

MINUTES OF THE FOOD AID CLUSTER MEETING
5TH MAY 2009- WFP SOMALIA OFFICE

Present

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| • Joan Tucker | OCHA |
| • Achoka Luduba | OCHA |
| • David Guillenois | DRC |
| • Nicholas Cox | USAID |
| • Nicholas Rost | OCHA |
| • Harald Mannhardt | WFP |
| • Marc Prost | WFP |
| • Ahmed Nur Hussein | FSNAU/FAO |
| • Aadrian Sullivan | ECHO |
| • Barnabas Asora | ECHO |
| • Andrea Heath | ICRC |
| • Kathy Derore | WFP |
| • Ruth Amatalo | WFP |

Absent with Apologies

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| • Keith Ursel | WFP |
| • Louih Itoh | WFP |
| • Andrew Iraguha | WVI |

The meeting started at 11.15am and was chaired by Kathy Derore WFP.

AGENDA

1. Review of last meeting minutes.
2. Update by agencies – including security.
3. WFP re-engagement update.
4. AOB.

UPDATES BY AGENCIES

WFP

- WFP planned to distribute 46,199MT of assorted food items to 2,979,000 beneficiaries in the month of April but distributed 32,511MT to 1,960,211 beneficiaries. This represented 70% of the planned target. The underachievement was mainly caused by the slow down in the re-engagement process. Other reasons were ration related issues and pipeline breaks.
- In May 2009 WFP plans to distribute about 50,000MT. The increased tonnage is due to BSFP.
- BSFP training was going on in Galkayo. These trainings are also planned for partners in other areas where the BSFP will be rolled out.

- WFP plans to carry out a repeat of the two-day CP training that was done in April 2009 in each Sub-Office.
- Three WFP/UNICEF Joint Missions were sent to Abudwak with the purpose of looking for partners to implement WFP activities in the area. This was because Abudwak had recorded high rates of malnutrition but there were no NGOs in operation. The missions were successful with the creation of an umbrella NGO.
- The distribution carried out in the month of March 2009 in Afmadow was a one off distribution and progress would depend on the security situation.

Re-engagement

All the areas in the North and Central were fully re-engaged. In Wajid all areas were re-engaged with the exception of Elbarde and Bay and in Lower Shabelle – all re-engaged with the exception of Afgoye. A one-off distribution is planned in May in Afgoye and progress will depend on the security situation and on how well the food is received in the area.

ACTION: WFP was requested to provide re-engagement status in a tabular form.

Nutrition

- BSFP registration was completed in April. BSFP was recommended by the Nutrition Cluster over other modalities with the following reasons;
 - Due to the high malnutrition rates, partners would be overwhelmed in implementing TSFP,
 - Weak CP capacity, and
 - It was practical to implement BSFP because there were no other interventions going on in the area.
- 88,600 children were registered in Galgadug, Mudug and South Nugal. This represents 50% coverage of < 5s according to the UNDP population figures. This number is expected to increase in the coming months.
- The operation is expected to last for 4 months; thereafter it will shift to TSFP. It is expected that GFD and BSFP will assist towards this shift.
- Training of partners on BSFP was going on in Galkayo (5th to 8th May'09). The focus was on screening of children, food monitoring and reporting. In addition, IEC materials developed by UNICEF would be presented. The training was for all the CPs implementing BSFP in Mudug, Galkayo and South Nugal.
- FSAU plans to undertake nutrition survey soon and another will take place in six months.

The main challenge is that partners are weak in implementing this program.

DRC

- The Wet Feeding program was going on in Mogadishu. The project duration is 4-6 months- depending on project funding. Current funding commitment is for four months (up to August 2009). It is expected to be completed in October 2009.
- No major security incidents reported.
- DRC had various discussions with WFP on the phase out strategy for the wet feeding program. The challenge being that wet feeding could not be phased out gradually. Instead, the dates for closure should be communicated to the beneficiaries, the new approach

discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders, wet feeding stopped and immediately replaced by the new approach.

- DRC/WFP met to discuss which modality would be most suitable for Mogadishu. This was because dry feeding posed various implementation challenges including risk of looting of food. UNHCR had also raised concern over the security of IDPs from Afgoye.
- WFP plans to hold a consultative meeting with key stakeholders to develop a concrete phase out strategy. Bilateral consultations have been going on with key partners to brainstorm on this strategy but a concrete plan is yet to be developed. The consultative meeting is scheduled to take place in the coming two weeks.
- The wet feeding program serves 5000 meals on a daily basis. The number of IDPs who receive food on a daily basis fluctuates and since registers are not maintained, the average daily number could not be availed.
- The wet feeding closure is mainly due to programmatic reasons and not funding because the program is time consuming for the beneficiaries and very expensive to implement.
- A return ration of 3 months may be considered as part of the wet feeding phase out strategy.

ACTION: DRC was asked to provide information on whether there are any people who are turned away on a daily basis at the feeding centers due to lack of meals.

ICRC

- 1-2 weeks distribution is planned in Las Anod area in Sool region.
- IDPs food distribution also planned.
- Distributions in Kismayo and Badhadhe also scheduled – 2 months full ration will be given.
- One month seed distribution planned.

ECHO

Process of allocation of €1 million is ongoing. ECHO is currently going through the concept papers.

USAID

- Transfer of all food and US\$ 2million to WFP was completed. These resources were previously committed to CARE.
- USAID has allocated a further US\$120-130 million to WFP starting October 2009.
- US\$ 300 million request for food aid to Afghan will be discussed by Congress. WFP has also requested for additional funding from this kitty.

AOB

- CAP Mid Year Review documents were sent to all the cluster leads by OCHA. A one pager narrative indicating any updates on changes in strategy and a table of objectives was required.
- There is need to review the contact list of all the cluster members following concerns over the poor turn up at the meeting and members not receiving cluster communication.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS – FOOD AID CLUSTER MEETING
5TH MAY 2009**

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