

Minutes of
IASC AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER
MEETING

Thursday 18th December from 2.30-4.30pm

FAO Regional Emergency Office for Africa (REOA) Conference Room, Eden Square.

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Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Agriculture and Livelihoods and the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) of OCHA
3. Presentation of analysis of project proposals included in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster component of the CAP 2009
4. Early prioritisation of CAP 2009 proposals in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster component of the CAP 2009
5. Presentation, review and endorsement of the proposed Agriculture and Livelihoods "Worst Case" January to June 2009 Contingency Plan
6. AOB

1. Opening remarks

The meeting was chaired by FAO Emergency Coordinator, Andrew Harberd who welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for showing up as a large quorum. Minutes of the previous cluster meeting were reviewed and endorsed.

It was advised that in 2009, the cluster system will become more important in allocation of funds through a newly to be created Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), which will operate in addition to the HRF.

The IASC Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster will then need to be managed more closely since to date, adequate follow-up on issues has not been maintained. It also needs to be well resourced – In January 2009 an Administrative National Cluster Support Officer will be hired and seconded to the cluster from OCHA, and a Technical National Support Officer will be employed for the cluster by FAO. For the former position, funds are available from ECHO to OCHA and for the latter position; funds are available under a Swedish Government-funded FAO project.

The changes should ensure improvements in funding and delivery of the CAP 2009 for the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster, which was only approximately 24% funded in 2008.

Matters raised and discussed

2. Agriculture and Livelihoods and the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) of OCHA

- Proposals currently need to be reviewed and critiqued by the clusters before submission to HRF. This is being done by the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster by circulation of proposals for comment through the SSS mailing lists.
- During a meeting held on 12th December 2008, it was decided that the HRF should develop specific criteria for short listing the proposals submitted to the CAP 2009. It was also noted that some organisations seem to have forgotten HRF's mandate which is response to rapid emergency.
- Some organisations submitting to the HRF face a possible rejection of proposals that are geared towards long-term interventions as opposed to emergency response. The cluster system will play a significant role in sieving such submissions.
- In the presence of a CHF, the HRF will evolve to a more strictly purely emergency fund and will be appropriate for use in response to rapid onset emergencies
- The proposal format for the HRF will change – It is expected that the format will be simplified and proposal applications reduced from what are commonly 15 page proposals to 2-3 pages.
- In considering proposals for the HRF, the following criteria will be considered by the HRF secretariat:
 - Only recognised NGOs on the ground with capacity will be considered
 - Clusters will have to vet the proposals
 - No agency should have more than 3 projects ongoing at any one time
 - The number of no-cost-extensions should not exceed a year
 - OCHA will negotiate increased security and transport costs

A brief presentation to the cluster on the HRF was made by Ivana Unluova, Humanitarian Response Fund/ Donor Relations Manager, OCHA. US\$ 25 million was provided by donors to the HRF in 2008. To date, US\$ 14 million has been allocated to fund 51 of the 120

proposals submitted. Ivana stressed that proposals submitted to the HRF should be clear, concise and in line with the basic principle of the HRF of responding to emergencies. *(The full presentation will be circulated to the cluster members).*

3. Presentation of analysis of project proposals included in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster component of the CAP 2009 (presented by Ayoo Odicoh, FAO Somalia Gender and HIV/AIDS Coordinator)

The presentation emphasised the need to support marginalised populations and disadvantaged sectors of society - especially female-led households and women in need. It was noted that a key feature of the CAP 2009 for the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster is the decision to focus 75% of cluster resources in areas of Acute Food and Livelihoods Crisis (AFLC) and 25 % in areas of Humanitarian Emergency (HE). The Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster response plan for 2009 lists 3 objectives, 23 key actions, and 13 indicator targets to be achieved by May 2009. There are 10 key indicators to be monitored. In terms of geographical coverage, a concern expressed in an earlier meeting that the Middle Jubba region would not be well represented in the CAP 2009, appears not to have been sustained *(The full presentation will be circulated to the cluster members).*

4. Early prioritisation of CAP 2009 proposals in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster component of the CAP 2009

In considering the early prioritisation of proposals for implementation under the CAP 2009 at the start of the New Year, the following four criteria are to be considered (though may be modified/added to/made more cluster-specific by the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster):

1. Level of Emergency (AFLC; HE; IDP);
2. Areas with additional factors that could exacerbate vulnerability e.g. food shortages, recent displacement;
3. Lifesaving activities (e.g. nutrition, WASH);
4. Good organizational track record of the implementing agency.

The chair considered that rigid inclusion of point 4 would never allow new NGOs to gain entry, and that it has often been argued by the UN as a problem that there is a shortage of national NGO partners in parts of Somalia. The prioritisation criteria will be circulated to the membership of the Agriculture and Livelihood Cluster for comment.

5. Presentation, review and endorsement of the Proposed Agriculture and Livelihoods “Worst Case” January to June 2009 Contingency Plan

The chair explained the process of developing the Agriculture and Livelihoods “Worst Case” January to June 2009 Contingency Plan, a process facilitated and led by Elizabeth Cotsell of OCHA, and which required participation by the Cluster Chair in a one day contingency planning workshop held on Wednesday 03rd December. The draft contingency plan will be circulated for comments. In the event that no comments are received the plan will be considered as endorsed.

6. AOB

Under AOB, Mr. Ali Mohamed Mohamud of the NGO TARDO (Tanad Relief and Development Organisation) based in Adaado district of Galgaduud region was given the opportunity to make a presentation of one of two TARDO proposals initially submitted to the CAP 2009. TARDO intend to consider comments received from the cluster and then to forward the revised proposal to the HRF for funding.

The project is intended to benefit 100 IDP families, a total of 600 persons, principally through the distribution of donkeys and carts for use in income generation activities – e.g. building materials, firewood, water transportation, etc. The project is expected to be implemented for a period of three months at a cost of \$ 101, 859.

It was recognised given the dire situation for IDP households in Adaado, and the priority status for assistance of Galgaduud that the project would be worth supporting through the HRF. However, there was considerable discussion on the unit purchase price of the donkeys proposed of US\$ 525 each, which was generally regarded as excessively high. It was proposed that TARDO purchase donkeys in an area such as Jalalaaqsi where they are plentiful and transport by lorry to Adaado, but this idea was generally rejected by TARDO as it was said that these donkeys would not adapt to Adaado district and would die of “homesickness”. The recommendation is that TARDO should obtain independent source data on market prices for donkeys in Adaado and surrounding districts, ideally through a project such as the FAO FSAU project, and use these figures in revising the budget of the TARDO project in relation to donkey purchases.

Action Points

1. Cluster members to contribute to the monitoring of project interventions, as well as to prioritising interventions with regard to relevance, priorities, geography, timeliness and type of interventions.
2. The Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster to work more closely to ensure improvements in funding and delivery of the CAP 2009.
3. Cluster members to comment on proposals forwarded by the cluster chair that have or will be submitted to the HRF
4. The chair to circulate the proposed Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster “Worst Case” January to June 2009 Contingency Plan for comment.
5. The chair to circulate the CAP 2009 project prioritisation criteria for comment/modification/addition
6. The Chair to circulate the presentation on the HRF by Ivana Unluova
7. The Chair to circulate the presentation on the CAP 2009 Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster Projects analysis by Ayoo Odicoh

Conclusion

The meeting ended with the Chair thanking all those who attended the meeting.

Date for Next Meeting

Next meeting planned for Friday 23rd January 2009 at the meeting room, FAO Regional Emergency Office for Africa from 10:00 hrs.