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Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – SOMALIA

HIRAN INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION MEETING**Venue:** COOPI OFFICE IN BELET WEYNE**Date:** February 5, 2009**Participants**

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Discussed agenda:

1. Updates by agencies on Humanitarian situation including security
2. Operational access in Hiran
3. Cholera outbreaks information sharing and its preparedness plans
4. Sector/cluster activities Updates by agencies including target settlements/villages
5. Discussion on developing or updating humanitarian profile for Hiran region (who does what and where matrix)
6. AOB

Introduction

The meeting started with welcoming of the participants. The meeting reminded the need to be concise and to the point in order to keep the time of the meeting as security meeting will follow. It was noted that the participation of the meeting was good. The meeting elected UNICEF representative to chair the meeting and UNOCHA to take the minutes. The agendas of the meeting were read and the participants endorsed with minor changes.

The meeting minutes

1. Updates by agencies on Humanitarian situation including security

The participants discussed the current humanitarian situation of the region and was agreed the overall situation of the region is in a critical situation due to food insecurity and increased malnutrition children that were observed. Further the FSAU post Gu assessment findings indicated increased people in the region that are in need of humanitarian assistance. The displaced people from the town as well as new rural displacement are facing conditions of extreme food insecurity as they loss their livestock.

The meeting briefly discussed the above agenda and shared their views looking the food security situation and nutrition status conditions. It was agreed that the over all food security situation of the region is critical due to food insecurity situation. Recent press release from FSAU and FEWSNET confirmed that over all Somalia condition are continuing to be remained in emergency and humanitarian crises due to the deteriorating civil security and armed conflicts. The Deyr rains were below normal resulting prolonged dry season and poor pasture for pastoralists as well as the Deyr harvests is expected below normal.

It was mentioned the WFP general food distribution in January reduced the main stable food price particularly maize from Sosh 400,000 to 200,000 per 50kg sack which is positive.

The nutrition situation of the region is characterized high rates of acute malnutrition above emergency levels. The trend of malnutrition rates are deteriorating based on the

information from health centers who are partners with FSAU. The Deyr rains failure and increased diarrhea cases are among the reasons of high malnutrition rates of the region.

2. Operational access in Hiran

The participants shared their views on operational access in Belet Weyne district and in general Hiran region. After deeply discussing, the meeting established that there is no problem of access in roads and the airport. It was reported that the agencies have been traveling and implementing projects in the field smoothly without any obstacles. Some participants stated that they have done extensive travel in the region conducting supervision and monitoring projects.

The meeting also pointed out some security improvement in the region and reduction of roadblocks and bandits. The business transactions and transportations of the region continue without any major obstacles.

3. Cholera outbreaks information sharing and its preparedness plans

Participants agreed to skip this point as it was discussed 2 weeks ago in the cholera task force meeting of WASH cluster. IMC WASH cluster lead agency was requested to organize another meeting soon.

4. Sector/cluster activities Updates by agencies including target settlements/villages

Due to the high number of the meeting attendance, some of the agencies had chance to brief their activities to the meeting. Cluster activities information will be shared through filling of Hiran humanitarian profile.

UNICEF reported that they implement projects through partners. Their routine activities in the region include support education, Health/Nutrition and WASH projects. In nutrition activities UNICEF is currently distributing Plumby – Doz in the 2 districts of Bulo Burte and Jalalaqsi and Boco village of Belet weyne district.

ADRA is implementing Education project at 10 community schools in Buloburte and Beletweyne districts, in partner with UNOCHA. The programme includes school renovation, construction of latrines at the schools and feeding programme. ADRA is also doing WASH project in Buloburte, Beletweyne and part of Mataban district of Hiran region.

COOPI reported that they have been implementing livelihood Project. They rehabilitated rain water catchments and shallow wells in Belet weyn district through Cash for work. COOPI has distributed seeds to 29 villages in Belet weyne district. COOPI have conducted assessment of the slaughter houses in 5 districts of the region.

DRC reported that they are implementing WASH, Income generation activities, agriculture and infrastructure rehabilitations in the region. DRC shared the meeting list of the villages of their planned activities in 2009 which was they have shared with ADRA and the villages of the activities achieved in the 2008. DRC emphasized the importance of sharing list of the villages in order not to replicate the same activities in the same villages.

SCUK mentioned the on-going education activities of the agency such as Strengthening Capacity of Teachers Training (SCOTT) and ISPABE focusing on school rehabilitations. SCUK also commence Emergency Nutrition and WASH project in 3 districts of Belet Weyne, Matabaan and Maxaas.

WHO reminded the meeting that Polio activities are routine work as usual. He raised comment on nutrition screening activities in the region. Due to the needy populations, parents are bringing their malnourished children from long district sometimes more than 5km to screening centers at the same time the services takes days to deliver the assistance. This caused to suffer more the malnutrition children. It was mentioned that there are some agencies working on tackling the malnutrition in the region and the situation is continuing to deteriorate instead of improving. There is a need to improve the screening system practice. The meeting agreed conducting a separate meeting for nutrition cluster to further discuss this issue. OCHA was commissioned to organize nutrition sector meeting ASAP.

KANAVA mentioned that they are youth organization focus on capacity building activities in the region. KANVA provide vocational and secretariat training to the youth including computer training.

5. Discussion on developing or updating humanitarian profile for Hiran region (who does what and where matrix)

In the meeting, the humanitarian profile matrix were circulated and discussed in the meeting in order to get common understanding in filling the matrix by the agencies. The importance and the use of the profile were explained to the meeting. The columns of the matrix were also explained and how to fill them. Among the aims of the 3Ws matrix is to identify sector and geographical gaps existing in the Hiran. The matrix will help better coordination mechanism and maximizing available resources.

It was noticed the recent completed projects to be record together with current activities. For better monitoring it was suggested in the first column to be list of the locations/settlements instead of cluster/sectors. It will facilitate identifying the villages covered and none covered. In addition the meeting requested soft copies of the matrix and was promised to be circulated together with the minutes.

6. AOB

IDPs return to Mogadishu was raised in the meeting. It was mentioned that report from protection clusters certify a big number of IDPs from various locations has returned to Mogadishu since the Ethiopian withdrawal. The majority were coming from Hiran as well as from Galgaduud region. The figures are not fully agreed by the agencies as the returns depend on family ability to cover the cost of the transportation.

1. Action Points from this meeting;

Actions to be undertaken are:

7. Conduct nutrition cluster meeting and UNOCHA to organize the meeting ASAP;
8. IMC, the lead of WASH cluster to arrange cholera task force meeting;

9. UNOCHA to circulate soft copies of the profile together with minutes of the meeting and agencies to fill humanitarian profile with one week timeframe;