



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Somalia

Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) Somalia Minutes
Wednesday 29 October 2008
OCHA Regional Conference Room

Name	Organisation
Kiki Gbehok	OCHA (Chair)
Charlotte Beyer	SC Denmark (Education)
Erik Toft	UNICEF (WASH)
Maulid Warfa	UNICEF (Education)
James Kingori	UNICEF (Nutrition)
Fatima Mohammed	UNHCR (Protection)
Whycliffe Songwa	UNHCR (Shelter)
Susannah Friedman	SC UK
Malweyi Inwani	Merlin
Peter Klansoe	DRC
Einas Mohammed	WHO (Health)
Keith Ursel	WFP (Food Aid)
Ivana Unluova	OCHA
Reena Ghelani	OCHA
Elly Cotsell	OCHA (Minute-taker)

Agenda Item 1 - Introduction, Review of Previous Minutes & Update on Action Points

Action points from the last meeting were reviewed and comments can be found at **Attachment A – Action Point Matrix**. Significant discussion occurred over project prioritisation and is reflected below.

Action Point 6 – IASC and ICWG meeting with regard to Project Prioritisation

OCHA advised that project prioritisation needed to occur before the beginning of December in order to be able to take advantage of the donor funding year. OCHA also advised that project prioritisation would occur twice a year – in May and again in November/December. The discussion in the meeting focussed on the criteria for prioritisation and the fact that many cluster coordinators/chairs had already prioritised projects as part of the CAP process. There was general agreement that the message to partners is that the current prioritisation process was for immediate funding and that this did not mean that these were the only projects to get funded. All agreed that project prioritisation criteria would be developed in the next meeting for endorsement by the IASC.

Action Point: All clusters to send OCHA possible project prioritisation criteria for discussion and decision-making at next ICWG.

Agenda Item 2 – CAP ‘Hot Debrief’

A CAP ‘Hot Debrief’ was facilitated and five areas that need deeper consideration prior to next year’s CAP were identified. These were: project sheets; timing; needs analysis; capacity-building and inter-cluster linkages. A fuller summary of the discussions is at **Attachment B – CAP ‘Hot Debrief’ Outcomes**.

Agenda Item 3 – Contingency Planning & Emergency Preparedness

OCHA advised that the CAP has been completed and thanked all the cluster coordinators/chairs for their support and hard work. OCHA stated that implementing the CAP is the next stage of the

process and that there is general acknowledgement of the need to focus on contingency planning, particularly against the worst-case scenario. OCHA stated that there needed to be some preparedness capacity, particularly in relation to knowing who has what where. Education Cluster advised that they had already done some emergency planning for Somaliland, Puntland and SCZ and were willing to share their documents with other clusters.

The discussion focused on the scope and nature of the plans. All agreed that the contingency planning process needed to look at both strategic priority setting as well as detailed plans. The plans themselves should be cluster/sector specific as well as regional, as flare-ups will occur geographically. Nutrition cluster highlighted the fact that an important element of preparedness was the capacity-building of national organisations and staff. Save the Children (UK) highlighted that the current reliance on national partners was putting them at risk and that an increase in security support needed to be considered when developing the contingency plans. All agreed that the IASC needed to state that the situation was deteriorating and that the IASC is the correct body to set the priorities and parameters. Also, that the parameters needed to be set wide enough to allow for more creative solutions and that there was acknowledgment that there may be some unpopular decisions that needed to be made.

Action Point: Contingency planning to be an agenda item for the next IASC meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – National Cluster Support Officer ToRs

The Terms of Reference for the National Cluster Support Officers (NCSO) were discussed. All agreed that the generic aspect of the ToRs were acceptable once the HRF coordination aspect was removed, but that more inter-cluster work needed to be done on cluster-specific duties and tasks. OCHA reinforced that these positions were not to take over the coordination role but to support it.

Conceptually, all cluster coordinators/chairs agreed that where there was a sharing of the human resources between clusters it should be seen as 'coupling'. The following 'couples' were agreed:

- Nutrition – Food Aid
- WASH – Health
- Protection – Education – Shelter
- Agriculture and Livelihoods

Administrative issues such as where the officers sat could be agreed between the respective clusters and collaboratively monitored.

All cluster coordinators/chairs agreed on an induction program for the NCSOs in order to have them better prepared for the medium-term assignment. On the issue of assignment length, OCHA agreed to work with the donor (ECHO) on an eleven-month contract for the NCSOs. Both WFP and UNICEF offered that if the pilot was a success they **may** look at financial support once the donor funding runs out. OCHA requested assistance with the interviewing for these positions and hoped to be able to start interviewing by the end of November.

The generic ToRs were endorsed in order to move ahead with recruitment.

Action Point: OCHA to advise on funding status of National Cluster Support Officers with ECHO and confirm length of appointment.

Agenda Item 5 – A.O.B

- OCHA advised that there instability in the Mandera Triangle is increasing and that there is a Kenyan military build-up in that area. OCHA is doing some analysis of the situation. OCHA advised that at this stage the Mandera area is still free for access of supplies and people

moving from Somalia. All agreed that this area needed to be considered in the contingency planning.

- WFP advised that they met with OCHA and UNHCR on satellite imagery to assist with remote operations management. WFP advised that a policy on satellite photos is being developed.
- Education Cluster advised that Charlotte is leaving on November 7 and that as yet no other cluster coordinator has been identified but one will hopefully be in place for the beginning of 2009.

