



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

Summary of discussions - Inter-cluster working group, Wednesday 21 January 2009

Venue: OCHA RO Conference Room, Nairobi at 2.30 – 4.00 pm

Introductory remarks

On contingency planning, clusters were requested to work toward completing the plan by the end of January 2009. The HC briefed participants on concern about possible flow of IDPs from Afgooye to Mogadishu. An IDP working group meeting will take place on Tuesday 27 January to understand the current situation. Following discussion, the meeting agreed that humanitarian actors need a position on how to perhaps refocus assistance from Afgooye to Mogadishu. IDPs coming back from Galgaduud need to be considered

Action: The HC stated that he would share the outcome of his visit to Puntland on 18 January with the cluster leads.

CAP priority projects for immediate funding

Clusters have prioritized their projects based on four criteria derived from FSAU classification and assessments. So far, projects have been received from health, nutrition and food aid, WASH, protection and logistics cluster for presentation to the IASC Somalia. Debate took place on the prioritization process. In conclusion it was agreed that lessons learnt from the two prioritization processes, including suggestions from cluster leads warranted a full discussion of the ICWG.

Action point: Project prioritization process to be placed on agenda of next ICWG.

Update on Galgaduud

The region is still very tense and it seems that IDPs remain out of Guri Ceel and Dhuusamarreeb. Most of the partners believe that IDPs will remain out of Guri Ceel and Dhuusamarreeb for sometime, because IDPs fear that new clashes may erupt. There is a potential risk of expansion of the conflict to El Bur district.

Depending on sources, IDP population estimates as a result of the conflict range from 50,000 to 300,000 people, though the latter figure was seen as too high compared to the over all population figures for the region. Much of the emergency response is being provided by ICRC/SRCS, MSF/B. Other agencies such as WFP and UNICEF are gearing up ongoing responses, though it is difficult given the current security environment. There are gaps in supplementary feeding because ACF suspended its structural feeding programs (SFP) in November 2008. Sanitation may become an issue if IDPs remain displaced. Livelihood

activities should be adapted to take into consideration the new environment.

OCHA circulated a matrix of ongoing and planned operations within a two month timeframe. OCHA will contact partners to reassess remaining gaps by the end of the month.

Update on National Cluster Support Officers

Interviews were conducted and candidates identified for food aid, WASH, health and agriculture and livelihoods clusters. The Appointment and Promotion panel will meet following which letters of offer will be sent out within a week. It is hoped that NCSOs will be on board by the end of February. OCHA will send out a letter to heads of agencies for the NCSOs outlining conditions of employment.

Delivery in priority areas

The 2009 Somalia CAP is the second largest globally. There are concerns from donors over the ability of the humanitarian community to implement the programmes within the CAP. They have been informed that the situation in Somalia should be treated as a critical emergency. In this regard, weekly meetings have been instituted between the HC and heads of humanitarian agencies to get a better understanding on actual response and action required to facilitate response. Clusters will be an important source of information in terms of actual delivery on the ground. They should also be able to provide ideas on how to overcome constraints and challenges.

Action: Clusters were requested to provide input/information on a regular basis.

A.O.B (Health/Nutrition cluster update)

The Health Sector Committee of the SSS has been discussing issues related to "Alternative ways of doing business in Somalia" in light of limited access (see attachment). A small task force was formed in December 2008, and some of their proposals/ideas were shared in the last Health Sector Committee meeting held on 16 January.

Given that the issues highlighted cut across all the sectors and in an effort to avert duplication of efforts, a suggestion was made to share this issue with the Inter-cluster working group and to possibly respond in a coordinated manner.

Action: Dr Kamran, Somalia Health Sector Coordinator circulated a draft document. Clusters were requested to provide feedback to Dr Kamran [KamranM@unops.org] by 4 February 2009

The next Intercluster working group meeting will take place on 23 February 2009.