

Afgooye Working Group

Minutes: OCHA Somalia (Kalson Towers) 30 April 2008

Attendance:

Qurat Sadozai, NRC
Hassan Khaire, NRC
Bastien Vigneau, UNICEF
Hala Suliman, WFP
Julien Le Sour, UNICEF
John Marinos, UNHCR

Maja Munk, DRC
Lisa Peterson, OCHA
Cedric Petit, OCHA
Anne Klansoe, OCHA
Bediako Buahene, OCHA

Discussions

The meeting was the second of the Afgooye Working Group and allowed follow-up of recommendations of the first meeting held on 16 April 2008.

After a brief presentation of the proposed ToRs of the Working Group to the agencies that did not participate to the first meeting the discussion focused on field mapping, population estimates methodologies and monitoring of activities.

Field mapping

OCHA gave an overview of the results of the second mapping exercise conducted in the Afgooye corridor in April 2008. As of 30 April a total of 215 IDP settlements have been identified in the corridor (without taking into consideration Afgooye Town), and with their existence confirmed on the ground. Refer to the attached Excel document and sample of new Afgooye maps for details.

A draft map showing planned water network connections in the Ceelasha area was presented to the attendance, as an example of how the results of the mapping exercises could be use to improve operational coordination.

Ideally and depending on staff availability and security constraints the same exercise should be conducted for all other IDP concentration areas around Mogadishu (Dayniile, Kax-Shiiqaal and Ceel-Maan) and in the town itself. OCHA has already started gathering information on the settlements that are located around Mogadishu, but the information is still fragmented and needs to be consolidated. The availability of recent satellite pictures will determine OCHA's ability to provide accurate mapping of these areas. UNHCR has over 320 GPS points for settlements in Mogadishu, and can use that information for a rough estimate of the IDP population in Mogadishu

Population Estimates

Registration: WFP advised that they intend to conduct a registration process in the Afgooye corridor using 5 to 6 NGO partners, tentatively during the course of May 2008. The proposition may require further discussions among partners to explore the most appropriate options and implementation methodologies, and anticipate obstacles and possible downfalls.

Population extrapolation, based on settlement dimensions: UNHCR has proposed to undertake a new population estimate for the Afgooye corridor, taking into consideration the 80 settlements that have been identified by OCHA in April 2008. The same methodology that was used in March 2008 will be used for this new exercise (physical counting of families in sample settlements, extrapolated to the whole corridor using settlements areas). This new assessment may be conducted before June 2008, if partners confirm their interest in potential results.

Population extrapolation, based on satellite imagery: several UN agencies are working together to acquire recent satellite images for the Afgooye corridor. Counting of huts will be possible with these new images, but an extrapolation of population numbers based on this counting will be possible only if a field assessment is conducted to determine the average

number of huts that are used by each IDP family. Several partners have been requested to look into the issue and will confirm the feasibility of such an exercise.

Monitoring of activities

The WASH cluster will use the general geographic demarcation indicating the boundaries of the Afgoye corridor and will use updated list of settlements to produce reporting forms to be used by all partners.

Other clusters will be asked to use the same boundaries in order to have consistency.

All clusters will be asked to use the settlement list generated by OCHA and partners, and any inconsistencies in names will be discussed and added to the list as the 'alternative' name of the settlement.

Action Items

- OCHA to develop ToRs of the Working Group, as discussed in the first two meetings of the WG, and to be presented at the next IDP Working Group in Nairobi.
- OCHA to disseminate final list of IDP settlements and update maps of the Afgoye Corridor (ideally, PDF and Google Earth formats).
- UNHCR to prepare next assessment of population numbers (extrapolation based on settlements dimensions).
- As to facilitate timely collection of information on new settlement in the periphery of Mogadishu OCHA will consider organizing a quick training on field mapping and GPS use for partners in Mogadishu.
- OCHA will draft a concept note for a project to analyze the average number of huts occupied by an IDP family in the Afgoye Corridor.
- NRC will share with OCHA the list of settlement names they use and what they are doing in those settlements. Should any of the settlement names not match the OCHA list efforts will be made to discover the correct location and name of settlement and agree on a standard name for the settlement.

NEXT MEETING: T.B.A. - depending on needs and level of completion of action points.