

**Minutes of the Emergency Education Task Force Coordination at the MOE
Conference room, Garowe, 19th March, 2008**

Participants

Name	Organization	address
1. Abdi Goobe	Vice Minister – MOE PL	gobbeelder@hotmail.com
2. Mohamed Yusuf Ali	Muslim Aid – UK	Mohamedyusuf77@yahoo.com
3. Mohamed Osman	UNOCHA	Mohamedosaam@hotmail.com
4. Mohamed Hassan	WFP	Mohamed.hassan@wfp.org
5. Mahdi Osman	Islamic Relief	Faahiye65@gmail.com
6. Maulid Warfa	UNICEF	mwarfa@unicef.org
7. Ahmed Mohamed	PEN – PL	asaahid@gmail.com
8. Ismail Omar	Muslim Aid (UK)	ismailkashka@hotmail.com
9. Abdirizak M. Ali	UNICEF	amali@unicef.org
10. Yusuf Abdulkadir	NCA	ncapunt@hotmail.com
11. Dr Carabey	Islamic Relief	drq@hotmail.com
12. Mohamed J. Yusuf	-	Cel: +25290720081
13. Mohamed Yabshe	Muslim Aid UK	Yaabshe_2004@hotmail.com

Agenda

1. Introduction and Opening Remarks
2. Presentation of the findings of the joint rapid assessment team from Sool and Sanaag
3. Brain storming on appropriate intervention and
4. Identify partners interested and willing to intervene the situation
5. AOB

Introduction

This was a follow up meeting to the previous Emergency Education Task Force meeting held on February 26th which recommended urgent joint rapid education assessment to the conflict affected areas of Sool and Sanaag regions. The initial purpose of the meeting was to present findings of the assessment and design appropriate intervention, agree on who can do what and where and discuss funding opportunities to implement the recommendations. However, the prevailing drought in the zone overwhelmed the meeting broadening the scope of the discussion. Another urgent drought coordination meeting organized by the ministry of planning earlier in the morning raised serious drought in the region. Puntland authorities (the president) had issued an appeal for humanitarian support and declared drought emergency. Poor 2007 Gu and Deyr rains led extreme water and pasture shortages among pastoral communities in Puntland. Many families reportedly abandoned their villages in search of water and pasture. This water crisis shifted the priorities of humanitarian responses as most agencies now focus on “life-saving”

measures (i.e water trucking and food distribution) as the fear of delayed or poor onset to the Gu rainy season would aggregate the prevailing drought condition. Many schools were reported to have been closed as villagers moved away with the children in search of water and pasture.

Presentation: Findings of the Rapid Assessment to Sool and Sanaag regions

The two teams who conducted the assessment presented their findings. One team led by UNICEF visited six villages (**AMA please put the names of the villages**) in Bocame district of Sool region. Another team led by Islamic Relief also visited 9 villages (Midigale, Awsame, Rag, Buh, Alnoor, xingalol, Qol, Ballibusle and Kala dhac) in Sanaag region. The UNICEF-led team could not visit some of the earlier planned villages in Sool region due to insecurity. Below is the brief summary of the findings of the assessment:

Sool region (Bocame, Huddun and Taleh district):

- The security situation in region is unpredictable as both Puntland and Somaliland troops face one another and continue to rearm their troops. Tension is high and there is increased movement of troops. People are not confident of the situation and seem to be on the move. Bocame and Huddun towns are becoming hubs for displaced people from Las-anod and other areas affected by the recent conflict between Somaliland and Puntland.
- People are even more worried of the deteriorating drought than the conflict as quality and body condition of their livestock continue to weaken. Drought is hitting hard and there was a serious water shortage of villages visited. Water prices are extremely high and many cannot afford. Some of the villages visited were waiting for water trucked from Garowe or Las-anod for days and were certain to move if it delays. Some villages were already abandoned and schools were closed with no children. Livestock which is the main livelihood had moved to Sanaag Valley.
- There were operational schools in Bocame town and several other districts in Sool. These schools operate on fee collection and as the situation deteriorates, so is the ability of parents to afford the fees. Most head teachers of the schools visited raised the school fee as a barrier to enrolment and attendance of pupils. There was a report of drastic reduction in enrolment and attendance in Las-anod town.
- Many of the schools visited did not have adequate learning and teaching materials.
- Teacher incentive is an issue raised by teachers, head-teachers, CECs and parents of schools visited.
- It is very difficult to trace the IDP movement in the region and there are large IDP settlements or camps. Displaced families and individuals are scattered within villages and many of them are staying with their relatives and other host families in the villages. However, if the drought continues to worsen, Bocame, Huddun and Teleh may become centers or hubs for displaced population. Large displaced settlements may also form as host communities could no longer afford to

- accommodate additional families or as the host communities may/will also be affected by the drought.
- The best response emergency education strategy in such situation is addressing the emergency education issues holistically. Accommodate IDP students to the local schools and strengthen the capacity of these schools to enable them enroll more children in school. Also provide temporary learning spaces, teaching and learning materials and support to teachers and CEC.

Sanaag Region:

- The drought condition is slightly better in some parts of Sanaag compared to Sool region. But the situation is deteriorating very fast, population movement is starting and some villages were already abandoned and schools closed.
- Education system in the region was weak even before the drought and conflicts started and any further deterioration will worsen the situation and that could have severe consequences to education.
- Many villages visited during the assessment had their schools operational. But there was fear that many of these schools may be forced to close earlier than the normal school closure if the drought situation continues to deteriorate.
- Parents are already failing to pay school fees as they are under pressure to meet other basic needs such as food, water, etc
- Some schools teach under-tree and appealed for better learning spaces (AMA do you remember the name of the school they mentioned was under-tree??)
- Majority of schools reported of inadequate learning and teaching materials, inadequate learning spaces, lack of toilet facilities, inadequate furniture, lack of incentive and training for teachers.
- Many schools require rehabilitation of their existing school infrastructure while many other need building of new learning spaces.
- Education system in Sanaag region needs revisit of the entire system, establishing medium to long-term strategies, massive community mobilization and collaboration between aid agencies in Puntland and Somaliland. There are no international NGOs working in education sector in Sanaag and Puntland and Somaliland authorities did not do much in the education sector

Discussions followed the presentations are summarized below:

- NCA is doing water trucking in several villages in Sool region and is now interested in emergency education activities. They have conducted rapid assessment in Dabataag, Maygaag and several other villages and despite the security and access restrictions there are opportunities of implementing emergency education in the region. They reported of inadequate learning and teaching materials, lack of teacher incentives as communities failed to pay school fees. They reported of huge gap in education throughout the Sool. NCA interest in emergency education also extends to the coastal areas.
- MOE reported high influx of IDP students from Las-anod to schools in Garowe and Bossaso. Sool REO also reported over 70% reduction in enrolment in Las-

- anod schools. For instance Shafie primary/secondary school had over 1700 pupils in the beginning of the 2007/08 academic year and today there are about 300 students left in the school. Similarly, Gol Khatumo primary school that enrolled about 900 pupils in the beginning of the school year and now has 300 pupils.
- WFP is planning to conduct baseline survey to 60 schools that they supporting through the school feeding programme. They also doing food needs assessment in Sool and Sanaag regions and will include education and school-age children in their assessment. They hope to expand the school feeding programme to reach many of the drought affected areas, but raised concern of donor conditionality against the emergency school feeding programme.
 - Islamic Relief, NRC and Muslim Aid UK have expressed interest in implementing emergency education activities in Sool and Sanaag regions.

Given the widespread drought and to address both the conflict and drought affected areas, the scope of the discussion was broadened and members developed zonal vulnerability matrix mapping out the potentially risky areas, identified key priority activities, lead organizations and funding opportunities. Four potentially vulnerable areas were identified including Sool, Sanaag, Coastal areas and South Mudug. The matrix of the vulnerability mapping is summarized the attached table.