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UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS
(OCHA) SOMALIA

Summary of discussions - Inter-cluster working group, Thursday 21 August 2008

Venue: OCHA Somalia Conference Room, Nairobi at 10.30 – 12.00 pm

Cluster projects to be presented to donors and/or for the HRF

- Cluster leads were reminded to submit respective cluster project proposals to be presented to donors and/or for the HRF funding within a week. The projects will then be reviewed by the next meeting following which a complete package will be sent to the HC for endorsement and for presentation at the next donor meeting tentatively set for 10 September. The Health and Agriculture and Livelihoods Clusters have already submitted their projects. The WASH cluster will submit their projects at the beginning of September. Currently, the HRF has a balance of USD 6.8 million (36 projects under implementation, 8 projects under review), so the bulk of the proposals, especially projects of bigger size, cannot be considered for HRF funding but to be included in the packed for the donors as agreed at the last donor consultations in July. The HRF will cover smaller projects of emergency character.

Support for Cluster Coordination

- A concept note on cluster support was circulated by OCHA. Additional support in form of coordination staff is proposed provided to certain clusters through ECHO funding. There was a discussion on which clusters need such support. The donor indicated that crucial life saving clusters may be prioritized, i.e. Health, Nutrition, and WASH, however, the funding proposal can include also other clusters if the justification provided is convincing. The ECHO funding is about half a million Euro, and must be utilized by September 2009.
- It was agreed that the cluster support staff should preferably be at the national level, though some clusters may have different requirements. To utilize the resources to a maximum, the staff would have primary and secondary cluster responsibility, i.e. all clusters could be covered, and would be embedded with the cluster lead agency, though administratively belong to OCHA. S/he would spend some time with the lead agency and some time with other cluster coordinators/support staff. The staff would be based on Nairobi, however, spending substantial time in the field roaming.
- *Action point:* clusters should submit to OCHA their specific requirements for cluster support. OCHA will then revise the TORs that had been circulated before the meeting and complete the funding proposal for ECHO, incl. 4 or 5 National Officers.

Early Recovery

- There was a consensus on incorporating early recovery as a standing agenda item in the intercluster discussions. A guidance note that provides a general framework on early recovery at the global level was circulated.

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Humanitarian Response

- There will be an operational meeting on Beletweyne emergency response on Friday 29 August, 10.00 am. DRC together with UNHCR is distributing 4,000 kits. OCHA coordination support is currently taking place from Wajid with DRC support. Joan Tucker and Abdullahi Warsame are the OCHA focal points. Results from the survey are expected next week. It was proposed to have a one day trip to the region through DSS support. Information sharing on coordination and response in the area is paramount. There is also need to critically look at systemic constraints that prevent quick response, given the limited response in Beletweyne to date.
- *Action point:* A mailing list for Beletweyne response will be created and sent out to all cluster leads. In addition, the matrix of 3Ws will be circulated to all partners. Continue to push DSS for a rapid assessment mission.

HRF Review Process

- OCHA provided an update on the ongoing HRF review. The feedback from donors was the lengthy process of the project proposal vetting and not enough emergency focus of the fund. Some donors also meant that the HC should in much bigger extent approve the HRF projects. Some donors also feel that the humanitarian community is not fast enough to respond to emergency needs on the ground. The Inter-cluster group agreed that the HRF review should confirm the current two track approach of the fund, incl. both emergency interventions and strategically gap filling transitional/recovery activities.
- *Action point:* the HRF Board meeting will meet to approve the draft HRF review report.

AOB

- A guidance note on capacity building for the CAP will be circulated in the coming days for comment.
- Concern was raised that UNDP population figures currently in use are for 2005. A request will be made to the UN Statistics working group from the IASC and Intercluster forum to share updated population figures for the different regions at the intercluster working group forum with reasons as to why they cannot be put into use.

Summary of Action points

Action Point	Responsibility	Deadline
1. Develop and circulate TORs for the position of support to cluster coordinator	Cluster coordinators	
2. Develop and circulate a guidance note on capacity building for the CAP	CAP Team leader	Wednesday 27 August
3. Invite UN Statistics working group to Intercluster meeting	OCHA Somalia/IASC	End of September
4. Develop a guidance note on early recovery	Mario Samaja	Wednesday 27 August
5. Ensure SC-UK WASH project be funded	HRF/OCHA Somalia	ASAP
6. Submission of cluster priority project proposals for donors/ HRF	Cluster leads	Thursday 28 August
7. Develop a mailing list for Beletweyne response	OCHA Somalia	ASAP
8. Request DSS for a rapid assessment mission to Beletweyne	OCHA Somalia	ASAP

The next meeting will take be communicated in due course.

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