

Afgooye Working Group

Minutes: OCHA Somalia (Kalsan Towers) 16 April 2008

The meeting was opened with OCHA giving an overview of recent mapping activities in the Afgooye corridor and the ever-changing situation on the ground – new camps, camps merging, camps splitting and camps completely disappearing.

It was remarked that NRC, the Camp Coordinator Camp Management officer for UNHCR, the Shelter, and the Nutrition Clusters leads should also attend this meeting. It was suggested that future meetings could piggyback on the IDP Working Group meetings – occurring either before or after those meetings.

OCHA recommended the following items as priority for the WG:

- Approval and adoption of the existing standardized list of settlement names along with their geographic coordinates.
- A schedule and procedures for identifying, confirming and mapping new settlements to include standardized names and geographic coordinates.
- Approval of population figures.
- Approval and adoption of standardized monitoring tools to be used by cluster leads.

UNHCR:

- Discussed a report and methodology the Agency used in January-February 2008, to reach the conclusion that the estimated IDP population in the Afgooye corridor was 306,000 (+/- 35,000) people.
- The methodology used was discussed and vetted by the WG with all in attendance agreeing that the number should be endorsed by the respective agencies as the official figure of IDPs.
- The Report will be finalized in the upcoming week, and publicly released.
- UNHCR agreed to compile a Lessons Learned document on the procedure to streamline the process for the next set of camps to be assessed.
- UNHCR will look into the possibility of performing population estimates for the next group of 50-some camps recently identified.

The group discussed the possibility of conducting two parallel assessments in the future – one being a rapid assessment on population figures and the other a more intense operation.

Satellite imagery will serve as a useful tool for validating camp density and cross-checking a sample of camps for population estimates. But in order for the imagery or any kind of hut-counting exercise to prove accurate the group first needs to determine family dynamics within the camps – how many huts per family. It was recommended that an interagency group in Mogadishu conduct an informal exercise to capture this kind of information.

Action Items:

- Drafting WG TORs
- Discussion at next meeting on reaching a common understanding of locations, district divisions, and names used for settlements, then to be endorsed by Clusters and Agencies
- A new list of camps to be presented approved and adopted by agencies and cluster leads.
- A schedule created to refresh a list of names, geographic coordinates and population estimates for the corridor.
- A common monitoring tool agreed upon and adopted by agencies and cluster leads.
- A lessons learned document to be created by UNHCR on their population estimate exercise.
- Creating for estimating the number families per hut with volunteers for performing the exercise.

NEXT MEETING: 30 April 2008 at 10:00 (OCHA)