

UNITED NATION



NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
SOMALIA

INTER-AGENCY HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION MEETING

Venue: COSV terrace meeting space in Marka.

Date: 30th September, 2008

The meeting have commenced 20 minutes later then scheduled and this tendency of delays has been observed in all meetings, thus the meeting have got started at 10:20 am. However after welcome remarks of the chair person the floor took by the official participants and discussion of agenda points has got started.

Agenda points:

- Brief security development updates
- Current humanitarian crisis and challenges
- Areas needs special attention in terms of humanitarian interventions
- Agencies humanitarian response updates
- Fresh IDPs influx updates information.
- Fixing tentative date of next inter-agencies humanitarian coordination meeting and the venue of the next meeting.

Brief update for security development.

General security situation of lower shabelle region is relatively volatile, because current local administration has no total control over the security situation in the Region, but it is worth to mention that the local authority of lower shabelle Region has removed the check points and reduced only four official checkpoints which are 60km, lantaburo, Afgoye junction and the Elasha Biyaha which is the far end of the lower shabelle Regional boundary with Banadir Region. Alshabab militant has taken over the total control of Wanlaweyn district and parts of Afgoye district as well as road leading to Baidoa.

The elements of Islamic militants either Islamic courts union (ICU) or Al shababa have full access through out the lower shabelle region.

Humanitarian challenges.

Already existing lack of physical access roads has been worsened after prolonged torrential rains which have entirely destroyed bridges, culvert, etc, hindering possibility of being assessed the level of human suffering, so that access roads is a major challenge while there is urgent need to scale-up integrated emergency livelihood and humanitarian assistance.

Multi dimensional conflict, floods, as well as cyclic droughts, have an effect on internally displaced people who are evenly scattered in and around of Marka town, while others among those internally displaced people are integrated to the hosting communities being burden poor urban households who were already living below threshold of required living standards.

Killing and kidnapping against aid actors as whole is another serious challenge which obviously shrinks humanitarian spaces while human suffering has been drastically scaling up over broader population.

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.

WHO in collaboration with COSV have technically identified cholera outbreak in Marka even though it has been successfully managed by taking various steps of control measures such as water sources chlorination and strong social mobilization raising public awareness of the risks of full blown of cholera outbreak, but the major challenge is the acceptance and effective community participation of the cholera control measures

campaign. In addition to that cholera control task forces have been put alert establishing frequency meeting at least weekly meeting for updating information.

The internally displaced people in Marka town whose their livelihood coping strategies have been affected by the last torrential rains needs to be assisted by putting first priority the rehabilitation of the valley in order to minimize further future rains effect and free food distribution as their immediate needs as well as NFI distribution.

All those villages with acute malnutrition rates which have been identified during socioeconomic assessment conducted by the Concern world wide needs to be considered assorted food interventions as well as selective feeding centers where by acute malnutrition are very high. Such villages include Mukay dumis, Urauraw, Banany, Mukumdi, Afgoye yarey, etc.

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 also highly priority through rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures (water control structures) as well as establishing flood early warning systems.

Agencies humanitarian response update.

Concern world wide.

Concern world wide has made immediate response to the victims of the last torrential rains in lower shabelle Region, particularly in Marka town by providing cash relief 151 households who have been crashed their livelihood coping strategies by the floods.

Besides 151 households who have been assisted, concern has distributed non food items to another 1500 households in Afgoye-yarey village who have seriously affected by the shabelle River floods in last June 08. In addition concern has distributed to the above cited village residents 7000 empty sand bags and 120 iron wires for closing of flooding sources, they also distributed another 500 empty sand bags to Mukeydumis village for flood mitigation purposes.

Concern is consistently assisting 1000 households who are the most vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs) along Afgoye corridor injecting \$50 per households every month.

Care international.

Care International has rehabilitated agricultural infrastructures giving irrigation access to the peasant farmers in order to increase the level of local production though funding of DIALS (development irrigated agriculture of lower shabelle) project as well as constructing Markets shelters to support economic recovery activities in Khoryoley district and Janale village farming community.

In addition to that Care international has established canal management committees (cmc) in the project target villages giving capacity building training in the areas of record keeping, financial management, fundraising, etc in order to make sure sustainability of the rehabilitated structures and the best possible use of resources.

World health Organization (WHO).

WHO as technical support agency has supplied medical basic kit to its outlying three out patient dispensary along Afgoye corridor through Muslim UK which is one of WHO partners.

WHO also run two training EPI for MCH in the central Regions while simultaneously carrying on fresh training on TB in south central of Somalia.

WHO also provided capacity building training on 200 traditional birth attendance (TBA) in areas of safe delivery whiling continuously collecting early warning from 32 health facilities in lower shabelle through its partners.

WHO also provides technical advisory as well as required assistance to cholera control task forces and all those directly or indirectly involve cholera control management to avoid cholera large scale outbreak or leak into Afgoye corridor which is more risk to control cholera cases due to accessibility.

New way.

New way is currently carrying on social mobilization activities raising public awareness of the community in risks associated cholera large scale outbreak and also distributes purification tablet to each family in order to ensure safe drinking water. As implementing agency new ways use to run supplementary feeding programmes where there are acute malnutrition cases mainly in the Riverine areas through WFP support.

They also do general food distribution in the Riverine areas such Hantiwadag section within Janale main village with FAO support. New ways also rehabilitate silted secondary canals in Aybutay village which is under janale area in order to improve access for irrigation.

COSV

Cosv is currently carrying on cholera case management as well as Therapeutic feeding programme in general Marka Hospital. Cosv has strongly mobilize to the community risk associated cholera outbreak disseminating cholera preventive measures and trying to ward off believed misconceptions of bad hygiene practices among communities as well as chlorination of most suspected wells for contamination in order to reduce cholera outbreak.

Further more Cosv has distributed Mosquito nets through partnership to the whole districts of lower shabelle Region except wanlewyn district targeting mother and children trying to reduce malaria hazards.

Cosv is also carrying on road clearance activities in order to improve access roads, such as road leading to the El Ahmed airstrip which was heavily grown shrubs restricting sight of vision that could be the immediate cause of potential accidents.

Water for live (WFL).

Water for live has made bush clearance of the roads connecting Marka to Buffo, Mushani to Kibile, Majabto to Tawakal. In addition water for live has rehabilitated 37 secondary canals with support of FAO.

SWISSO KALMO.

SWISSO is currently dealing with TB project. Besides TB project they also run out patient dispensary.

Action point for the meeting.

UNOCHA will again call for inter-agency coordination meeting and ask active participation for those agencies (WFP, FSAU, FAO, and MDM) who does not attend last inter-agencies humanitarian coordination meetings.

Next inter –agencies coordination meeting will be hold 30 October 2008, so that next meeting was tentatively identified as above cited date and the venue will be COSV terrace meeting space in Marka as participants agreed.

Likewise Health, WASH, Nutrition clusters next meeting has fixed on 24th of October 2008.

Recommendations

- Close monitoring and frequent follow up of cholera prevention measures has been recommended in order to avoid cholera outbreak leak into Afgoye corridor where there might be high risk because of inaccessibility due to security reasons.
- It has been suggested to assist those households whose their livelihood coping strategies have been crashed by the torrential rains in last September 2008 in Marka town. Their humanitarian needs have been prioritized as follows:
 - free food distribution is their first priority needs for human live saving.
 - NFI distribution is their second priority needs since their houses have demolished by the torrential rains.
 - rehabilitation of the valley as well as shallow wells which has been covered garbage, mud, etc along water run off is also their third priority needs in order to avoid further humanitarian deteriorations that may cause future floods.
- Participants have suggested simultaneous operations which means while live saving operations ahead, special attention has to pay into economic recovery programmes addressing growing needs of displaced people as well as poor urban people who needs to revitalize their livelihood coping strategies.
- 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 13 participants in the forum, 3 UN agencies, 6 INGOs, 1LNGO.

Unjustified absentee:

1. WFP
2. UNOPS
3. UNICEF
3. UNHCHR
4. FAO
5. MDM
- 6..NGO Consortium