

**DRAFT May 27, 2008 1:30 pm**

TO: Early Recovery Cluster, Cluster Coordinators

FROM: Cluster Lead

RE: Summary points of May 26 meeting and draft TORs

DATE: May 27, 2008

Dear colleagues,

In the Early Recovery cluster meeting yesterday we proposed a new operational approach in which the current cluster might dissolve or transition to a network of 'focal points' from each sector. The rationale for such a structure is that Early Recovery is a cross-cutting theme that should be addressed through each sector, rather than as a separate initiative, with guidance and coordination achieved through the focal points<sup>1</sup>.

During the ensuing discussion, the group expressed concern that while coordination functions for Early Recovery might be achieved through a network of focal points, numerous other cross-cutting issues need to be addressed, that can only be achieved through discussion of a group of experience-specific and concerned persons. The cluster participants then came up with a list of such issues of common concern, that require a degree of resolution to help guide and coordinate the implementation strategies of the humanitarian community. In consideration of this important function another possible structure was suggested: 1. to achieve the cluster coordination functions (inc. drafting the next appeal) through a network of focal points, while at the same time 2. to facilitate a series of working meetings on topics of concern, that would be tasked with coming up with guidelines or common points of strategy.

The action points agreed at the end of the meeting were:

- ER Cluster Lead will draft a TOR for the 'focal points'
- Cluster Leads will be asked to designate a focal point for Early Recovery network
- A technical working meeting on 'Approaches to social organization in Nargis relief and recovery' will be held on Friday from **2:00pm to 3:30pm at the MNGO Resource Centre, Burnette Institute, U Wizaya Plaza** (Yangon), open to participation by any interested persons, especially welcoming Myanmar nationals with social/community organization expertise
- There will be at least one other meeting of the cluster as a 'cluster', at which point it will be decided whether to continue meeting as a cluster, as a network of focal points, or both, or any other likely scenario

The next meeting of the ER Cluster will be **Friday May 27, 2008 at 4 pm**, with the **agenda:**

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<sup>1</sup> This structure would follow the IASC recommendations in *Operational Guidance on Designating Sector/Cluster Leads in Major New Emergencies*: 'Early Recovery planning should be integrated into the work of all sectoral groups. For this reason, rather than establishing separate Early Recovery clusters/sectoral groups at the country level, it is recommended that each cluster nominate an Early Recovery focal point. The focal points should form a "network" to ensure joint planning and integrated response.'

- Comments on draft framework narrative for review (to be sent Thursday, 29 May)
- Briefing by Focal Points on emerging ER plans of their respective Clusters
- Review and finalization of terms of reference of technical working group
- Briefing on the outcome of the first meeting of the technical working group on “social recovery and community organizations”.
- Discuss process for coordination on targeting villages (if time available)

We have prepared the following draft TORs for your consideration and discussion at the next meeting:

- 1. TOR of the ER Cluster (for background reminder)**
- 2. Draft TOR for Focal Points in an Early Recovery Network**
- 3. Draft TOR for Cross-cutting Issues in Technical Working Group (and draft list of issues)**

### **1. Early Recovery ‘Network’ (or Cluster) TOR**

The cluster or network for Early Recovery, made up of UN and NGO agencies responding to the needs of those affected by Cyclone Nargis, has three broad aims:

1. Augment existing resources
2. Develop a Framework for Early Recovery
3. Set the foundation for long-term recovery

The action of most immediate relevance is the need to prepare an *Early Recovery Framework document for a second Flash Appeal* that presents plans and strategies of all partners within a comprehensive yet succinct framework.

In addition, the Early Recovery network will coordinate discussion and (if necessary) guidelines on intervention strategies and approaches.

### **2. DRAFT TOR of Focal Points for Early Recovery Framework**

Each Cluster Lead will designate a focal person for Early Recovery, and these focal points will become a ‘network’ for coordinating Early Recovery through their sectoral clusters. The Focal Points will be responsible to:

- Facilitate the compilation of Early Recovery plans (for the Framework) within their cluster
- Feed these plans back to the Early Recovery network
- Review and revise the Early Recovery Framework on the basis of sectoral cluster comments
- Help to identify and address any geographic gaps or overlaps in the sectoral (and cross-sectoral) plans
- Bring back any concerns for early recovery approaches and implementation for discussion by the network and/or technical working groups called for that purpose
- Coordinate the identification, prioritization and discussion of cross-cutting issues
- Communicate any early recovery guidelines or working group conclusions to the sectoral cluster

### **3. Draft TOR for Cross-cutting Issues in Working Groups (and draft list of issues)**

The technical working groups will be called on the basis of issues identified, with meeting facilitators nominated by the ER network. The groups will be open to participation of any interested persons, and the facilitator will try to find appropriate resource persons as needed, including national experts. These working groups will explore their issues of concern, over one or more meetings as the group deems necessary, and identify critical points for consideration, approaches to these points, and if appropriate, guidelines. The facilitator will be responsible to document and share the results of the working group discussion in a clear format.

**4. List of possible cross-cutting issues or themes** (list to be reviewed, prioritized and working groups called and implemented on a rolling basis by the ER network; OR issues taken on systematically through ER Cluster meetings, or in other forums)

- Relief distribution (using an approach that promotes early recovery)
- Coordination between agencies in targeting villages
- Approaches to social mobilization and work with community groups
- Cash for work
- Government/regulatory bottlenecks
- Non-agricultural livelihoods
- Microfinance approaches
- Targeting of vulnerable
- Large-scale infrastructure
- Land tenure
- Hazard and risk assessment and vulnerability
- Build back better and equity in assistance
- Joint assessments for emergency response (WB, ASEAN, IASC)
- Local economy and markets
- Gender
- Environmental sustainability and protection