

Minutes of
IASC AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER
MEETING

Friday 23rd January 2009 from 10.00-12 noon

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

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Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Prioritisation of CAP 2009 Proposals in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster component of the CAP 2009 – Proposed 4 initial priority projects for cluster endorsement.
3. Endorsement of the proposed Agriculture and Livelihoods “Worst Case” January to June 2009 Contingency Plan
4. Presentation to Cluster of Results, Achievements and Lessons Learned
5. Presentation to Cluster of the World Bank-Funded FAO Project: “Rapid Response Rehabilitation of Rural Livelihoods Project”
6. AOB.

for the CERF-Funded FAO Project: “Integrated Cash and Food for Work in Support of Populations in Food Security Crisis in Middle and Lower Shabeelle Regions of Southern Somalia”

1. Opening remarks

The meeting was chaired by FAO Emergency Coordinator, Andrew Harberd who welcomed those in attendance. No comments were received from the circulated minutes of the previous meeting so they were considered endorsed.

1.1. Presentation from SIFO Organization

Mr Ali Sabriye from Somali Integrated Fishing Organization (SIFO) was given the opportunity to present his proposal since he needed to leave urgently. The project titled “Warkoy riverine” project is located in Jamame district, Lower Juba region and is seeking 260,000 USD funding from OCHA-HRF for a six months intervention period.

The project’s main objectives include;

- ☺ Assist, through the development of fisher associations, vulnerable and impoverished riverine farming/fishing communities in Jamame District, to regain their livelihoods, through the provision of emergency kits of fishing gear .
- ☺ Assist, through provision of vital trainings together with practical demonstrations how to make use of fish waste.
- ☺ Improve marketing and processing of fish products, through construction of a fish market shelter in Jamame town.

Target beneficiaries will be 1,851 HH to include vulnerable Somali Bantus (esp. female headed families), fishery communities (Bantu, IDPs), from the villages along the river in Warkoy west and east of Jamame District.

(The presentation to be circulated to the cluster members for their comments and review)

2. Prioritisation of CAP 2009 of proposals in the Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster component of the CAP 2009- Proposed 4 initial priority projects for cluster endorsement.

This was a process driven from OCHA where 4 projects from the CAP 2009 were to be prioritised from each clusters in relation to the current humanitarian crisis in Somalia, compiled together and presented to the donors for priority implementation.

The CAP 2009 has 73 proposals from the agriculture and livelihood cluster. During the process of prioritisation, the criteria put into consideration were:

- Level of emergency (AFLC,HE,IDP’s)
- Areas with additional factors that could exacerbate vulnerability e.g. food shortages, recent displacements
- Lifesaving activities

Another important consideration was;

- ❖ Based on the current situation in Somalia where there is urgent need for humanitarian assistance to be provided to the displaced people in Galgadud region.

This prioritisation process went through 4 stages where the first stage had 43 projects followed by the second stage that narrowed them to 11. Third and fourth stages saw the projects narrowed down to six and four respectively.

The chair (Andrew Harberd) explained that this was a process not well thought out and there was need to consider the starting point. He proposed that the following methodology would be a better more logical starting point from which to prioritise the CAP:

CAP 2009 Prioritisation:

A Possible Starting Point from which to go to project prioritisation:

	<u>US\$</u>	
CAP 2009:	918,844,549	
Food Aid:	544,263,112	
CAP 2009 – Food Aid:	<u>374,581,437</u>	
Agriculture & Livelihoods:	58,408,672	15.59%
Average budget per project:	800,119	

73 projects of typically 12 months duration

Ask donors to fund 25% of CAP from January for a first quarter instalment....

→ **14,602,168**

Equivalent to 18 average budget projects

Or accept that the CAP will (as in 2008) be only 40% funded...

→ **5,840,867**

Equivalent to approx. 7 average projects

There is need to consider how often we prioritise projects in relation to a rapidly changing humanitarian situation in Somalia. The Chair has proposed to the IASC a minimum of 4 prioritisations in a year although this was not acceptable within the IASC as it was seen to be too much work for the respective clusters.

It was agreed that the Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster is completely opposed to any kind of overall secondary prioritisation process being conducted in relation to the prioritisations submitted by the individual clusters, as has been proposed by OCHA. Such a process is likely (as previously) to favour “life saving” food, WASH and health interventions, with the relegation of Agriculture and Livelihoods Projects to the bottom of the list.

Mario Samaja (UNDP)

- With the 4-project selection approach, overall prioritisation has presented to the donors just 5.2% of the CAP. If these are priority projects, just what are the rest?.
- The 4-project selection process is inadequate, insufficiently ambitious, the size of the budget presented is far too small, and we should consider the entire CAP, as food aid is also a part of the CAP and competing for donors and funds.
- We should aim for at least 25-30% of the annual CAP budget, and even front-load the request for the January prioritisation and seek 30-40% funding of the CAP budget..
- On frequency of prioritisation, given interest by the donors to use this mechanism, prioritisation should be done on at least a quarterly basis; it is not really realistic that this will result in too much work for the clusters. However, we may have to live with a 6-month process as requested by other clusters.
- Level of humanitarian needs; it was already discussed during the preparation of CAP 2009 that priority areas for the Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster (different from other clusters) should be areas in AFLC. In this case a budget limit of 25% for HE areas can be set (as in the 2009 cluster response plan). More or less the same process of prioritisation can be used but emphasis be put on areas in AFLC.
- Cannot compare this process with last year’s year-end process, where we knew the donors had funds remaining, and we provided information to guide allocation of unspent remaining funds.

- Should strongly dispute the idea of a secondary ranking of all cluster projects, as was done last year, as this seriously disadvantages agriculture and livelihoods projects.

Action point

- Andrew Harberd and Mario Samaja will follow up with OCHA to defend the prioritisation work already done within the cluster and by the cluster members.

Suggestions from cluster members

- Abdi Raghe (AFREC): It would be good to wait until Tuesday 27th and then base the process on the results of the post-“Der” analysis. Also to go back to the cluster principle of early recovery and rehabilitation, as well as the issue of analysing gaps.
- Abdiwahab (ASEP): There is need to increase the number of proposals put forward and also work closely with other clusters during the prioritisation process.

Andrew Harberd (FAO Somalia)

- The prioritisation process was done in a short period with deadlines and a guiding framework from OCHA. The criteria for prioritisation were circulated on 19th January to cluster members for comments. Since no comments to the contrary were received the process was endorsed. However, an alternative methodology for prioritisation has been proposed
- There is a need for a harmonization of the prioritisation process used by the clusters, and there should be no secondary prioritisation by OCHA.

After several discussions the cluster members agreed that;

- The CAP 2009 projects be re-visited and a consideration of 30-40% be put on the budget
- Push for quarterly review of CAP 2009 projects based on seasonality of the cluster and flexibility. Ultimately, the funding can come from both donors and through the to be introduced Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF).
- Cluster should provide 75% of resources to areas in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC), as in the Agriculture and Livelihoods CAP 2009 response plan
- Identify and try to cover gaps, as this was seen to be a missing element of the process.

Action point

- Andrew Harberd to revisit the prioritisation process and come up with a new proposal over the weekend for consideration by the cluster at a special meeting of the IASC Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster at 14:00 hrs on Tuesday 27th January. In the meantime, Andrew Harberd to write to OCHA to inform of the process, and to forward a cluster-endorsed prioritisation to OCHA, following the 27th January meeting, for use at the IASC-donors meeting on Thursday 29th January.

3. Endorsement of the proposed Agriculture and Livelihoods “Worst Case” January to June 2009 Contingency Plan

This contingency plan was circulated to cluster members on 20th December 2008 and as no comment has been received by cluster members, it is considered endorsed. Andrew Harberd explained that OCHA was not happy with the consistency of the cluster contingency plans, and has opted to have a discussion with each cluster concerning the contingency plan..

Action point

Andrew Harberd to forward to Abdi Ali Raghe of AFREC the Cluster Contingency Plan, as it was not received.

4. Presentation to Cluster of Results, Achievements and Lessons Learned for the CERF-Funded FAO Project: “Integrated Cash and Food for Work in Support of Populations in Food Security Crisis in Middle and Lower Shabeelle Regions of Southern Somalia” **Andrea Berlofffa, FAO Project Manager**

The project was implemented in L shabelle and not M Shabelle as indicated in the title. This is because UNDP had similar interventions in M Shabelle. The project’s main objective was to provide income, food and save lives and livelihoods, whilst rehabilitating important rural production (irrigation canals and water catchments) and support infrastructure (rural feeder roads) to enable recovery for rural populations during the 2008 “Deyr” season.

The implementing partners comprised of 17 NGO’s from L Shabelle and 2 International NGO’s. The major aim of the project was to inject money to the local community whilst enabling rehabilitation of the infrastructure, as indicated in the title.

The project reached 66,673 direct beneficiaries through cash for work activities. Tools procured for the project were distributed to worker-beneficiaries. Through providing employment opportunities, the project injecting more than US\$ 1 million of cash into the rural economy and increased the purchasing power of the poor labourers facing the impact of soaring food prices;

Various concerns raised by the cluster members on the project included; Project not indicating its impact on people’s access to the market and rather more task oriented and the need for harmonization of such projects as seen in the payment modalities where UNDP project initiated their payment modality by day work while FAO did by volume.

Action points.

- Sergio Innocente (Project Manager, World bank-funded FAO project) will review the CERF project before starting the World Bank project in the Lower Shabeelle as interventions by the World Bank RRRRLP will be similar, especially in L Shabelle.
- The full project presentation to be circulated to the cluster members

5. Presentation to Cluster of the World Bank-Funded FAO Project: “Rapid Response Rehabilitation of Rural Livelihoods Project” **Sergio Innocente, FAO Project Manager and Laxmann Reddy, FAO Operational Manager**

The project is a response to soaring food prices, recognising Somalia’s dependence on food imports. The main objective of the project is to increase crop and livestock production in areas affected by the food crises. The interventions will be carried out in;

- Central South Somalia
- Puntland
- Somaliland

The project will be implemented in 44 Districts and 18 Regions

Action points

- NGOs interested in implementing activities foreseen under WB project shall directly contact Sergio Innocente RRRRL project manager ad interim: Sergio.innocente@fao.org
- The full project presentation to be circulated to the cluster members

Conclusion

The meeting ended with the Chair thanking the many people who attended the meeting, and apologising for the lack of space that forced many to stand. With the increasing size of the meetings, the next Agriculture and Livelihoods Meeting will take place at a much larger venue, where all participants will be able to be seated.

Date for Next Meeting

A special meeting to discuss a new proposal for the January 2009 prioritisation of projects was planned for Friday 27th January 2009 at FAO Regional Conference meeting room, Eden Square from 14:00 hrs.