



**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN
AFFAIRS (OCHA) SOMALIA**

**IDP Working Group Minutes
Wednesday 27 January 2009
Kalson Towers, Nairobi**

Chairs			
Cedric Petit	OCHA	Bediako Buahene	OCHA
Participants			
Gaspard Bossoli	MOM France	Paul Fiszman	UNICEF
Gerrit Maritz	UNICEF	Ali Osman	Muslim Aid
Tammy Orr	UNDP Mine Action	Demam Mohamod	Mercy Corps
Noe Falk	UNDP Mine Action	Ahmed Moalin	SOYDEN
Reiseal Ni Cheilleachair	CONCERN	Ombretta Tempra	UN-HABITAT
Ahmed Farah	OCHA	Kevin Mackey	World Vision
Abdi Hussein Roble	FSAU	Husham Halim	IOM
Susannah Friedman	SCUK	Kristine Otterlei	OCHA
Federica D Andreagiovanni	OCHA NY	Merin Waterhouse	UNICEF
Massimiliano Palma	INERSOS	Rashid A. Mohamed	OCHA
Isabella Garino	CESVI	Mera Thompson	Education Cluster
Bastien Vigneau	UNICEF	Patrick Abok	WHO
Robert Maletta	OXFAM	Amina Hogi	SSWC
Hassan M. Ali Keynaan	UNHCR	Marco Conte	UNHCR
Elena Giannini	IOM	Luul Sharmance	SPF
Abdirashid Hussein	Muslim Aid UK	Abdul Fatah M. Hassan	BWDN
Dominique Ferretti	WFP	Hala Suliman	WFP
Ahmed Yusuf	Access Aid		

Introductory remarks:

While there are a number of agenda items, the bulk of the time will be spent on the issue of returns to Mogadishu. This meeting is timely as there is a Donor meeting scheduled for the 29th of January during which questions, no doubt, will come up regarding the humanitarian community's view on what is happening in Mogadishu with respect to those returning. Finally, the main themes of the Protection Cluster's IDP strategy for 2009, will be highlighted and a soft copy circulated for comments. This is a UNHCR/OCHA initiative on behalf of the Protection Cluster. The last review of an IDP strategy was in 2005.

Update and Response to the conflict in Galgaduud

50,000 to 70,000 families are reported to have been displaced in Galgaduud region of central Somalia due to the recent conflict. Most IDPs are reported to be in the outskirts of Guriceel and Dhusamareb towns at a radius of 40kms. It is reported that IDPs are living in roughly 80 different locations in the outskirts of the towns. The general consensus is that IDPs prefer not to return to the towns of Guriceel and Dhusamareb because of the conflicts between Al-shabaab and clan militias.

Response:

Based on what OCHA has been able to gather, the following picture emerges: generally, there are very few UN activities, and effectively no UN presence in the region. This has made responding to the displacement very difficult. ICRC is expected to distribute NFIs for about 12,000 families and WFP is planning to target and reach the same number of families that CARE used to provide food to. In **Health**, following the kidnapping of ACF staff in Dhusamareb, ACF's nutritional supplementary activities were suspended, which is affecting between 4000 and 5000 people. **Sanitation**, since the conflict between Al-shabaab and clan militias might take longer than expected hence there is need to check the sanitary conditions of the current IDP locations, as currently there are no known ongoing activities. **Livelihoods**, no activities specifically addressing the current displacement have been reported to OCHA.

Update / Analysis / Trends of reported returns to Mogadishu

According to UNHCR's PMT reports, roughly 13,300 families have returned to Mogadishu over the last two months. Among this group, 4800 are reported to be from the Hiran region (specifically Beledwein and Jalalaqsi Districts). People that have also been displaced within Mogadishu town are reported to be returning to their respective districts within Banadir regions. Some of the districts that are reported people to be returning from are Madina, Dharkenley. Also some IDPs from Galgaduud are returning since there is no major conflict going on in Mogadishu, while the conflict in central regions may continue.

No major IDP return has been reported from the Afgoi corridor, even though Ethiopians have withdrawn fully Mogadishu. The following theories were presented to try and explain the reasons for IDPs not returning in greater numbers: homes destroyed or totally looted; concern about available assistance; mines and UXO; and more security savvy because they live closer to Mogadishu and are more aware of what is happening in the city than, for example, those living in Central. Additional possibilities suggested were: general insecurity because the Al-shabaab announced that they will attack AMISOM, and the disruption/destruction of coping mechanism.

Areas where people might return to within Banadir region are Huriwaa, Yaqshiid and Wardhiigley. These areas were occupied by the Ethiopians for two years

The general consensus reached is as follows:

- Mass Afgoi IDP return to Mogadishu is not foreseen in the near future; and therefore, regular delivery of services and assistance should continue as before.
- It was agreed that more information on the actual composition of the IDPs living in Afgoi was necessary to better understand possible return dynamics.
- Partners such as the PMT and the NGOs operating the Wet Feeding Programme already operating in Mogadishu will be requested to assist in improved monitoring to discover any patterns of returns
- Look into other indicators, which may suggest increasing returns such as cost of construction supplies / tools
- Review of local media reporting on IDP returns, as well as, contacting NGOs bilaterally to obtain information
- A focal team created to collate all the information obtain, and to be disseminated to the IDP WG
- There should be a general agreement on when the shift from assistance in Afgoi to Mogadishu should occur
- There should be a recognition that those who remained in Mogadishu also will require assistance so that the focus cannot solely be on the IDPs who are returning
- For general baseline surveys, the following monitoring mechanisms could be used:

- Using satellite imagery / sampling exercise to understand population movements and composition:
- Using UNICEF's supplementary blanket feeding to discover increases or decreases in use

Mine Action in collaboration with UNICEF is developing a "mine risk awareness" programme targeting specifically children. The project proposal currently is being put together, and funding will be requested

Presentation of main themes – Draft IDP Strategy 2009

The following main objectives outline the Protection strategy for the IDPs in Somalia for 2009:

- Improve the protection situation of IDPs and their current **living conditions**, while promoting and fostering durable solutions for them, as well as for returnees and other vulnerable populations living in the same areas/host communities
- To promote the **self-reliance and coping mechanisms** of the displaced in order to improve the quality of protection enjoyed and enable them to contribute to the development of their host communities, while at the same time preparing them for eventual voluntary resettlement
- Strengthen and support **monitoring and reporting mechanisms** on violations of Human Rights
- **Building capacity and sensitivity** amongst stakeholders at field level to prevent and provide adequate response to Protection Challenges

The Table of Contents will be the following: Executive summary; Objectives; Key protection issues for those displaced in Somalia; Constraints; The IDPs in the different regions; Protection activities for the needs of displaced persons; Implementation strategies; and:

- Annex I Operational challenges, enabling programs, access and evaluation
- Annex II More about remote management
- Annex III Matrix with suggested protection challenges and activities

Action Points:

- Refine current monitoring tools and contact partners on the ground (**UNHCR & OCHA**)
- A response map of humanitarian assistance in Mogadishu will be generated and disseminated in one week (**OCHA**)
- IDP WG members to contact focal point team with information on returns (**IDP WG**)
- Focal point team consists of:
 - John Marinos (marinos@unhcr.org)
 - Bediako Buahene (Buahene@un.org)
 - Cedric Petit (petit1@un.org)
- IDP WG member to please take a moment and complete an on-line OCHA client satisfaction survey at: http://ocha.unog.ch/dataCol/survey.asp?survey_id=504
- Documents distributed at the IDP WG meeting (**OCHA**)
- IDP Strategy paper to be circulated (**OCHA**) – Comments to be submitted to Kristin Otterlei (otterlei@un.org) by **COB Friday 06 February**.