

Minutes of Drought Taskforce Meeting
12/03/09
HADMA office

Participants

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The meeting was chaired by HADMA co – chaired by OCHA was called by Puntland Drought Taskforce to address the recent water and food crisis in parts of Puntland.

The meeting proceedings primarily focused on the following:

1. Update on food security and livelihood situation – based on FSAU led interagency Post Deyr 08/09 assessment report (HADMA & FSAU & NCA presentations)
2. Update on the outcome of the government meeting on the drought in Puntland (HADMA)
3. Agree on worst affected locations, populations in need of assistance and appropriate humanitarian interventions (All participants)

1. Update on food security and livelihood situation – based on FSAU led interagency Post Deyr 08/09 assessment report

After the opening remarks, HADMA briefed the participants on the current food security situation and water crisis in Puntland because of either poor performance or total failure of the last 4 seasons in Puntland. In last two years (which have 2 main rainy seasons each), ***the rains were poor, failed and below normal in Hawd of Nugal, Mudug and Sool which is the area from Eyl town to Buhodle town by length and from Harfo to Birta – dheer by width.*** These areas were also the worst affected during the last drought (Jilaal) where many pastoralists lost their livestock especially the camel and cattle. According to information received by HADMA from these areas, there is severe humanitarian crisis, assets depleted and the water and food are the main priority needs. Although food is available in some areas, people can't buy the food and other household necessities as terms of trade are not good. In most places, each head of animal buys only 25kg of rice. Despite the decrease of the price of the food commodities compare to 6 months ago, but still the purchasing power of the local people is very low. Water is one of the most expensive necessities in the rural and pastoral areas affected by the recent water crisis. ***The average water price per drum is between \$5 - \$6 in most of rural and pastoral settlements where water trucking has already started in end of January 2009.***

In addition to that, health problems among people and animals was also reported but was not that emergency which can develop into an outbreak. However, malnutrition rate among children is very high which some times results in death main the coastal settlements of Mudug and Nugal as well as IDPs and urban poor in major towns. The situation is expected to deteriorate before 20 March 2009, the peak of the Jilaal season where lives of people and animals will be in danger unless appropriate response is devised.

Furthermore, as contribution from the participants on HADMA presentation, it was noted that drought is recurring in Puntland every year these days hence the ***need for emergency preparedness plan is urgent.*** This issue was further stressed by PSAWEN (Puntland Water Agency) while discussing the need to rehabilitate non functioning boreholes and to drill new boreholes in areas where there are no boreholes. The areas currently affected by the drought are the area with fewer boreholes compared to other regions in Puntland. During PSAWEN assessment on existing water infrastructure in Puntland it was noted that a vast area in Hawd of Nugal between Garowe and Dhegenle, for instance, has only 2 functioning boreholes. These two boreholes are in Awrculus and Hasbahalle (each has two boreholes but only one for each is functioning). Additionally, there is only functioning borehole between Burtinle and Buhodle, a very vast grazing pastoral land. ***PSAWEN stressed the need to drill more boreholes in the drought prone areas to reduce the impact of the recurrent droughts. Agencies with water mandate need to develop and action plan with the government to mobilize resource for drilling more boreholes.***

CEFA approved a project proposal to drill 4 boreholes in Nugal and Mudug of which its activities will start soon. It was noted that there are more than 4 boreholes which are not functioning and need rehabilitation in Nugal, for example (Dhiganle, Awrculus, Hasabahalle and Burtinle – PSAWEN will come up with the list of non – functioning boreholes in Nugal and Mudug)

NCA presented summary outcome of NCA – SORDO drought assessment mission in the drought affected areas in Hawd of Nugal and Buhodle. The NCA – SORDO assessment team visited 25 locations in Godob – Jiran, Burtinle, Balibusle?, Kalabeyr and Buhoodle districts. Key findings of the assessment included:

- Access to food of the local community limited because of lack of purchasing power
- Food Prices are not affordable
- Livestock prices dropped by 30%
- Water crisis – out of 200 sampled Berkeds 180 were dry (90%)
- High water prices – \$6 - \$7 per drum
- Nomads sell animals to buy food – livestock assets of the pastoralists depleted
- Water availability at HH level far below SPHERE standards

FSAU also provided a brief update on the food security, livelihood and nutrition situation following the Post Deyr Interagency Seasonal Assessment. In summary, the food security situation in Hawd livelihood zone in Nugal, Mudug and west of Lasanod is being deteriorated because of either poor performance or total failure of the last 4 seasons in these areas. According to FSAU post Deyr 08/09 seasonal assessment, the food security situation of pastoral populations in southern Nugal and northern Mudug regions has deteriorated further since Gu '08, due to another poor seasonal rainfall performance (Deyr '08/09 is 20-40 % of the long-term average) and persistent hyperinflation. The number of people in Hawd Pastoral of Mudug and Nugal regions in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC), with a moderate risk to Humanitarian Emergency (HE), has increased since Gu '08. Addun pastoralists, who were Borderline Food Insecure (BFI) with moderate risk of AFLC during Gu '08, are now in AFLC. The urban poor continue to struggle with hyperinflation and an estimated 130,000 remain in AFLC throughout the northeast, with the exception of Bossasso town, where there is a portion of the urban poor who are in Humanitarian Emergency.

Affected populations in AFLC and HE by region

	Bari	Nugal	Mudug	Sool	Sanag
AFLC Rural		25,000	60,000	15,000	25,000
AFLC Urban	80,000	20,000	30,000		10,000
HE Urban	25,000		80,000	5,000	5,000
HE Rural					

2. Update on the outcome of the government meeting on the drought in Puntland (HADMA)

HADMA briefed the participants on previous meetings held by the government drought taskforce/emergency committees which were held on 8 – 9 March 2009. The main outcome of these meetings was to present a report on the current drought situation to the ministerial cabinet of Puntland to issue an appeal and initiate a response.

3. Agree on worst affected locations, populations in need of assistance and appropriate humanitarian interventions (All participants)

As a result of the presentations done during the meeting and discussions followed, the following was agreed which identifies worst affected locations – by district, number of population in need of assistance and the appropriate type of interventions required.

Action Points Agreed

1. *Worst affected zone is Hawd of Nugal, Mudug and Sool which is the area from Eyl town to Buhodle town by length and from Harfo to Birta – dheer by width*
2. *The need for emergency preparedness plan is urgent to avoid rushing only when emergency occurs*
3. *Agencies with water mandate need to develop and action plan with the government to mobilize resource for drilling more boreholes.*
4. *Agencies to go back to their headquarters to see what kind of humanitarian response can be provided to these affected communities*
5. *HADMA should advocate for government contribution as well as contribution from the businesses for drought response*
6. *PSAWEN to come up with a list of non functioning boreholes in Nugal and Mudug and also share the assessment report on the water infrastructure in Puntland with agencies*
7. *OCHA to liaise with WASH cluster lead to find out plans for rehabilitation of non – functioning boreholes*
8. *OCHA/HADMA to liaise with UNTP to see where it could compliment sustainable borehole drilling in some of prioritized affected areas*
9. *In the next meeting, drought response matrix will be developed for 3W and gaps*
10. *OCHA to liaise with WFP and see plans for food distribution in worst affected areas*

Next meeting will be held on 18th of March 2009 at HADMA office