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2. General reminder of project objectives, partnership and expected deliverables

Objectives

Due to its geographical location, floods caused by extraordinary rains and melting are frequent in Hungary. The drainage basin of river Tisza extends to the neighbouring Romania where similar problems occur. Thus response and recovery-remediation can only be successful in close cooperation between the two countries.

During both the response and the recovery-restoration phase, the establishment of well-trained voluntary aid worker teams would be of crucial importance, who apart from lending physical help, i.e. assessing the damage, organizing the aid network, acting as mediators between the state authorities and the flood affected civilians, also can give mental help and provide complex psycho-social support to the population.

Those who live in settlements lying in areas prone to flooding must be aware of the necessary actions to be taken during special emergencies. The local governments, the population, the emergency response authorities, and the aid workers must cooperate using integrated and standardized strategies. There is also a great need for up-to-date emergency plans well understood by every stakeholder.

The main project objective is to train and equip a Hungarian-Romanian voluntary aid worker team, who under extreme circumstances would be able to take part in the damage restoration process and in attending to the affected people in an immediate manner on the emergency site. The project also provides opportunity for the development of the necessary equipment.

Further objectives are to initiate community development in three flood-prone settlements, and to amend the existing emergency plans with family preparedness related entries or sections, thus promulgating the necessary actions to be taken during emergencies and completing the already existing plans.

The project objectives will improve the reaction time during flood emergencies, and facilitate a more successful emergency response. The stakeholders in this project will present their own knowledge and their very experience during the trainings and tutorials.

Partnership

The leading partner is the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta with its 25 years of experience in supporting disaster victims and organizing flood control and protection. Mainly it is experienced in developing psycho-social emergency response support activities.

The idea of family emergency plans comes from the employees of Caritas Satu Mare with their experience in preparing flood-prone settlements for emergencies.

The employees of the Order of Malta Relief Organization in Romania of Baia Mare has gained outstanding experience in flood protection and performing the technical tasks needed and also in providing basic and advanced first aid.

The Municipality of Gulács also participates in the project. Great floods ravaged this town many times in the past.

Expected deliverables

The project deliverables are to have a complete training system for aid workers, with its bilingual training material that would facilitate the project transferability. Based on this system, from the two countries 40 deployable voluntary aid workers will be trained who would be able to employ the special equipment at hand procured during the project. Among this equipment, buying industrial refrigerative dehumidifier machines is a significant development as these will make the drying of the flood affected buildings more effective. In three flood-prone settlements after the appropriate preparations the family emergency plans (FEP) are ready and these would improve the effectiveness of the protection and complement the already existing plans. The trained aid workers will deepen their knowledge through joint exercises and drills.

3. General summary of project implementation process, general overview of the process

The project met its original objectives. The implementation was marked with great flexibility. Many unexpected occurrences forced us to make slight modifications in the time schedule regularly to solve the resulting problems. Two exceptional occurrences caused significant difficulties during the project implementation phase: the floods in Bosnia and Serbia and the refugee crisis. For the project partners this meant a serious capacity outage in implementing the project, but on the other hand these facilitated a long-term collaboration between them since they managed to cooperate effectively in responding to these emergencies partially due to the skills and equipment acquired through this project. For the last phase of the project too many tasks remained to be done, thus we made an attempt to extend the project end date, however this idea had to be discarded due to its extra high capacity-demand. Flexibility of the project partners is proven by the fact that after committing themselves to extra work the training programme developed in the framework of the project has undergone a successful internationally certified accreditation which we consider a significant milestone and success of the collaboration. The project task force and the coordination team had 4 meetings in various compositions in accordance with the requirements of the actual task. For management purposes the partners were in daily contact with each other via electronic means.

Comparative analysis of initial and actual time schedule

A: project management process went according to the original plan

B: modified plan: 02.2014 till 06.2015: accomplished (a number of invaluable ideas that had emerged during the training course and some points required for the certified accreditation were incorporated into the final form of the training material)

C: modified plan: 03.2014 till 06.2015, changed it again to 04.2014 till 08.2015: accomplished

D: 02.2014 till 09.2014, accomplished

E: modified plan: 07.2014 till 06.2015, changed it again to 05.2014 till 08.2015: accomplished

F: modified plan: 10.2014 till 04.2015, accomplished

G: modified plan: 05.2015 till 06.2015, changed it again to 03.2015 till 09.2015: accomplished, the second exercise was conducted during the project closure phase

H: 06.2015 till 07.2015, changed it to 06.2015 till 09.2015: accomplished

I: the communication process related to the events was continuous and went according to the plan except for the final briefing conference on the project results in Brussels that was cancelled

Comparative analysis of planned and used resources:

The partners have been continuously made the 15 staff members available. They have employed the services of the experts in a manner adjusted to the schedule. Every task and action proposed in the project schedule was implemented in a complete manner, and apart from that the training programme received a certified

accreditation, and we accomplished all this from 89% (235,425.61 EUR) of the planned project budget (264,696 EUR). Only a few number of the trainees used the opportunity of travel allowance and reimbursement, most of them preferred to travel to the sites on their own with paying the travel bills from their own pocket. Also the trip to Brussels to present the project results during a briefing did not occur, as this meeting had not been organized similarly to the project opening conference in Brussels. All in all, the resulting savings emerged in the travel and subsistence heading in the eligible costs also due to the fact that we had managed to organize cheaper board and lodging for the participants, and on the other hand we employed the services of interpreters fewer times than planned. Moreover the Hungarian currency, HUF, was continuously decreasing in value throughout the project timeframe: in the first month of the project 1 EUR was 296.8 HUF and in the last month it was 314.8 HUF, while the inflation rate had been almost zero in Hungary in that period.

Comparative analysis of the expected and actual results

The members of the task force have continuously been in contact with each other. The training material was finally developed along with the .ppt presentations and the required parts of all the modules, moreover the programme received an unplanned internationally certified accreditation (no.: E-001184/2015/D005). The material was published in 150 copies (70-70 in Hungarian and Romanian languages respectively, and 10 in English), also available in digital format. In the town of Turulung 50 family emergency plans were drafted and available. The 15 modular GP tents and the 2 storage containers had been procured, which were used and employed after the first exercise during our aid work provided to the refugees. 2 field exercises were conducted: one in Turulung (Romania) and one in Kisar (Hungary). A case study on the first field exercise was written and published in 3 languages. Except for Gulács, on each partner's homepage reports on the project's progress were published on a regular basis. A short film to promote the project activities and the on-going training was made that is being circulated among the public. Two Facebook pages, one in Hungarian and one in Romanian were created for dissemination purposes. The trainees created two closed groups on Facebook to communicate with each other, both of these are still actively used after the project end date.

4. Evaluation of project management/implementation process

The cooperation between the partners was running in an organized manner throughout the whole project. The partners and the appointed experts regularly evaluated the results after each module and immediately made adjustments to original plans if deemed necessary. We successfully managed to resolve the issues emerged in the field of cooperation. After finishing the in-door training phase, we concentrated on organizing the field exercise. In order to conduct the field exercise in Turulung successfully we managed to mobilize the population of the town and other non-governmental entities were drawn into the action. We managed to achieve that the representatives of the official disaster management authorities from both countries were present throughout the event. Organizing the field exercise was a deliberately demanding work for the partners, thus for this purpose we setup a special task force headed by a professional experienced in this field. Except for the containers all the equipment was procured till the start of the field exercise, thus we managed to train the volunteers on how to employ these effectively. The work was always managed with respect to the priorities and the emerging difficulties were addressed immediately. Thus we managed to make the capacity outage caused by some unexpected external factors enhance the collaboration by the fact that the resulting problems were solved cooperatively by the partners, e.g. for providing psycho-social support to the refugees we employed the expertise of the volunteers trained during the programme. It was a great opportunity for the volunteers of both countries to gain experience on the field in a real emergency situation through applying the acquired knowledge by collaborative work.

5. Activities

Developing the training material (B)

The syllabus is ready and finished. The training material was published in three languages in the form of a 160-page colourful booklet with annexes that include the scenario for the imaginary case of a flood disaster as the base of our training and the field exercise. Each trainee received a copy of the booklet. The syllabus along with

the training material was revised in accordance with Hungarian regulations for accreditation of adult education and received an unplanned internationally certified accreditation.

Family Emergency Plans and updated intervention plans in the target area (C)

In the towns of Dumbravita and Gulács the family emergency plans were created in the previous two reporting phases. We had received the local evacuation plans from both settlements and they were deemed up-to-date and needed no revision. In the town of Gulács during the annual village day in August we promoted our awareness raising campaign: we presented the project achievements and family flood preparedness and risk reduction leaflets and hand-outs were distributed. In the town of Dumbravita these activities were conducted in front of a smaller audience, in the mayor's office. In the town of Turulung the evacuation plan was revised in which the experiences gained during the field exercise that had been conducted in and around this village was of great use. New evacuation routes were designated in the village and these were included in the up-to-date plan that was approved by both the local municipality and the national disaster management authority. In August the 50 FEPs for this village were created finally and a special training for minors in disaster risk reduction and flood preparedness was conducted for 40 local children during the project dissemination event.

Procurement of the equipment (E)

15 modular GP tents were produced and delivered by the time of the first field exercise. The procurement process for the 2 storage containers was longer than expected, however these were not needed for the field exercises. Other equipment that are of lesser value were procured just on time.

Small-scale disaster simulation exercise (G)

The first field exercise of the training course was conducted at Turulung, Romania on 29-31 May 2015. We chose the most appropriate location with the help of contracted experts where we conducted a field visit first of all. The schedule of the exercise was arranged after we had known the location. The simulation exercise lasted for one whole day. On the day before the camp had been set up partially with tents procured in the framework of the project. Next morning the trainees in small groups had to solve task stopping at different stations and they got to know the new equipment (e.g. dehumidifier machines). In the afternoon they had to work in the response phase of a simulated flood disaster also in small groups. The scenario was confidential, the nature of different tasks were unknown to trainees. For playing the various roles in this simulated disaster we employed the help of the local population and also involved non-governmental bodies in the activities. On the third day we broke camp and headed home.

On 12 September 2015 we conducted another exercise albeit of lesser extent. During this event the trainees mostly participated in situational activities that could occur in an emergency situation. They also learned how to employ equipment not used during the previous exercise (water pump, portable generator, setting up a field office).

Case study (H)

A case study was written on the field exercise conducted at Turulung. It was published in three languages and in 300 copies in the form of a booklet. This booklet is promoted and circulated by the organizations cooperating in the project among their partners.

Communication and publicity (dissemination and visibility actions) (I)

Most importantly the field exercise that was conducted at Turulung was given a huge media coverage. The whole simulation was thoroughly documented. By using the video footages that had been made during the whole project, a short film that is being widely circulated was produced. We are spreading a viral video, also available in English, on Facebook that has also been used by the Hungarian National General Directorate for Disaster Management during one of their presentations abroad. On 29 September 2015 we conducted the project closing evaluation conference in Budapest. The representatives of the Hungarian disaster management authorities were also present.

At the conference we presented the project results, the mentioned short film, and the case study. After the presentations we had a round table discussion with the active participation of the trainees about the possibilities of continuing the cooperation. Some participants at the conference from different organizations

expressed their intention of becoming trained aid workers themselves and applying for the training if we would organize and announce a new one. The project partners as closing remarks agreed on that they would definitely continue this fruitful partnership and cooperation in the very near future.

6. Presentation of the technical results and deliverables

During this reporting phase, the following deliverables were produced:

- The training material developed and published in 3 languages and in 150 copies in the form of a 160-page booklet
- The syllabus accredited
- 50 FEPs produced
- 15 modular GP tents and 2 storage containers procured
- 2 field exercises conducted on both sides of the border
- Case study written and published in 3 languages
- Short film produced
- Project closing evaluation conference conducted in Budapest

7. Evaluation of the technical results and deliverables

The trained aid workers proved during the exercises and during the real-life emergencies as well that they are capable of providing professional psycho-social support and aid. We have managed to train the intended number of volunteers. The certified accreditation was successful which gives us the opportunity to conduct trainings in the future with similar deliverables. The representatives of the national disaster management authorities were also present at the field exercises who could see with their own eyes the expertise and preparedness of the trainees. This strengthened our future collaboration with these authorities which is also enhanced by the published case study. At the end of the simulation exercise in Turulung the trainees received their certifications that prove their being trained voluntary aid workers (46 persons). The training material was published in the form of a booklet that can be reprinted anytime and also available in digital format thus could be used for any future work. The technical equipment was procured and employed on the field that boosts the technical capacity of the partners. To sum up, in the framework of this project a special human and technical capacity was created that could be efficiently deployed and employed in flood or any other emergencies: and this has already been proven in real life situations.

8. Follow-up

The trained aid workers remain in contact with us and with each other. During emergencies they sign up for service voluntarily. The short film produced during the project spreads in the form of a viral video on the internet. A number of our trained aid workers was employed by the partners during the second phase of a project aimed at helping the victims of the 2014 Balkan floods in Bosnia and Serbia, moreover they were actively supporting our aid work with the refugees in Hungary, at both Rőszke and Hegyeshalom. Around the project closure date, some of them were still in Slovenia providing psycho-social support to the refugees.