
CAP SOMALIA 2009

EARLY RECOVERY (ER)

Guidance note for Cluster leads and participating agencies/NGOs

Background

Early Recovery strategic planning and assistance are an integral part of the Humanitarian Reform. The IASC Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery (CWGER) was formed at global level in 2005 and comprises 24 UN and non-UN active global partners from the humanitarian and development communities, with UNDP as the designated cluster lead. The CWGER recently developed a *Guidance Note on Early Recovery*, the full text of which is available at:

(http://www.humanitarianreform.org/humanitarianreform/Portals/1/cluster%20approach%20page/clusters%20pages/Early%20R/ER_Internet.pdf)

The Guidance Note by the CWGER defines early recovery as follows:

Early recovery is a multidimensional process of recovery that begins in a humanitarian setting. It is guided by development principles that seek to build on humanitarian programmes and catalyze sustainable development opportunities. It aims to generate self sustaining, nationally owned, resilient processes for post crisis recovery. It encompasses the restoration of basic services, livelihoods, shelter, governance, security and rule of law, environment and social dimensions, including the reintegration of displaced populations.

During and immediately after a crisis, national actors and the international community focus primarily on meeting immediate life-saving needs. Human lives are at risk and quick action is required to minimize damage and restore order. From the very beginning, however, there is a need for more than life-saving measures. The foundations for sustainable recovery and a return to longer-term development should be planned from the outset of a humanitarian emergency.

As defined in the CWGER Guidance Note, Early Recovery has three broad aims:

1. Augment ongoing emergency assistance operations by building on humanitarian programs.
2. Support spontaneous recovery initiatives by affected communities.
3. Establish the foundations for longer-term recovery.

Objective of this short note

The objectives of the present short note are:

1. To reiterate the importance of addressing Early Recovery needs in the context of the current crisis in Somalia, and of starting to provide ER support from a very early stage, in parallel with more strictly humanitarian assistance.
2. To provide some general guidance on how to include ER support within the Somalia CHAP and in the Cluster response plans
3. In conjunction with the guidance note “CAP 2009 and UNTP 2008-2009: What each plan covers and how they inter-relate”, to help clarifying the links and synergies between the CAP and the UNTP for Somalia

Addressing Early Recovery planning and coordination within the CHAP

In line with guidance from the CWGER, the IASC Somalia and the Inter-Cluster working group have agreed that Early Recovery support constitutes an integral part of the CHAP and of the overall strategy to

tackle the present humanitarian and livelihoods crisis in Somalia. ER support will integrate the more strictly humanitarian assistance; it will enhance the benefits of humanitarian interventions and possibly accelerate the resolution of the humanitarian crisis; it will also ensure better preparedness for future shocks, and prevent further segments of the Somali population from sliding deeper into the crisis. Several of the recent recommendations for response provided by the Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) require specific ER interventions, particular in the livelihood domain, to offset some of the devastating effects of the economic dimension of the crisis. It has further been agreed that an Early Recovery Network will work to mainstream and coordinate ER across all sectors, support in identifying gaps, and reach out to key stakeholders to engage in ER. The Early Recovery Network for Somalia does not require a new coordination mechanism; it is established as part of the Inter Cluster working group, and its meetings coincide with the Inter Cluster Working Group meetings. These will regularly discuss ER matters and provide advice to the IASC and the RC/HC as needed, as well as operational guidance to clusters if needed. UNDP shall facilitate the work of the ER network; it is however important to underline that this can only be successful within a broad and collegial effort, needing the support and commitment of all actors. In terms of implementation, it is expected that the majority of ER support interventions will fall within activities of the different agencies and NGOs, under existing clusters.

Early Recovery inclusion in Cluster Response Plans

It is recommended that, in formulating the response plans, cluster coordinators and cluster members take into account Early Recovery interventions as an integral and necessary component of the response.

Early Recovery planning will straddle, by its own nature, across the humanitarian and the recovery planning processes and interventions. In the case of Somalia, ER will be a crucial component of the CHAP, to integrate the more strictly humanitarian interventions, and it will extend within the recovery domain of the UNTP. ER activities will be instrumental in building a solid link and bridging the gap between the two planning processes. ER projects will therefore form a key component of the CAP 2009 even if similar activities are already somehow included in the UNTP 2008-09.

It is recognized that this may engender some confusion, and may distort the overall representation of budgetary requirements. In line with the sister short note on the links between CAP and UNTP, it is therefore agreed that projects comprising ER activities that are already present in the UNTP can be included in the CAP. These will be very clearly labeled as “**ER – mentioned also in UNTP**”. In terms of budgets, agencies will be requested to submit to the CAP only the cost components that are clearly ER in nature, and not full blown recovery. It is therefore expected that ER project budget requirements submitted to CAP are (in most cases) only a component of the broader submissions that may be addressed by the UNTP.