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SOMALIA

OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)

Minutes of OCHA Bosaso General Monthly Humanitarian Coordination Meeting

Date: 30th July 2008

Venue: Bossaso UNICEF conference room,

Participants list:

S/N	Name	Agency	Email address	Phone #
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Absentees: UNHABITAT, UNDP, WAWA, SORERDO, YODO, HEDL

Meeting Agenda:

- Introduction of participants
- Updates from previous coordination meeting
- Update on fire outbreak in four IDP settlements
- Gender perspectives in humanitarian work
- Update on the Sexual and Exploitation Abuse workshop
- Update on the upcoming 2009 Consolidated Appeal Process
- Update on food and NFI distribution in IDP settlements and Bossaso community
- AOB

OCHA opened the meeting requesting participants to introduce themselves. OCHA then made short opening remarks and opened the floor for comments on the action points from the previous meeting held on 25th June 2008. OCHA noticed that the number of participants at the meeting doubled as compared to the June coordination meeting which action point reflected strengthening of linkages and coordination among all stakeholders. In the case of joint monitoring, aid actors present stressed that effective practice will minimize complaints among the implementing partners and beneficiaries. There were no further comments from the last minutes and hence the minute was adopted to form part of the coordination meeting archives while the new meeting continued.

Update of fire outbreaks:

One of the fire outbreak taskforce team updated participants on the series of fire outbreaks that occurred in four IDP settlements (Buulo Mingis, shabeele Girible and Tuur Jaalle) on 18th, 23rd, and 24th of July 2008. According to NRC on behalf of the taskforce team, the fire destroyed the entire properties of the IDP families including their shelters. Bossaso Mayor and his council carried out the initial assessment and submitted the results and compiled list of affected families to OCHA for possible intervention by agencies. Based on that, OCHA organized several ad-hoc meetings involving UN agencies and international NGOs to discuss possible response for the affected families and the appeal by the local authority. NRC on behalf of the taskforce team concluded by informing participants that it was concluded and agreed upon to conduct a joint assessment involving the humanitarian agencies/municipality and based on the outcomes relevant humanitarian assistance will be given to the affected families.

Participants commented and raised questions on the issue, for instance, UNICEF proposed to harmonize the response by clarifying the roles and responsibility of each agency including the local authority. It was also discussed that UNHABITAT should play leading role when it comes to the issue of shelter for the affected families such as demarcation and proper layout of IDPs shelters instead of just participating in the meeting.

Although some organizations stated that the fire was deliberately motivated, others opposed and pointed out that no one could organize and put on fire on his property. The Bossaso Mayor who attended the meeting also opposed the statements of the organizations stating that the fire was not deliberate but as a result of the current prevailing heavy winds in Bosaso. The Mayor stressed that it was too late arguing on the cause of the fire after 20 days of its occurrence while the people are suffering without shelter and exposed to the harsh hot and windy environment. The Mayor took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the organizations that was involved in the blanket food distribution to the IDPs and 100 host community families. He added that general food distribution decreased problems of food crisis in the IDP settlements especially at a time when the malnutrition rate among the IDPs is so high. OCHA mentioned that the most important challenge that might face the government/humanitarian community will be conflict between the host community and IDPs if the fire mistakenly affects one of the host community property.

Gender perspectives in humanitarian work

UNOCHA gender adviser consultant who currently visited Puntland attended the general monthly coordination meeting and briefed participants on the issues pertaining to gender and requirement of every aid worker to design projects in a way that they protect people from any violation specially, rape, sexual exploitation and abuse. It is a cross cutting issue that needed people to protect, and advocate equally, not only women and children, but also men, boys and the elder people the consultant stressed. The Consultant also reiterated that women and children are the

most vulnerable and they suffer from every hazard and that is why they are considered during gender perspective in humanitarian work.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:

UN SEA consultant informed participants that OCHA is holding a one day workshop on SEA for organization's protection focal points in Bosaso. According to participants, no focal points have been established in Bosaso and there was urgent need to form them during the planned workshop. These focal points will be responsible to monitor and report all cases of aid workers involvement in sexual exploitation and abuse to beneficiary populations. The consultant stated that the UN staff and partners are to adapt the code of conduct of the secretary general bulletin which is the core principals for the prevention of the SEA activities. NRC took the opportunity to present their three education program for IDP and host communities in Bosaso classified as IDP children evening classes alternative based education programs for those that have passed the age of attending regular school and adult education program. According to NRC the population 60% of the beneficiaries were female. NRC requested WFP for assistance in school feeding as an incentive to encourage more enrolment of students particularly women.

Some of the participants raised an issue of violation of the rights of young boys particularly by old rich women who resort to attracting young boy for sex by guaranteeing them of regular food and Khat chewing. This act is referred to as "Muruq Mal" in Somalia which according to participants needs to be considered also in SEA.

Update on the upcoming 2009 Consolidated Appeal Process

OCHA informed the entire participants that the 2009 CAP consultation workshop will be held in Garowe on 28 August 2008 and all agencies and partners were welcomed to participate. OCHA further explained that the CAP is a fund raising tool used for seeking financial support from donors for emergency and all humanitarian activities for Somalia. OCHA also stressed that presence of all aid actors and the government including the civil society and leaders from local community will enable everyone to identify and prioritize humanitarian needs for Puntland for 2009. The prioritized needs identified OCHA stressed would be part of the needs for Somalia that would be discussed in the main CAP in Nairobi on 3rd September 2009.

Furthermore, OCHA used the opportunity to inform participants that the format for including projects in CAP would be given to interested aid actors during the workshop in Garowe. OCHA promised to send invitation to all aid actors prior to the 2009 CAP consultation workshop.

Update on food and NFI distribution in Bosaso IDP settlements:

WFP blanket food distribution:

WFP updated participants in the blanket food distribution with partner DRC to 7128 families (6535 families in 22 IDP settlements and 593 families of urban poor in the host community) in Bosaso. WFP distributed a total of 525.3336 MT of food comprising 356.4 MT of cereals, 142.56 MT of pulses and 26.3736 MT of Pulses. According to WFP/DRC, the distribution was very successful with the municipality and the Ministry of security assisting during the distribution exercise. WFP mentioned that the second distribution is planned to take place on the 10th of August 2008, after finalization of the on-going post distribution monitoring activities. It was also stated that UNICEF was part of the distribution by providing IDP pregnant women, lactating mothers and malnourished children with WFP supplementary food. WFP also mentioned that

they provide supplementary food to TB patients in Puntland hospitals including HIV/AIDS patients.

UNHCR NFI distribution:

UNHCR stated that they distributed NFIs to 629 IDP families in 5 camps and 100 families of urban poor within Bosaso host community. The total items distributed were 1258 blankets, 1258 sleeping mats, 629 cooking utensils and 389 plastic sheets. According to UNHCR, it was a pilot project which will continue.

AOB

- MERCY CORP (INGO) gave a synopsis of their sectoral areas which are; Wash, Shelter, and NFIs. They reported that they are currently implementing water project in IDP camps and constructed 3 water reservoirs that are filled twice a week for most vulnerable IDPs free of charge. They are also constructing toilets in the IDP settlements; supporting mental affected people and street children .They were asked questions related to the management such as; cost of water, and their relations with wash cluster. OCHA advised Mercy Corps to join the WASH cluster since they are involved in water related projects
- Some partner organizations raised concerns on the coordination of OCHA and UNTP. OCHA informed participants that OCHA is complements the UNTP which is mainly focused on coordination of recovery and development programs while OCHA role is to coordinate all humanitarian activities including emergency response.

Action points:

- UNHABITAT to play leading role on the shelter cluster to facilitate demarcation and proper layout of IDP shelters in the IDP camps to prevent future fire occurrence.
- OCHA to consider organizing organizations to conduct immediately joint fire outbreak assessment for possible response to affected families
- OCHA to lead the harmonization of the fire outbreak response with clarified role and responsibility of each organization
- Mercy Corps to immediately join and attend wash cluster meetings
- Mercy Corps to review exit strategy of water project to ensure its sustainability and avoid dependency
- OCHA to distribute to partners invitation to attend the 2009 CAP consultation workshop in Garowe.
- OCHA to circulate format for submission of project proposal to aid actors for presentation and possible inclusion in 2009 CAP document.
- UNHRC to circulate update to humanitarian actors on the progress of Bosaso hospital expansion for severely malnourish children therapeutic feeding program
- NCR and WFP to arrange meeting to discuss school feeding program for adult education, IDP children evening classes and alternative based education programs.
- WHO liaise with MOH and organize centers for distribution of supplementary food for HIV patients.
- OCHA with partners to plan another IDP profiling to obtain more accurate figures on the population of the Bosaso IDPs.
- OCHA to follow-up on UNHABITAT on status of the permanent housing structure for the IDPs.
- OCHA to follow-up with UNICEF on the status of the lack of WASH cluster meeting in Bosaso