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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)
SOMALIA

Summary of discussions - Response in central regions, Monday 14 April 2008

Venue: OCHA Somalia Conference Room, Nairobi at 10.00 am

Introductory remarks, FSAU Briefing

- Based on updated information and analysis, FSAU and FEWSNet revised the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) map and increased the number of people in Humanitarian Emergency (HE) and Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC) to reflect the rapidly deteriorating situation.
- Due to the rapid deterioration of the situation, FSAU raised the crisis from AFLC to HE.
- Urban food insecurity is increasing as a result of record high and increasing food and non-food prices.
- Crucial risk factors to further deterioration will be inflation and civil insecurity.
- There are reports of light but, at this point in time, insignificant rains in agro pastoral areas. Currently, the rains will not produce recovery unless the December rains will be normal.
- Discussions are ongoing on possible strategies to cull young animals from herds in order to take pressure off lactating mothers.

Security Update

- Reports of fighting in Cadaado between local clans and the Al Shabaab, after which Ethiopian troops arrived via Cabudwaaq and occupied Cadaado for a few days.
- In Hiraan, 4 people of British and Kenyan nationality were killed, some Kenyans and British passport holders, in a school.
- Most of central region remains volatile but stable. There are no reported threats to international staff in Galgaduud and Mudug areas.

Gap Analysis/ Agency updates

- The logistics cluster produced a map that shows W3 in terms of response from various agencies. Further information could be sought from the cluster lead, Francesco Nicolo Cornaro.
- WASH: There is need for monitoring of water trucking more closely given that it is a costly business. The level of delivery does not yet meet the needs required and is not sustainable in the long-term. There is question as to whether there is a need to address issues like the cleanliness of water being delivered.
- Health: Merlin stated they would support MCHs. However, there is need for more information on which agencies are on the ground providing MCH facilities. The health cluster will be requested to provide updates on services provided in the area.
- Education: CARE Somalia together with SC-UK had hoped to start an EC funded project targeting 20,000 children in 45 schools (15 in Hiran and 30 in Benadir regions). However, insecurity and logistics arrangements have hampered the process. So far, 36 schools in six districts in Galgaduud have been mapped by CARE Somalia out of which 15 are in Hiran region. CARE Somalia hopes to set up a base in Dhuusamarreeb. The Food Aid cluster will be requested to address the issue of School Feeding Programs in support of CARE Somalia's educational project in central regions.
- It was proposed to look at western Galgaduud, a relatively isolated area, when conducting response.

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- UNDP requested for more information on why permanent water sources are depleted in the area. This would facilitate recovery interventions.
- It was proposed that funding of destocking and culling programs, possibly through HRF, could be an option though not enough information is available on this issue. The agriculture and livelihoods cluster could discuss the available options.

Next steps

- There is need for more information on how the current gaps are being filled to avoid endless assessments.
- An information sharing forum among partners is imperative so as to raise awareness and advocate on the response needed.
- UNHCR hopes to set up a presence in Dhusamareb which would eventually facilitate coordination.

AOB

- UNHAS user group was requested to adapt the flight frequency to the needs on the ground. UNHAS will fly to Dhuusamarreeb irrespective of number of passengers, at this point in time, to assess viability of this flight route
- UNHAS together with DSS is looking into the possibility of flying to El Bur, and will know within the next month whether the landing strip is viable