

Baidoa Livelihoods Meeting

Minutes: OCHA Somalia (Kalsan Towers)

05 May 2008

Participating Organizations:

UNHCR, ILO, World Vision, & OCHA

Discussion

The meeting is a follow-up from the Baidoa IDP WG meeting during which it was identified that further discussions on three key areas with a smaller group was necessary.

1. How to start the process of livelihood's implementation
2. Improving effectiveness of livelihood projects through an inclusive participatory assessment
3. Post distribution monitoring tools and protection inputs into those tools

Livelihoods

Based on recommendations reached by the Baidoa WG, there is recognition that a shift from general food distribution (GFD) to "Food For..." should be considered and the modalities of such a shift discussed.

Also recognized is that a shift to livelihoods is a longer process and more difficult in that appropriate livelihood activities need to be identified, as are NGOs willing and able to implement such activities. Also as part of the longer term strategy participants acknowledged the need to undertake a more comprehensive market analysis using the recent ILO labour market survey on basic wages.

There is a need to have a clear link with ILO because of their knowledge of labour markets, and ILO indicated their interest in being a key partner in any livelihood discussion and project design.

Post Monitoring Tools (PDMT)

At an earlier meeting, WFP had indicated their willingness to share their PDMTs, and possibly allow modification to survey issues of protection

This issue arose due to anecdotal information being received, particularly by UNHCR that after a general distribution of food or NFI's, there is an apparent increase in protection related incidences such as groups entering the camp immediately after a distribution and taking a food away from those who received it. Consequently, greater involvement in PDMT will assist in establishing preventative protection mechanisms.

World Vision stated that they are in the process of hiring a post monitoring team for Bay and Bakool, and are interested in any lessons learnt and improving their own monitoring tools.

World Vision's has shared in electronic version their current monitoring tools.

Participatory Assessment

In June (date flexible) UNHCR wishes to undertake a participatory assessment, to obtain a clearer picture of the needs of the IDPs and host communities. Rather than the exercise simply being UNHCR focused, UNHCR suggested that a broader inter-agency approach would be a more useful exercise, in that agencies could all benefit from the results of the participatory assessment. Further, an interagency approach is in line with the strategic direction taken by the Baidoa WG of operating with a common voice.

Next Steps

It was agreed that at this point, the most useful method to move forward with livelihood discussions is to obtain more information on how large livelihood projects could actually be implemented.

At the Baidoa level additional information is necessary such as: what labour jobs actually exist and are there any opportunities for the IDPs or urban poor to access those jobs; what is the impact of inflation on the labour market etc.

It was agreed that the outcomes from the Participatory Assessment can be used to design possible livelihood projects, and that ILO would take an active role in project design.

Action Items

- ILO to share proposals under outcome 5 of the UNTP
- UNHCR will share a concept note on the participatory assessment exercise
- UNHCR to share any lessons learnt from their livelihoods projects, when available
- OCHA to check with FSAU on the availability of their Baidoa assessment
- OCHA to share this shift in thinking and available PDM tools to be shared with relevant clusters particularly shelter and protection.

NEXT MEETING: T.B.A. - depending on need