plan for 2012.

- In order to ensure the efficient monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan for 2012, CoES's Operations Department was supplied with information technology and office equipment and technical and knowledge capacity of the department was increased.
- The Government of Tajikistan endorsed the National Platform for DRR in March of 2012. The Platform consists of key ministries and agencies of the government as well as international organizations and donor agencies. The programme oversaw a number of efforts for the reporting year to support the government in establishing such mechanism. It also supported the Secretariat of the National Platform (CoES Department for Protection of Population and Territories) to convene its first meetings after its establishment.
- Three regular quarterly NP meetings were conducted for the reporting year with involvement of Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan (Chairperson for Platform) and senior government officials as members, as well as donor and UN agencies. A number of key issues have been discussed during the meetings related to policymaking and integration of disaster risk reduction into development.
- A Scientific Expert group within the National Platform as well as Action Plan and roles and responsibilities of the members for its first year of functioning were developed during the reporting period.

*Activity Result 2: Disaster preparedness and response activities by all DRM actors are effectively coordinated:*

This activity results include efforts on effective coordination and functioning of REACT in Dushanbe as well as REACT at regional levels. The details of accomplished activities are described below:

- REACT continues to serve as coordination mechanism and information sharing platform among all the stakeholders dealing with DRM initiatives in Tajikistan. The online information database allows embracing a wide audience within the country and abroad providing updated information on projects implemented in Tajikistan, stakeholders involved in DRM. Continues provision of support to Secretarial functions of REACT groups in Dushanbe and Kurgan-tube. The support includes conduction of regular and extraordinary REACT meetings both in Kurgan-Tyube and in Dushanbe. Conduction of Rapid Emergency Assessments following a disaster, development of information bulletins and minutes, management and maintenance of DRM coordination website (untj.org) and others.
- A number of discussions and meetings were held with National organizations (Tajik Red Crescent Society) to handover and nationalize the REACT Secretariat functions in Kurgan-Tyube. The REACT in Rasht valley was inactive in previous years, however, during the reporting period, agreement was reached with German Agro-Action to take over responsibilities and de-activate the REACT in Rasht valley. A number of on-the-job trainings to both German Agro-Action as well as CoES relevant departments were carried out to ensure the nationalization and expansion of REACT throughout the country.
- The Inter Agency Contingency Plan was updated under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator. UNOCHA Regional Office for Caucasus and Central Asia and UNDP Disaster Risk Management Program (DRMP), representing the Secretariat of REACT, designed the process for updating the IACP for 2012. The process included a one-day workshop in April 2012 in which 40 REACT members participated (representing 32 organizations/agencies/programs). The workshop was followed by Cluster meetings, which discussed specific sector/cluster plans based on the IACP 2012 scenario. Clusters reviewed the consolidated draft IACP and it was subsequently approved by the UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Country Team and REACT. The objective of the Inter-Agency Contingency Plan (IACP) is to increase the level of preparedness for any potential disaster and to enhance the ability to support the Government of Tajikistan to respond through the effective provision of relief and recovery assistance. The plan focuses on the three most

likely types of disasters: (i) small- to medium-scale natural disasters; (ii) rapid-onset large-scale disaster; and (iii) slow-onset crisis set off by several mutually reinforcing triggers.

- Arrangements were done for UNERT to be moved from Kurgan Tube city to Dushanbe and CoES is providing its premises free of charge to accommodate UNERT items. Joint management of UNERT by DRMP and CoES might serve as a closing linkage between the two organizations providing CoES with a higher sense of ownership of the project and better understanding of preparedness plans.

### Activity Result 3: Effective monitoring of risks and early warning:

The main activities under the Monitoring and Early Warning System (MEWS) in Tajikistan in partnership with Ministry of Economic and Development Trade Republic of Tajikistan are to provide regular information and succinct analysis on the evolution of natural, economic, food-related, energy-related and other risk factors in Tajikistan. Following activities were carried out within the reporting period to ensure the results of the output are achieved:

- During the reporting period of 2012, MEDT's Monitoring and Early Warning System (MEWS) Center had successfully functioned. MEWS Working Group regularly provided MEWS Center with updated information for the MEWS Monthly Report. Internet and computer equipment are always available for the MEWS Working Group at the center for their research and required work.
- According to the schedule, monthly regular MEWS WG workshop has been conducted from January to November 2012, where the main topics and essential issues had been discussed by the members of WG and suggested to present during the REACT Meeting for the partners. It has to be mentioned that the third workshop was organized in Shurobod on March 2012, where the WG visited simulation exercises organized by CoES and had a joint meeting with REACT Kulyab. Seventeen WG members, representing the ministries and government agencies attending regularly the meeting and share the information as well as discuss the various trend issue.
- Regular monthly Monitoring and Early Warning Reports have been successfully developed and disseminated on time for the government and international use. From September 2012 except Ministries and Government agencies in Dushanbe the hard copy of Russian version of MEWS Report has been received by the regional government agencies countrywide. Soft copies of the MEWS Reports are also available at MEDT, UNTJ and UNDP websites. Currently over 600 recipients receive MEWS Report inside and outside Tajikistan. It should be noted that other media sources (such as Asia Plus, Reliefweb, Daily Outlook Afghanistan, Independent New Pakistan etc.) are using MEWS Report as a reference.
- Warning/alerts of weather condition have been regularly disseminated through the MEWS's recipients. For the reporting period during variable weather and risk of seasonal hazards 79 weather alerts has been disseminated through the email. All the recipients received the message on time.
- Capacity needs assessment has been conducted among MEWS Working Group and based on the assessment list of required training has been identified. Based on the assessment on August 2012 in order to improve the capacity of key MEWS members in the use of GIS to support warning information management and presentation, GIS training has been conducted for the MEWS Working Group. At the same time, on October 2012 Excel Training was to MEWS WG in order to practice and demonstrate the generation of charts and graphs using actual data used by MEWS.
- During the reporting period, readership surveys on MEWS Report and Weather Alert Messages have been conducted among REACT Partners and MEWS Recipients. Result of the survey showed the importance and usefulness of the report. During the survey, recipients

also provided clear and significant comments and recommendations for further improving of the MEWS activities. In addition, on December 2012 the MEWS representatives visited Khujand Province. The main objective of the trip was to meet with government and international organizations (MEDT, Ministry of Health, Hydromet, Regional Sughd REACT, WFP, UNDP CP) and identify monitoring and warning information needs at the Province level. The meeting has been very productive and important suggestions and recommendations for further implementation have been received.

- It should be mentioned that taking into account the changes in the Senior Management structure of the MoEDT (Minister and first Deputy Minister) the process of the full nationalization of the MEWS was not successful in 2012. In August 17, 2012, the meeting between UNDP Country Director and the Minister of Economic Development and Trade RT has been held, where the overall process of transferring the Monitoring and Early Warning System to MEDT has been discussed. During the meeting, MEDT agreed to take over full responsibility for Monitoring and Early Warning System. However, considering the expected restructuring of the Ministry and expected reduction in Ministry staffing, the MEDT requested UNDP to continue funding for the National Expert for at least another one year.

## **Output 2. Capacity building for mitigation of climate change induced disaster risks**

### **Activity Result 1: Early recovery incorporated into post-disaster recovery, development planning and in pre-disaster planning**

In frame of the current activity result, a number of activities on incorporation of recovery into post-disaster development and pre-disaster planning have been undertaken as well as structural recovery activities. The detailed description of the activities over the reporting period is provided below:

- International best practices on pre-disaster recovery planning have been discussed at National Platform meetings following its establishment for the reporting year. A decision was taken by both project national and international stakeholders to develop a pre-disaster Recovery Guidance for Tajikistan. A number of intense meetings and discussions were held over the course of the reporting year and final agreements were reached with the government of Tajikistan (through National Platform) to develop the Guidance. An international consultant was hired to develop the draft documents, conduct meetings and presentations/roundtables and identify the needs and priorities of engaged stakeholders. Massive works have been accomplished towards achieving the result during the reporting period. However, in depth analysis indicated that in order to nationalize the document, legal basis is needed which indicated additional works have to be done. Also, as stated in "Management Effectiveness review" of the current report, the government officials (members of the National Platform) were involved at different governmental events at the last quarter of the year, hindering the results and thus delaying the process. The draft outlines of the Guidance have already been developed. In this regard, the contract of the consultant was extended and initial meetings and discussions are planned to be conducted during the first quarter of 2013 to accomplish the result.
- DRMP continued building awareness of national and international partners on the Recovery planning products developed within 2011 (REACT Recovery Framework and Recovery Fund). The documents were introduced during briefing to the WB assessment mission, round of meetings with donors (e.g. USAID, DFID, and GIZ etc), Inter-Agency Contingency Plan update workshop, trainings to UNDP personnel on Disaster Risk Reduction and other avenues.
- Recovery of rural water supply system in Nurabad district has been accomplished within the reporting period. The water supply system, that has been damaged by landslides was fully rehabilitated and reconstructed by contracting a professional construction company. The

work foresaw reduction of future disaster risk (the water pipe was placed on the other bank of the river with no risk of landslides occurrence). The reconstructed water supply system will ensure access to drinking water to six villages in the district.

- A number of negotiations with UNDP senior management and government officials have been carried out on restoration/reconstruction of Tavildara Central District Hospital that was heavily damaged by the earthquake. Consequently, a decision was taken by UNDP and Ministry of Health and CoES to rebuild one part/severely damaged part of the hospital (the part where most patients are expected to visit). Major reconstruction works have been completed by the end of final quarter of the reporting period, however, due to cold weather conditions in the region, and to ensure the quality of the works, the construction company with local authorities requested UNDP DRMP to cease the works until the early spring of 2013. Thus 20% of outdoor works (painting, plastering etc.) have been ceased at the moment and the contract of the construction company has been extended. It is important to note that recovery activities include the perspectives of disaster risk reduction to ensure further damages avoided. These activities include seismic strengthening of the building, introduction of energy efficient initiatives etc.

#### Activity Result 2: Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Risk Management Strengthened

This activity results included several disaster risk reduction activities, which included both soft components such as trainings, and workshops as well as structural and community based approaches. Detailed description of the activities carried out within the reporting period is provided below:

- As part of the concept implementation, three training events targeting UNDP staff in the regions and in Dushanbe were held. These trainings include detailed information and methods on integration of DRR into development projects. Several UNDP programme staff including the Global Fund, BOMCA, EEP, BOMNAF, and TMAC attended the trainings. A presentation for Development Coordination Council (coordination group of donor agencies operating in Tajikistan) on “DRR and Development” was held in April 2012, where the same issues were discussed and introduced to donor community.
- Three most vulnerable hospitals (as social facilities with containing large number of vulnerable people) were identified based on WHO’s assessment of rural hospitals in Tajikistan were identified and seismic risk assessment of those, along with 10 other social facilities (constructed by UNDP) was conducted during the reporting period by contracting Tajik Institute for Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (Annex 7 – Risk Assessment reports). Outcomes of the assessment in the form of risk assessment reports will be presented to respective UNDP programmes/units. Reports and seismic retrofitting project documentation for the three hospitals were reviewed by DRMP and based on the assessment reports Matchoh District Hospital was identified as requiring seismic retrofitting/infrastructure disaster-proofing interventions. The retrofitting activities were successfully carried out within the reporting period. These activities included disaster risk reduction activities and introduction of energy efficient approach.
- Three international non-governmental organizations (CARITAS-Switzerland, ACTED and Christian Aid/Act Central Asia) were awarded grants to implement local level DRR initiatives focused on vulnerability reduction. Geographic coverage includes East and South Khatlon and Eastern Sughd regions. All three DRR community based projects have been accomplished with no delay. Several monitoring visits have been completed within the reporting period by UNDP DRMP international expert and no significant comments on implementation have been received. Some minor delays were observed in implementation of mitigation works within the ACTED implemented DRR project in Farkhor district of Khatlon region. These delays were occurred due to heavy rains and snow in the region

within the implementation period. However, this has not hindered the actual accomplishment of the works with the support of local authorities and additional workforce from ACTED.

- 440,000 USD were provided to the three UNDP-supported Micro-Loan Institutions (MLI) to top-up their credit portfolio amounts. UNDP supported the establishment of the Fund Administration Council (in Vose district) to manage the local-level DRR Funds, formed from the income of the micro-loans provided. UNDP DRMP has hired an international consultant to support capacity building of the MFIs personnel, mainly focusing on risk management skills (financial risk arising from the impact of disasters on the credits distributed). For the last six months of operation of the reporting year, Micro-Loan Organizations have issued micro-credits to 271 males and 149 females. The credits issued are addressed to reduce the social vulnerability of population and mainly used in agricultural, farming, livestock and private entrepreneurship sectors. Funds Administrative Councils (Kulyab, Ayni and Zarashan) are expected to be established within the first quarter of 2013, which will manage the income, generated from the interest of the issued loans.
- International consultant conducted review of the draft DRR certification process and identified with UNDP to select Energy and Environment Programme of UNDP to pilot the certification process. A number of discussion meetings and round tables have been conducted on guidance of certification process of UNDP projects. The process itself has not been fully finalized and approved by senior management yet, due to high level of involvement of both senior management and EEP personnel on end of year activities and closure of on-going EEP projects. The IC contract of the consultant has been extended for another six months with 10 working days to finalize the certification process as well as approve the process by UNDP senior management.

Activity Result 3: "8 point agenda" and gender empowerment integrated as cross-cutting area

This activity results included events on integration of gender empowerment as a cross cutting issues into programming as well as response and recovery during and after emergencies respectively. It also included conduction of awareness raising events research. Full details of the activities are indicated below:

- Data entry forms for COES IMAC database were reviewed by the international consultant and necessary recommendations were made to ensure gender-disaggregated data entered into the database.
- Based on the consultations with the stakeholders active in the field of gender equality interventions an agreement to include DRR in the work of the existing Gender Thematic Group was reached with UN Women rather than establishing additional working group on gender under REACT.
- Gender-sensitization training for COES staff, targeting medium level CoES involved in emergency management trainings of population and civil servants as well as representatives of the Population Protection Dept and regional CoES offices, round-table with participation of REACT partners on Gender in DRR and an expanded REACT-GTG meeting were held within the reporting period.
- A gender study has been conducted by a local research company during the reporting period. The study included semi-structured interview guides and guides for focus groups discussions, as well as the list of geographic areas covered by the study using the interview guides. The main goal of the study was to identify the level of female and male proportionate involvement in disaster response, recovery and reduction. This study also conducted thorough review and analysis of "Gender in Disaster" issues.
- The results of the study have been obtained by UNDP and official presentation of the results was conducted by the research company in a gender conference organized and facilitated

by the Committee of Women and Family Affairs, which was held in early in December of 2012.

**Output 3. Support to emergency response to earthquake in Rasht valley (supported by UNDP BCPR):**

The current output was established in May of 2012. These activities include support provided in coordination and recovery activities during the recovery process of Rasht valley earthquake, efforts taken so far to support the government's recovery support and update on development of adjusted Damage and Needs Assessment tools. The details of the activities carried out within the reporting period is provided below:

**Activity Result 1: Effective coordination of response and recovery activities ensured**

- Involvement of UNDP DRMP in terms of coordination of relief/recovery activities began immediately aftermath the earthquake occurrence. While acting as REACT Secretariat DRMP played major part in constant update of all stakeholders involved in the process through provision of situation and assessment reports. Monitoring of recovery activities implemented/financed by the government and INGO's was conducted; introduction of briefs at REACT meetings and production of two Recovery Update reports were ensured.
- A number of situation reports and presentations with the update on recovery process were developed and presented/disseminated to REACT partners as well as to government and shared through information sharing portals such as [www.untj.org](http://www.untj.org), [www.undp.tj](http://www.undp.tj) and [www.reliefweb.net](http://www.reliefweb.net) websites.
- Assessment for winter preparedness was conducted among affected population in Rasht valley and at relocation sites in Kusmangir and Panj districts. The assessment revealed that approximate 500,000 USD are necessary for effective implementation of the recovery activities. Recommendations were provided to CoES to coordinate number of initiatives via relevant government agencies such as provision of access to electricity, schools and medical points. Results of the assessment were presented at REACT meeting and the report disseminated among REACT partners.
- Representatives of relocated families from relocation sites of Panj and Kumsangir districts were invited to REACT meeting conducted in Kurgan Tube. The meeting provided them with opportunity to meet with government officials responsible for land registration, water and electricity supply.

**Activity Result 2: Implementation of recovery activities supported.**

- The post-earthquake recovery activities, during which a major part was played by the government, was supported by number of other non-governmental partners and using the REACT mechanism the project conducted number of assessment with particular focus on those areas which were neglected during the intervention. Re-establishment of Rasht REACT was one of the major factors in swift information sharing between regional and national REACT partners.
- Assessments conducted in line of the project also revealed significant delays during recovery process which backed up by cold winter weather could cause some serious concerns for the wellbeing of affected population therefore REACT appeal was launched signed by Head of CoES. Main focus of the appeal was directed at provision of fuel and energy efficient stoves for winterization, provision of drinking water, latrines and access to education. REACT Secretariat liaised with ACTED, Habitat for Humanity, Save the Children and UNICEF in preparation of Project Identification Sheets for the appeal.

- Also, a meeting was conducted by IC with UN Women representative to discuss gender issues indicated in REACT assessment reports during the reporting period as well as a shelter cluster meeting was called upon by REACT Secretariat to discuss pending issues with relocated families in South Khatlon.

#### Activity Result 3: Improved DNA process

- Negotiations have been conducted with government stakeholders and REACT to update the existing Damage and Needs Assessment tool and nationalize it. Efforts have been taken to recruit an international consultant to conduct the review and update of the existing DNA. Due to lack of qualified candidates applied and consequently the consultancy was re-announced during the last quarter of the year. Thus, recruitment lasted longer than anticipated. Following re-announcement of the consultancy and identification of potential candidates, request has been sent to obtain the consultants' proposal for work. The proposals are obtained and the works are planned to be initiated at the beginning of the first quarter of 2013.

### III. Performance review

The programme oversaw wide range of activities during the implementation period. Supported by UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery as well as UNDP core funds (TRAC), implementation ranged from capacity building of relevant national stakeholders to implementation of DRR and infrastructural activities and provision of support to government's recovery efforts. While establishment of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tajikistan will mainly focus on more policy level DRR issues, activities implemented at the local levels ensure the local authorities mainstream the DRR into their development agenda. Enhancement of capacities of local authorities on development and issuance of monitoring and early warning reports, which encompassed conduction of various technical and professional trainings and workshops, study tours and regular working group meetings, will ensure the minimum criteria of national benchmark are met. Support the government in emergency response and recovery activities following the spring earthquake in Rasht valley during the reporting year has also significantly enhanced the national authority's capacity and efforts in disaster management, response and recovery. In details, the following projects have been implemented by DRMP for the reporting period with the inclusion of information on activities carried out and their contribution to the national benchmark:

#### **Output 1. Support to the unified and coordinated disaster risk reduction policy and practice in Tajikistan (supported by UNDP core TRAC funds):**

- The National Disaster Risk Management Strategy for 2010 – 2015 was established back in 2010. However, the implementation of the NDRMS action plan takes place on a yearly basis. The results achieved over the reporting period include provision of support in conduction of monitoring of the implementation of Action plan of the NDRMS for the reporting year as well as the establishment of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will ensure the DRR policy is included into national and local development planning.
- Provision of support to Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in collection and analysis of data for development and issuance of Monitoring and Early Warning reports on a monthly basis as well as conduction of capacity buildings events to ensure the national ownership over the established system.
- DRMP in the capacity of REACT Secretariat conducted regular monthly meetings to ensure coordinated efforts are in place of the national and international organizations in the field of

DRM. These meetings are the basis of cooperation and information sharing amongst the international as well as national stakeholders in coordination activities. A number of rapid emergency assessments were facilitated and supported during the reporting period by relevant REACT Rapid Response Teams.

**Output 2. Capacity building for mitigation of climate change induced disaster risks (supported by UNDP BCPR):**

- A number of recovery activities were carried out during the reporting period in response to spring earthquake in Rasht valley as well as landslide affected areas in Nurabad district of Khatlon region. In addition, utmost efforts have been taken in development and establishment of National Recovery Guidance for the republic of Tajikistan. Although, the official establishment of the guidance is expected to take place early 2013, the core issues and structures of the guidance have been developed and presented to National Platform for DRR.
- Integration of disaster risk reduction into development activities as well as planning, have taken place during the reporting period. Local level DRR initiatives were carried out by sub-contractors, while UNPD DRMP led the supervisory efforts as well as provision of technical support. These DRR activities encompassed the inclusion of international best practice and use of ecosystem approach as well as issues of climate variability in their implementation. Risk assessment of health facilities and conduction of retrofitting activities in central district hospital of Mastchoh district have also been implemented within the reporting period of the current output.
- Mainstreaming gender equality in disaster relief and recovery, management and overall risk reduction activities comprised a wide range of consultancy efforts. These include conduction of thorough analysis of "Gender in Disaster", trainings and round tables of gender mainstreaming in DRR by internationally recognized gender experts. Further detailed research of role of gender in disasters conducted by local research agency to ensure the qualitative reports are available for both national and international stakeholders working in the field of disaster risk management.

**Output 3. Support to emergency response to earthquake in Rasht valley (supported by UNDP BCPR):**

- The current output was established in May of 2012. During the reporting period, the project activities included conduction of thorough assessment trips to earthquake affected Rasht valley, development and situational reports and presentation of reports and analysis to relevant stakeholders. The project supports the REACT Secretariat in conduction of regular and extraordinary REACT coordination meetings for information exchange and provision of data on the process of recovery. In order to enhance the capacity of main coordinating bodies for the recovery efforts after the earthquake, four sets of information technology equipment have been procured and planned to be transferred to the relevant government entities at early stages of the first quarter for 2013.
- The current output also foresees an update of established of Damage and Needs Assessment tools. Efforts have been taken thus far, to ensure the shortlisted international candidates are contacted and proposals and work plans of the consultants are obtained. It is expected that the actual implementation of the current component will take place early in 2013. It is expected that the overall performance review of the current output would be best to be assessed following the closure of the project in May of 2013.

## Progress review

### 1. Overall progress towards the CPAP outcome and output(s)

The progress made within the reporting period in contribution to the CPAP outcomes is considered as high. The results achieved within the reporting period (highlighted under section I) varies from capacity building of national partners to conduction of mitigation works to reduce the loss of lives as well as conduction of disaster risk reduction activities to decrease the risk of natural and man-made hazards to rural and urban livelihoods.

Establishment of National Platform for DRR complements vastly to the donor/government and NGO initiatives towards the overall CPAP outcome a) of Crisis Prevention and Recovery area. This structure will ensure the DRR policies are integrated into development plans and policies at all levels involving all stakeholders. It also provides with unique coordination tool between leading and decision making state bodies and international organizations in the field of DRR.

### 2. Capacity development.

Technical and knowledge capacity of the national partners have been improved throughout the reporting period. A number of on-the-job trainings for CoES officers on administrating and conduction of REACT meetings have been conducted. Additional office equipment has been provided to relevant departments of CoES to ensure timely and efficient collection of disaster data and its compilation. The capacity of Ministry of Economic Development and Trade's relevant departments have been improved by provision of office equipment as well as conduction of on-job trainings. A number of technical and professional trainings were held for the government working group coordinated by MEDT on data collection and analysis for monthly monitoring and early warning reports. A number of round tables and trainings on integration of DRR touch basing gender issues were also conducted for national and international stakeholders within the implementation of the reporting period.

### 3. Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The project beneficiaries vary largely depending on the output and/or a particular activity within the output. The level of beneficiaries differs from local population in Tavildara where one part of the central district hospital has been recovered to Nurabad district, where the water supply system has been re-established. Monitoring and Early Warning monthly reports issued are widely used by a variety number of organizations as well as government institutions.

Local level DRR initiatives include direct beneficiaries of the selected location (Sought Khatlon, Sughd and East Khatlon). These initiatives include cleaning of irrigation and drainage channels, installation of energy efficient solar greenhouses and public awareness raising events. Achieved results will directly benefit the local population.

It is challenging to assess the level of beneficiaries for established National Platform during its first year after its establishment. However, the direct beneficiaries are expected to be the members of the National Platform from line ministries and agencies, whereas, indirect beneficiaries include overall population of the country.

Retrofitting and seismic strengthening of central district hospital in Mastcho district will have direct beneficiaries of local population consisting of men and women, children and elderly. Indirect beneficiaries include local authorities Ministry of Health. Overall, the coverage of the beneficiaries of the programme is beyond the targeted number for the reporting year.

## Implementation strategy review

### 1. Participatory/consultative processes

Identification of priorities for the implementation of the project outputs involved consultations and discussions with main government stakeholders as well as donor agencies and project partners. For example, selection of appropriate hospitals to conduct risk reduction activities has been conducted in joint collaboration with UN World Health Organization, whereas reconstruction of Tavildara Central District Hospital involved consultations with Ministry of Health, representatives of CoES and local authorities. Different outcomes required involvement of different national and international partners. Representatives of CoES have been involved in all project aspects from the commencement until the completion of a certain activity.

### 2. Quality of partnerships

The quality of the partnership with programme stakeholders, both national and international has been optimal and contributed highly to programme goals. New chairperson for the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense was appointed at the beginning of the year. This had led to small delays in collaboration with the main project government stakeholder. However, within a number of introductory meetings, the quality of collaboration highly increased both at national and local levels. At international level, the partnership strategy has expanded as close collaboration with UN WHO on risk assessment of hospitals initiated. A case study has been developed outlining the quality of this partnership. In addition, partnership with REACT partners as well as members of the National Platform (containing of line ministries and agencies) has led to success. Close collaboration with three international non-governmental organizations has been overseen through formal agreements on small-scale community based DRR projects. During the implementation of activities within the whole period of the agreement, the three INGOs showed great interest in collaboration with UNDP and mutual results were achieved of high quality. Partnership within the members of the National Platform remained stable as well as with donor agencies within the reporting period.

### 3. National ownership

CoES continues to be the main stakeholder of the Programme. Besides, CoES continues to chair REACT partnership at national and local levels in a co-chairing mode with the UN RC. It is also constantly involved in all decision-making processes within the programme and REACT partnership. At the same time, the Secretariat functions of the National Platform are run through CoES department for Protection of Population and Territories. All of the actions and identification of priorities for National Platform Action Plan, Annual Work Plans and Monitoring of the Implementation of Action Plans for NDRMS are conducted in thorough discussions and consultations with CoES. Ministry of Economic Development and Trade has become the key state stakeholder for Monitoring and Early Warning system within UNDP. The Ministry has taken steps forward in ensuring the decisions that are taken on process and development, as well as nationalization of the system are made jointly with both UNDP and all other relevant stakeholders.

### 4. Sustainability

The establishment of National Platform and strengthening the capacities of both the members of the expert group and the secretariat of the National Platform ensure the sustainability of the results achieved over the reporting period. Consisting of core ministries and agencies of the government, the Platform members will ensure further in the future the action plans of the NDRMS are implemented and implementation monitored. In addition, the response to emergency capacities of the government has increased over the reporting period. For example, the government responded to the earthquake on 13th May 2012 rapidly assessing the affected

areas followed by support in provision of cash to affected families, food, construction materials and land for relocation. Over 1.5 million USD was generated in the matter of two-three months do deal with the disaster. This is a clear indication that the government learning to develop contingency plans and establishing its own reserves to respond to middle scale disasters. At the same time, a number of discussions were held with national partners and on-the-job trainings conducted to representatives of national partners on procedures and functions of REACT secretariats at national and regional levels. This will ensure the self-sustainability of the system and steps taken for future exit strategy. Trainings and round tables have been conducted throughout the year to Government working group members of Monitoring and Early Warning system to ensure the sustainability and quality assurance of the reports that will be produced on monthly basis beyond the implementation period of the programme.

## *Management effectiveness review*

### **1. Programme Evaluation**

The recent review of UNDP's DRM programmatic area (outcome evaluation) noted the need to re-focus DRM programme through fostering upstream strategic support, and recommended the gradual shifting from response and coordination and focusing on prevention. It also pointed out the importance of forging new partnerships for DRM and exploring further engagement in mainstreaming DRR into development, yet enabling role of UNDP at local level through local level risk reduction initiatives. UNDP also continues to build the capacities for recovery and advocates for stronger commitment for further gender equity in DRR. While the evaluation addressed/covered the previous phases of the programme as well, where disaster mitigation/response/recovery and capacity building of national partners activities were carried out in a larger scale, implementation for the reporting year already focused on most of the actions recommended on final monitoring reports (Annex 8 – DRM Programme Evaluation).

### **2. Timely delivery of outputs**

Most of the outputs and targets set in the Annual Work Plan at the beginning of the reporting year were achieved during the implementation period. The willingness and level of government stakeholder's involvement into the implementation process was high and most of the activities were achieved in time. However, there were some minor delays in some particular targets of programme outputs. For example, the development of the National Recovery Guidance endorsed by the government was postponed to the next year due to high involvement of government officials in other state programmes. Also, the volume and depth of the works to be completed increased during the implementation period of the target, which involved review and analysis of existing laws and legislations. However, the similar delays were planned in advance during the last quarter of the reporting year, appropriate actions have been taken, and these outputs will be achieved during the first quarter of 2013.

### **3. Resources allocation**

Total programme budget for 2012 was USD 1,791,350. The proportion of other project costs (such as office running costs, project staff etc.) include only 20% of total cost. That is: USD 365,036 for other project costs out of total USD 1,791,350. The remaining 1,426,314 was used for development activities of the project for the reporting year.

### **4. Cost-effective use of inputs**

The programme managed to use financial inputs in total USD 1,791,350 for the reporting year. All of the activities within the reporting period were carried out in accordance with the Annual Work Plan. The cost – effective use of inputs was highly practiced within the reporting period. For instance, allocation of resources to UNDP Communities Programmes and three non-governmental organizations to implement various disaster risk reduction activities at local levels saved significant amount of resources for possible administrative expenditures. Costs related to transportation, fuel, daily subsistence allowances for the travelling staff to conduct monitoring missions and additional working hours/days of staff to travel to and back were reduced respectively. This practice also ensures the timeliness of the implementation of community based DRR projects at local levels by stakeholders and other UNDP programmes. While midterm and final monitoring visits were carried out by the programme, the actual works have been completed at local levels by contracted stakeholders.

Also, enlargement of the online recipients of Monitoring and Early Warning reports on a monthly basis reduced the costs related to printing and physical dissemination of the reports to

relevant stakeholders. Although, the reports are still disseminated in a printed copy to some state institutions, this number has significantly decreased over the course of the implementation for reporting year.

Reduction of supply and maintenance costs of United Nations Emergency Reserve Stock (UNERT) located in Kurgan-Tyube was also foreseen during the reporting period. Following a number of meetings and discussions with UN Resident Coordinator, the representatives of CoES, to reduce the maintenance costs of the stock, it was decided to re-locate the warehouse to one of the CoES premises located in Dushanbe. This practice ensures the avoidance of costs related to rent of premises (as the premises provided free) as well as reduction of costs in personnel (as CoES officers take charge of safety and security of the premises).

## IV. Implementation challenges

### *Project risks and actions*

Staff turnover of the government stakeholders is the main risk that was anticipated during the initial phase of the reporting period. As a result, the main government partner, head CoES was newly re-appointed by the government during the first quarter of the reporting period. The newly appointed chairperson was new to the emergency management structure of CoES and required time to adapt and learn about the structure as well as collaboration with international stakeholders. Initially this had led to delays in implementation of project activities at the first quarter of the year. However, in order to mitigate the risks, several vis-a-vis meetings were conducted with the new chairperson as well as introductory meetings. Related materials and project documents, previous annual work plans as well as reports on on-going projects were developed, translated and submitted to the chairperson for introduction of UNDP's involvement and collaboration. Considering the formal and informal meetings, the newly appointed chair familiarized with the level of collaboration for both UNDP and REACT in general.

In addition, as was mentioned above the main challenge was to transfer the MEW System to the Government. Because of the changes in the Senior Management structure of MEDT the full nationalization of the MEWS was not properly done. Considering the expected restructuring of the Ministry and expected reduction in Ministry staffing, the Minister of MEDT requested to continue the support of the MEWS for at least another one year.

There were a number of anticipated risks such as global financial crisis and recurrent demand for relief and recovery assistance in Tajikistan may reduce donor interest in funding Programme, particularly elements related to DRR and Recovery as well as a major disaster will divert resources from rest of Programme and slow implementation and risk of an armed conflict in or affecting Tajikistan will change focus of donor, NGO, IO and GoT efforts to greater concern about conflict limitation and impact mediation. This will shift attention away from overall risk management efforts. However, the likelihoods of these risks and their impacts were low to the programme during the reporting period.

Political events of 2012 were the massive counter-criminal operation by the national law enforcers in the eastern part of the country – Autonomous province of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBO). While the operation itself originated number of humanitarian concerns, including isolation of the region and communication cuts, it also indicated the lack of proper conflict prevention coordination mechanisms within the international humanitarian community in the country. Attempts to use existing disaster management platform "REACT" to coordinate needs assessments and support information management largely failed due to politically sensitive nature of the conflict, for which REACT partnership was not designed. This should be considered as an alarming factor, given the developments e.g. in the neighbouring Afghanistan, which may necessitate the need to coordinate conflict-related planning, currently being one of the weak points in inter-agency coordination in Tajikistan.

## V. Lessons learnt and next steps

### *Lessons learnt*

Successful implementation of the project activities significantly relies on active involvement and buy-in of the CoES; this was ensured through strong and close working relationships with CoES. Such working environment was established by involving of relevant CoES representatives in project events, incorporating their feedbacks in identification of priorities, planning and implementation processes and building within CoES of a feeling of “ownership” over the project results.

The overall project strategy to invest in and support existing governmental structure rather than establishment of new para-governmental entities, groups or committees turned to be very successful in securing sustainability of the project results. The fact that capacity building targeted civil servants, employed and salaried by the Government limited the number of factors forcing loss of the capacities built and technical assistance provided. This still did not eliminate the staff turnover as a phenomenon but limited the scale of it.

### *Recommendations*

One of the major factors which may hamper not only the project results but overall effectiveness of the national DRM system is lack of formalized educational institution (e.g. CoES Academy or similar) to develop qualified personnel for emergency management system. Establishment of training programmes for “new comers” and advanced courses for CoES staff, number of trainings and workshop in the country and abroad by different agencies using different approaches and models partially fill this gap. However, the fact that different (not all) CoES staff being exposed to different types of capacity building events (e.g. different incident command systems, different emergency protocols originated from different foreign emergency structures etc) actually creates a set of professionals with different knowledge who do not necessarily form a harmonized national structure. Creation of an education centre using e.g. capacities of the CoES Training Centre and provision of multi-year education, not only short-term courses is thus a vital condition for effectiveness and efficiency of CoES performance.

## VI. Financial status and utilization

### Financial status

Table 1: Contribution overview [01.01.2012 – 31.12.2012]<sup>1</sup>

DONOR NAME	CONTRIBUTIONS		CONTRIBUTIO N BALANCE
	Committed	Received	
UNDP	311,250	311,250	
BCPR (Climate Change Risks management capacity building)	1,449,800	1,449,800	
BCPR (Response to Rasht earthquake)	30,300	30,300	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,791,350</b>	<b>1,791,350</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 2: Funding status (as of the end of the year)

DONOR NAME	RECEIVED*	EXPENDITURES			PROJECT BALANCE	EARMARKED**	AVAILABLE FUNDING (as of 1 Jan of the next year)	REMARKS
		Period Prior to the Reporting Year	Reporting Year Only	TOTAL				
UNDP	311,250	-	307,084	307,084	4,166			
BCPR (Climate Change Risks management)	1,449,800	-	1,449,015		785			
BCPR (Response to	30,300	-	25,487	25,487	4,813			
								-
								-
								-
<b>TOTAL</b>		-	1,781,586	332,571	9,764	-		

\*The *Received* column in this table should match the figures in the column (of the same title) in the Resource Overview table.

\*\*The *Earmarked* column should specify if any donors have earmarked their funding to a specific activity or other requirement.

<sup>1</sup> The "resource overview" can be any kind of chart (a pie chart, for example, would be an effective way of demonstrating a funding gap).

## Financial utilization

The figures in this section (budget, expenditure, and balance) can refer only to the reporting period (i.e. one year).

**Table 3: Annual expenditure by activity [1 January – 31 December]**

Activity	BUDGET [year]	EXPENDITURES <sup>2</sup>	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Activity 1 [Activity Description]				
Activity 2 [Activity Description]				
Activity 3 [Activity Description]				
Activity 4 [Activity Description]				
Activity 5 [Activity Description]				
UNDP GMS (based on donor agreements)				
Total				

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<sup>2</sup> The expenditures for the year may be further broken down by quarters (four additional columns for quarters 1-4).

**Table 4: Annual expenditure by donor [1 January – 31 December]**

ACTIVITY (as in ATLAS)	BUDGET [year]	EXPENDITURES *	BALANCE	DELIVERY RATE (%)	REMARKS
Activity 1: [Implementation of the National DRM Strategy is promoted at all level through effective National Platform on DRR]	52,450	11,709		99%	
Activity 2: [ Disaster preparedness and response activities by all DRM actors are effectively coordinated]	135,700	168,928			
Activity 3: [Effective monitoring of risks and early warning ]	123,100	126,447			
see donor agreement]					
	311,250	307,084			
Activity 1: [Develop Local Capacities to Effectively Engage in Early Recovery Coordination, Planning and Implementation ]	107,750	77,683		100%	
Activity 2: [ Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Risk Management Strengthened ]	1257,950	1322,871			
Activity 3: [ “8 point agenda” and gender empowerment integrated as cross-cutting area]	84,100	48,414			
see donor agreement]					
Change Risks management capac	1449,800	1448,968			
Activity 1: Effective coordination of response and recovery activities ensured	12,120	9,281		84%	
Activity 2: [mplementation of recovery activities supported ]	-	79			
Activity 4: [Improved DNA process]	18,180	16,127			
see donor agreement]					
ie to Rasht earthquake)	30,300	25,487			
	1791,350	1781,539			

d in the last column of this table should pertain to any notable aspects of utilization/delivery % vis-à-vis the relevant donor(s).

## Annexes

**Annex 1: AWP 2012**

**Annex 2: Budget 2012**

**Annex 3: Decree on Establishment of National Platform**

**Annex 4: REACT Recovery Appeal**

**Annex 5: DRR Small Grants final narratives reports**

**Annex 6: "Gender in Disaster" Study Report**

**Annex 7: Seismic Risk Assessment Implementation report**

**Annex 8: Programme Evaluation report**