

UNITED NATION



NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
SOMALIA

INITIAL INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING

Venue: COSV conference room in Marka.

Date: August 30, 2008

The meeting commenced 20 minutes later than scheduled having in mind that this was initial inter-agency coordination meeting, besides this there is a habit of delays that has been observed in all meetings, thus the meeting have got started at 09:50 am. However after welcome remarks by the chair person the floor took by the official participants and started the discussion agenda points.

Agenda points:

- brief update for security development
- discussion on cluster approach activities
- brief humanitarian situation of the region:
 - humanitarian challenges
 - areas needs special attention in terms of humanitarian crisis
 - analysis existing gaps on humanitarian interventions
- Filling humanitarian profile electronically
- Fixing date and the venue of the next meeting

Brief update for security development.

In general security situation of lower shabelle region is relatively calm even though participants have not excluded the possibility of diffusing all kinds of criminal acts existing neighboring regions such as Banadir which is currently extremely volatile in terms of security context. During security discussion it has been suggested and unanimously agreed having inter-agency security meeting weekly for updating security situation, so that it was agreed having every Saturday morning security briefing about hour (9:00-10:00am).

Discussion on cluster approach activities.

It was suggested during discussion to scale up WASH cluster activities since it has been observed increased cases of acute watery diarrhea that could affect broader population.

Further more agencies involved Nutrition cluster activities were also requested to attend inter-agency coordination meeting to update the nutritional status as well as other cluster activities to other agencies in the next meeting for awareness purpose.

In addition it was also underlined to accelerate chlorination activities as well as raising public awareness and all kinds of hygiene promotion campaign activities as preventive measures of possible acute watery diarrhea outbreak.

Further more it has been agreed to pull together three clusters which are HEALTH, WASH and NUTRITION clusters, so that it has been agreed to hold these three clusters above cited every each month at once.

Humanitarian challenges.

IDPs affected multi dimensional factors such as furious fighting, floods, cyclic droughts, etc are evenly scattered inside and outskirt of Marka town, others internally displaced people are associated to the hosting communities being burden poor urban household who was already living edge of live.

Killing and kidnapping against humanitarian community as a whole is a serious issue that shrinks humanitarian spaces while human suffering has been drastically scaling up

The escalating conflict and civil insecurity is also absolutely disrupting economic activities, trade, transportation as well as humanitarian basic services delivery.

Area needs special attention.

Nowadays WHO in collaboration with COSV has recorded increased number of inpatients admitted in Marka Regional Hospital. These patients are suffering from Acute Watery Diarrhea. Four stool samples were collected for culturing and out of these, three samples were positive for *Vibrio cholerae*. All four patients are from Marka town. In a situation like this it is necessary to implement water chlorination and strong social mobilization where by the community is aware of the risks of a full blown cholera outbreak and that they have to adopt certain control measures like drinking chlorinated or boiled water, washing hands with soap before preparing meals and before eating, after toilet use and cleaning children, etc so that it has to pay special attention to minimize possibility of acute watery diarrhea outbreak.

Frequent flood occurrence which has serious negative impact to the livelihood structures of the riverine community has been considered one of the areas to be focused, because such seasonal floods overwhelm standing crops as well as all other sources of livelihood coping mechanisms, so that flood mitigation activities are highly priority through rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures (water control structures) as well as establishing flood early warning systems.

Coordination of livelihood intervention.

A quite considerable number of international agencies are dealing with food security and livelihood coping mechanisms trying to restore sustainable livelihood programmes. Such agencies includes WFP, FAO, Care international, Concern Ireland, Cefa, WFI, etc, so that we have initiated humanitarian coordination forums in order to minimize gaps and overlapping activities and make sure best possible use of resource.

Agencies activities update.

Concern Ireland has recently distributed NFI 1500 households internally displaced people affected river floods last June 2008 in Afgoye Yare under Kuntuwarey district. In addition they are also planning to distribute empty sand bags for the coming days in order to seal off River breakage area with the help of dignitary elders as well as other influential individuals among community and district authority to avoid flood man made did not happen over again.

Cefa are currently carrying on irrigation infrastructures rehabilitation activities, training small scale farmers on best cultural practices, provision of seed distributions as well as building market shelters giving access for local producers in Khoryoley district.

UNCIEF and COSV as jointly partnership have conducted over the past weeks EPI acceleration campaign from 21-25 August for Khoryoley, from 23-27th August 2008, for Marka and Kurtuwarey, districts of lower shabelle Regions.

Further more UNICEF has in pipeline two major wash projects in Lower Shabelle and is denoted below:

- Mark urban water supply system to provide access of safe drinking water to the Mark residents
- School wash project to improve the sanitation and hygiene of the children by providing a proper latrine combined with tank that draws water from adjacent dug well to inculcate them the good practice of excreta disposal tailed by hand washing in the early age of their life

Care international currently carrying on agricultural infrastructures rehabilitation activities completing of Asayle primary irrigation channel installing 20 sluice gates of its branching 20 secondary channels from Asayle primary irrigation channel. In addition, five cross regulators inside the main Asayle primary irrigation channel where completed with 6 water catchments in far distances from riverine area as source of water point. This has helped to restore 3,000 Ha of farming land back under cultivation with addition of 2,800 Ha newly farming lands through DIALS (development of irrigated agriculture in lower shabelle) project funded by the EU. WFP is also carrying on free food distribution activities mainly along Afgoye corridor as live saving operations.

Action point for the meeting.

UNOCHA will again call for inter-agency coordination meeting and ask active participation for those agencies (WFP, Care International, and Concern) who does not attend last inter-agencies coordination meetings.

Next inter –agencies coordination meeting will be hold 30 September 2008, so that next meeting was specified as above cited date. Likewise Health, WASH, Nutrition clusters next meeting has fixed on 24th of September 2008.

It was also agreed inter –agencies weekly security meeting in every Saturday morning.

Recommendations

- It has been suggested as humanitarian community to establish effective early warning systems that can foresee possible potential risks, so that it is better to be proactive rather than dealing with problems.
- Participants have suggested simultaneous operations which means while live saving operations ahead, it has also pay special attention into economic recovery programmes addressing growing needs of displaced people as well as poor urban people revitalizing livelihood coping mechanism of the needy people.
- Humanitarian interventions have not reached almost in sablale district, so that there is no almost a single agency working there effectively, there for it has been recommended filling geographical gaps.
- Flood mitigation programmes were also suggested to minimize occurrence of seasonal floods which usually causes great loses of crop harvest, valuable assets, other properties, etc which have wider and more devastated impact on the broader population and finally creates masse displacement.

Participants:

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The 11 participants in the forum, 4 UN agencies, 7 INGOs.

Unjustified absentee:

1. WFP
2. Care international
3. Concern

Justified Absentee: NOG consortium