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Press release

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Working together for safer future!

On June 18th 2013, the 'National Meeting of Disaster Risk Reduction Partners on Stock-Taking of DRR Good Practices and Consultation on Ways Forward' will be held in the Ismaili Centre in Dushanbe. The meeting is jointly organised by Oxfam, UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, Mercy Corps, Welthungerhilfe, Focus and Acted and financially supported by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO).

The aforementioned organizations work closely with the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to strengthen the country's existing capacity in disaster preparedness and response.

The purpose of the event is to share examples of good practice in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and also identify recommendations for future work in the sector. The event will provide an opportunity for attendees to have a productive discussion on how disaster risk reduction is integrated into the education and health sectors, with special emphasis on institutional capacity building and community based approaches.

Oxfam in Tajikistan's Country Director, Mr. Ghazi Al Kelani said: 'The meeting provides a great opportunity for organisations working in DRR to share examples of good practice and discuss ways forward for the sector. As a result of the meeting we will have a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities available, which will inform our future programming and have a real impact on disaster preparedness in Tajikistan'.

Over the years DIPECHO projects, with funding from ECHO, have supported capacity building initiatives targeting institutions and communities. Such projects have made a significant contribution to promoting disaster resilience in Tajikistan. DIPECHO projects have also helped engage and recognize the role of the most vulnerable groups in the society - women and children, in disaster management activities.

It is important to build on these achievements and further support the Republic of Tajikistan in reducing the risk of natural disasters at various levels. More support is needed for further institutionalising DRR policies, enhance structures and coordination mechanisms.

UNICEF Representative in Tajikistan Ms. Laylee Moshiri said: 'Integrating Disaster Risk Preparedness into the school life is important to ensure that education officials, teachers, and children have the appropriate knowledge to mitigate the potential harm from disasters'.

It is also important that all stakeholders know their roles regarding how they will work together during a disaster. All DIPECHO partners adhere to the principles of good governance within the context of poverty alleviation and environmental protection. It is about partnerships and working together – engaging the participation of the Government, civil society organizations, the private sector and volunteers. Together we can work towards the complementation of resources and effective delivery of services to the citizens of Tajikistan.

For more information regarding the national meeting, please contact Ms. Dilafruz Usmanova, Communications Officer by e-mail: dusmanova@oxfam.org.uk, by phone: + 992 918 665 731

NOTES:

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) is one of the biggest donors for humanitarian aid worldwide. With its funding nearly 20 million victims of natural or man-made disasters are helped each year in about 70 countries. The aid is distributed through 200 partner organizations (Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, specialized UN agencies and European NGOs) impartially to those who need it most independently of their religion, ethnic origin, gender or political affiliation.

For more information please visit: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en.htm