

Resolution of the 1st Meeting of Displacement Management Cluster

1 September 2020

Chairperson: Mr. Md. Mohsin, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Participants:

- Representatives of various Ministries and Divisions
- Representatives of various UN agencies, NGOs/INGOs, and Development Partners

Background

Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in saving lives during disaster time. However, natural disasters often lead to displacement of people as well and many people end up staying in government owned lands and embankments for an extended period of time. In order to address this displacement, a Displacement Management Cluster, which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was formed under the umbrella of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) mechanism on 18th June 2020.

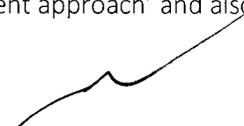
The 1st Displacement Management Cluster meeting was held on September 1, 2020. The aim of the meeting was to approve the ToR, which was presented during the earlier held inception meeting and to discuss the priorities and current engagements of the Cluster.

Agenda

Time	Issue	Remarks
3.00PM- 3.05PM	Welcome Address	Mr. Ranjit Kumar Sen, ndc, Additional Secretary (Disaster Management-1, Relief Admin), Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
3.05PM-3.15PM	Adoption of the cluster ToR	Mr. Nelson Bosch, IOM
3.15PM-3.25PM	Presentation on the Priorities and Current Engagements of the Displacement Management Cluster	Mr. Giorgi Gigauri, Chief of Mission, IOM Bangladesh
3.25PM-3.35PM	Open Discussion	
3:35PM-3:40PM	Summary & Decisions of the Chairperson/Action Points	Mr. Md. Mohsin, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
3.40PM-3.45PM	Vote of Thanks	Ms. Mia Seppo, Resident Coordinator, United Nations Bangladesh

1. Welcome Address

Mr. Ranjit Kumar Sen, ndc, Additional Secretary of MoDMR provided the opening remarks and welcomed the participants. He highlighted the need to improve the quality of life for the people who have been affected by natural disasters, through a 'whole of government approach' and also effective participation of other stakeholders.



2. Adoption of the Cluster ToR

Mr. Nelson Bosch of IOM presented the ToR briefly and discussed the responsibilities of the cluster which includes:

- Advocacy & Resource Mobilization
- Preparedness and Capacity Development
- Response and Coordination
- Monitoring and Evaluation

3. Presentation on the Priorities and Current Engagements of the Displacement Management Cluster

Mr. Giorgi Gigauri, Chief of Mission of IOM Bangladesh touched upon the structure of the cluster and discussed the objective of the cluster which is to ensure a multi-sectoral response to assist and protect populations displaced by disasters and promote durable solutions to displacement. He went on to elaborate the workplan of the cluster which entails:

- **Emergency assistance** to households affected by monsoon flood, associated river-bank erosion and other forms of displacement.
- **Supporting MoDMR in strengthening Information Management Systems (IMS)** through capacity assessment of existing systems, and piloting of new tools.
- **Draft training package on Disaster Management** for MoDMR and humanitarian stakeholders to respond to displacement situations in line with global best practices, standards and tools.

4. Open Discussion

- Mr. Md. Shahjahan from YPSA suggested that the Cluster can also think for an approved strategy for management of climate and disaster induced displacement in the ToR. And for this the Cluster can look into the draft strategy [i.e. the National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement (NSMDCIID)] already being developed by the MoDMR, but need to be endorsed by the all relevant ministries.

Response: IOM welcomed the proposal and expressed its commitment to working along with MoDMR and other relevant ministries to build on existing policy/strategy documents instead of duplicating any efforts.

- Mr. A.K.M Humayun Kabir, Additional Secretary of the Power Division inquired whether the cluster will be active for displacements due to earthquake and typhoons as well.

Response: IOM clarified that the cluster will be operational during all natural disasters, including earthquakes, etc.

- Ms. Achala from IFRC suggested it would be good to develop durable solutions to those permanently getting displaced as a result. Would sub groups be created for such topics?

Response: Sub group mechanisms have not been identified or decided upon as yet, but during its setting up, if need arises, the cluster could certainly explore its possibility.

- Mr. Sakeb Nabi from ICCO appreciated the formation of the cluster and asked whether the cluster would work only with people who are temporarily displaced or with permanent displacement as well.

Response: IOM assured that the cluster will work towards improving the life of displaced population in general - both temporary and permanent. The goal is to prepare in such a way that one can avoid permanent displacements.

- Mr. Olivier Brouant from ECHO Regional Office queried on whether or not there is a link with local and national Government resources established through the cluster as adviser on priorities and gaps?

Response: The cluster would certainly require strong links with local and national government resources, both human and technical.

- Mr. Md. Alamgir Hossain, Deputy Secretary of MoEFCC commented on the need for proper data and effective database.

Response: IOM responded by mentioning that proper data and a database system is a must in order to effectively manage displacement. Assessment of the current database and the establishment of an effective database management system is one of the priorities of this cluster. There are many new technologies that are currently available that the cluster could make use for better tracking of the displaced population. People in Bangladesh do not always go to the cyclone shelters or collective centers and it becomes very difficult to track these people. However, technologies e.g, Facebook log-ins and Caller data records can be used to effectively track them. A live online can also be created during disasters to manage the displaced population and all these could be done without violating any of the privacy laws.

- Mr. Aminul from COAST Trust highlighted that managing displacement can be political in our context and therefore there should have one assessment.

Response: As highlighted in the presentation, one of the first priorities of the cluster is to undertake an assessment of the existing systems, in terms of data collection, monitoring and analysis capacity

- Mr. Saif Uddin Ahmed, Joint Secretary of MOPA stressed on the need to consider the available local knowledge with due importance.

Response: IOM assured that the cluster plans to take full advantage of indigenous knowledge. The good practices of other countries that might be used will be contextualized into the Bangladeshi context.

- Mr. Md. Rony of the Food Security Cluster inquired how the displacement cluster will link with the Shelter Cluster as displacement in natural disasters are related to shelter.

Response: The displacement cluster will certainly need to work very closely with all other existing clusters in order to effectively manage displacement. This will inevitably include the shelter cluster as well.



5. Summary and Decisions of the Chairperson

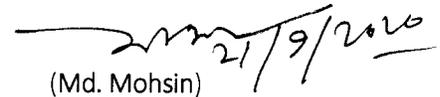
The chair of the session, Mr. Md. Mohsin, Secretary, MoDMR concluded the session by appreciating the formation of the cluster and the urgent need of working towards displaced population. He especially mentioned the need for data assessments to support the strengthening of data collection mechanisms, technical capacity and resources to respond to such crises. He requested the concerned parties to initiate all the cluster work as soon as possible and asked the concerns to take opinion of the relevant ministries on the TOR.

6. Vote of Thanks

Ms. Mia Seppo, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations Bangladesh gave the vote of thanks, expressing her gratitude towards MoDMR, IOM, and all the participants for their support in the formation and institutionalization of the cluster.

7. Action Points/Decisions

- Mr. Ranjit Kumar Sen, ndc, Additional Secretary, MoDMR has been nominated as the Co-Chair and Mr. Abdullah Al Arif, Deputy Secretary, MoDMR as focal point for the Displacement Management Cluster on behalf of MoDMR.
- IOM to send ToR to MoDMR
- MoDMR to share the draft ToR with the relevant ministries with:
 - (a) request for feedback by September 30, 2020
 - (b) request to nominate a focal person with their contact details (email, mailing address, phone number and mobile number) by September 30, 2020
- IOM is requested to initiate the data assessment activity as soon as possible.


(Md. Mohsin)

Secretary

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief