

## **Launch of the Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2010**

Wednesday, 10 March 2010 from 11:00 to 13:00 hrs

UN Conference Room, UN House, Pulchowk

The launch of the Nepal Humanitarian Transition Appeal 2010 brought together humanitarian agencies, appealing for US\$ 123.5 million to fund projects aimed at assisting more than 3.4 million vulnerable people in Nepal. The Appeal is the culmination of a process in which the humanitarian community has come together to develop a strategic response plan to meet priority needs. The Appeal is the international community's principal tool to set strategy and raise resources for delivering protection and assistance to people in need. In attendance at the launch of the Appeal were major donors, including USAID, DFID, ADB and GTZ, as well as members of Nepal's humanitarian and development communities.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Robert Piper delivered opening remarks, noting the following:

- Nepal's situation poses challenges to humanitarian and development actors alike, in identifying how best to respond to some of the underlying causes that are a reality to millions of people in Nepal.
- The strategic objectives of the humanitarian community in Nepal are two-fold: 1) To respond effectively and efficiently to current and predictable humanitarian needs; 2) To improve preparedness and protection measures, in order to reduce the number of people at risk. The cluster approach is central to implementing this strategy. Government is increasingly participating in the cluster approach, and is expected to start co-chairing in 2010.
- The current situation in Nepal – where humanitarian need remains widespread and chronic, but longer-term approaches are necessary to make improvements sustainable – poses challenges to the humanitarian and development communities. In the past two years, humanitarian actors have made a significant shift in their approach to emphasize capacity-building and closer collaboration with the Government and other local institutions. Development actors have, however, been slower to incorporate risk and preparedness into their longer-term planning. As an instrument for planning and coordination, the Appeal retains significant value.
- In reviewing the 2009 Appeal, Mr. Piper noted that while it had achieved 84 percent funding (US\$ 108 million against US\$ 129 million requested), well above the global average, the funding was concentrated to one cluster – Food Security – with five of the twelve Clusters/Sectors included in the Appeal receiving no funding at all. Nevertheless, major strides were made responding to humanitarian need in Nepal.
- The 2010 Humanitarian Transition Appeal focuses on affected populations as well as populations at risk, and includes 10 appealing agencies and 20 projects, totaling US\$ 123.5 million. The Food Security Cluster continues to predominate.
- It is important to note that the 2010 Appeal was intended to be launched in November 2009, but was delayed due to reservations on behalf of the Government, citing a lack of consultation and coordination. Following deliberations, a modified Appeal is presented, with fewer projects and a 15 percent financial reduction. The priorities and response strategies of all clusters – including those where Appeal projects have not been included – remain valid.

Following Robert Piper's presentation, the heads of humanitarian agencies (or stand-ins) briefly presented the 2010 objectives and priority response plans for their respective Clusters/Sectors:

- Richard Ragan (WFP) – Food Security;
- Gillian Mellsop (UNICEF) – Nutrition; Water and Sanitation; and Emergency Education;
- Diane Goodman (UNHCR) – Refugees;
- Anne Isabelle Degryse Blateau (UNDP) – Disaster Preparedness;
- Richard Bennett (OHCHR) – Protection;
- Dr. Thushara Fernando (WHO) – Health;
- Victoria Bannon (IFRC) – Shelter;
- Sarat Dash (IOM) – Camp Coordination and Camp Management.

Following the Cluster/Sector presentations, Robert Piper opened the floor for questions and comments. Among them were the following:

- The USAID representative noted with appreciation the efforts to bring together a coordinated programme and to do so in coordination with the government. He also noted that USAID funding towards previous programmes and outside the Appeal should be reflected. There are ongoing efforts to ensure that all humanitarian financing for Nepal is recorded in the Financial tracking service.
- One question regarded the level of disaster preparedness in schools (UNESCO), e.g. drills or other in preparation for major disasters? Discussions are currently ongoing with the Department of Education, to conduct an information-campaign and disseminate information materials-brochures to schools. In the longer-term, it will be important to look at improved construction of schools, that building codes are followed (UNICEF). Also, EQ-drills held widely on 13 January EQ-day (Robert Piper, RC/HC).
- While emergencies are quite well-funded, longer-term early recovery projects (specifically, for the Shelter Cluster) tend to be forgotten (IFRC), the same said to apply to WASH. The gap between emergency response and development is too long, in response to which an early recovery stand-by-team is being formed (UNDP). On a similar note, medium- and longer-term priorities should be emphasized also in regards to food security, for example, in support to farmers (FAO). Important also to note that the declaration of a state of emergency – even for a short period – creates special circumstances and vulnerabilities affecting humanitarian work, and therefore need to be discussed (OHCHR).
- Robert Piper concluded the discussion by emphasizing the following: the international community should ensure an appropriate transition from humanitarian response to development-focus; the element of disaster risk in Nepal indicates that there is urgent need to get serious about preparedness; in order for Appeal to have an impact, donors are requested to review the Appeal and to share their views with relevant headquarters focal points.

For more on the 2010 Appeal, including all related documents and launch presentations, please see the UN Nepal Information Platform <<http://www.un.org.np/>>. More information on the Appeal process globally is available from <[www.humanitarianappeal.net](http://www.humanitarianappeal.net/)>.

OCHA, 5 April 2010