

## Minutes of

### IASC AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER MEETING

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009 from 09.00am to 12.00pm

Jacaranda Hotel, Wariara Conference Center, Westlands

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening Remarks, Review/Endorsement of Minutes and Action Points – By the Chair, assisted by the Cluster Technical/Support Officers</li> <li>2. CAP 2009 Mid-Year Review: Re-prioritization of CAP 2009 and Presentation of prioritized list of projects to donors - By the Chair</li> <li>3. Presentation and Review of the ToR for the Agriculture and Livelihoods</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Cluster – By Cluster Technical Support/ M &amp;E Officer<br/>Presentation: Attributes and Requirements of the Cluster Co-Chair - By Cluster Technical Support/ M &amp;E Officer</li> <li>5. Agreement on the process of election of new Cluster Co-Chair – By Cluster Support Officer</li> <li>6. AOB</li> </ol> |
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**1. Opening remarks, Review/Endorsement of Minutes and Action Points – By the Chair, assisted by the Cluster Technical/Support Officers.**

**Opening remarks**

- Dr Andrew Harberd welcomed participants to the meeting. He introduced and welcomed Habon Hussein who joined the cluster from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and is working as the National Cluster Support Officer (NCSO). She has worked for Somalia operations since 2003 and most recently worked as an Executive Officer to the UNDP Country Director.

Update on the Overall situation in Somalia

- The civil security situation in many areas of southern and central Somalia remains volatile, as several factions continue to fight for control of the country. This is leading to new population displacement, market disruptions, and resource based conflicts as well as limited access for humanitarian assistance.
- Climate: The food security situation following the onset of the ‘Gu’ rains is mixed, deteriorating in the drought-affected and rain deficit areas in Mudug, Galgadud and Hiiran and in parts of Nugal Valley and Sool Plateau. However, there are some signs of improvement in Bay, Bakool, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Middle Shabeelle and parts of Lower Shabeelle as well as in Awdal and Bari regions.
- Agriculture: Crop establishment is average in Bay, Juba, as well as some areas of Bakool, and Shabelle regions, however, crops are not established well in some areas of Gedo and Hiiran. Where there is average to good rainfall and crop establishment, income opportunities for poor households have improved.
- Livestock: Whilst rangeland conditions continue to deteriorate in some areas of the north and in the central regions, rangeland conditions are generally improving in much of the south. Livestock body conditions and production remain poor in most of the central and northern regions. Livestock prices in April '09 remain at record high.

Update on CERF Projects

- At this stage, the project management is reviewing 32 proposals received from Local NGOs for productive asset rehabilitation/transfer in support of populations in food security crisis in Mudug and Galgadud regions of Somali. The main challenge faced are the generally poor quality of proposals received. Project management is currently

in the process of meeting individually with the 32 local NGOs with the aim of improving the quality of the proposals.

- The second component of the project, Livestock requisition and redistribution, is proceeding smoothly. The main challenge faced thus far is that the allocated project budget may not sufficient to meet the target of purchasing 12,000 animals. Therefore, there might be a need to reduce this target or acquire animals at a cheaper cost. Thus far, the project manager has received quotations for livestock prices ranging from \$25-\$49. Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster members are kindly requested to provide information on whether cheaper rates for animals exist in the Galgadud and Mudug areas.

#### Review of minutes

- Minutes of the previous meeting that was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were reviewed and endorsed without amendments as a true reflection of the discussions that took place.

#### Review of action points

	Agenda Item	Action/Decisions/Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Time Frame	Status/Results
<b>Cluster Meeting 28 April 2009</b>					
1	Item 3 Identification of Strengths and Weaknesses of the IASC Agriculture & Livelihoods Cluster	Circulate the TOR of the cluster to cluster members.	Cluster Support/Technical Team		Done on 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
2		Explore what other clusters are doing in terms of coordination at field level and report to cluster members on what is applicable for the Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster.	Cluster Support/Technical Team	By Cluster meeting of June 2009	Work in Progress. <b><i>Dr Dagane and Habon will soon report on options to the cluster</i></b>
3		Circulate Agenda of Cluster meeting one week before the meeting.	Cluster Support/Technical Team	By 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Done on 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2009
4		Election of new Cluster Co-Chair.	Cluster members	Next Cluster Meeting, 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Work in Progress. <b><i>A proposed methodology was circulated by email and feedback was received. This was also discussed during the May cluster meeting.</i></b>

5		A committee to review project proposals to be selected. Committee to have chair, co chair, 2 cluster support staff, representatives of 1 Somali NGO and 1 international NGO	Cluster Members	Selection of Committee Members (1 representative of Somali NGO and 1 INGO) to be discussed at Next Cluster Meeting, 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2009.	Work in Progress. <b><i>The procedure that will be agreed upon for electing a co chair is the same one that will be used to elect representatives of National and International NGOs.</i></b>
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## 2. CAP 2009 Mid-Year Review: Re-prioritization of CAP 2009 and Presentation of prioritized list of projects to donors - By the Chair

- The Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster has been requested to do a mid term review to report on how effectively the cluster has been able to deliver assistance to Somalia. The review is on going. Once finalized, it will be circulated to cluster members for comments.
- The mid term review will involve looking at the list of projects to see if they remain relevant for current and projected situations and then determine whether to increase or reduce funding. It is also requested that the projects in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster portfolio be categorized into high, medium and low priority.
- By the end of April 2009, the Agriculture & Livelihoods Cluster had received just \$5.88 million in funding out of \$65.14 million requested. This is only 9% of the cluster requirements. The 3 projects that are being funded are being implemented by FSNAU, OXFAM Novib and Horn Relief. The flow of CAP funding in 2009 has been slow.
- 73% of the funds received are being used for implementation of projects in South Central while 27% is being used for implementation in the drought affected pastoralist areas in the North. This is largely in line with the geographical funding prioritization in the 2009 Cluster Response Plan.
- Despite funding constraints and limited access in Somalia, the cluster has made considerable achievements as measured against the cluster's mid year targets. This was largely done with funds carried over from 2008.
- By the end of April 2009, members of the cluster had reached approximately 50,000 households (about 300,000 people) including 16,000 female headed households in "acute food and livelihoods crisis" or "humanitarian emergency" with emergency livelihoods assistance, against a mid – year target of 225,000 households (including 35,000 female – headed households). The members of the cluster distributed tools and organized cash for work programmes for more than 35,000 families to help them increase their household income while rehabilitating productive infrastructures in rural areas. In Bay, Bakool and Lower Juba, 2,700 poor and vulnerable families participated in a voucher system to get veterinary care for some 18,800 animals. In Middle Shabelle, 3,500 displaced families received direct cash relief over two months and some 3,000 families struck by drought in Sool and Sanaag participated in cash for work and productive assets transfer programmes enabling them to diversify their livelihoods to include coastal fishing, apiculture or small scale poultry production.

In a second exercise, as was done in January, the cluster has been asked by OCHA to prepare a prioritized list of projects for circulation to donors.

During the first prioritization, a donor took interest in proposals for 3 NGOs (TARDO, WARDI and RAHMO). After a considerable time the donor has decided not to start operations in Somalia at this particular time, so the proposals were not funded, though substantial effort had been expended to improve the proposals for submission and consideration.

While reprioritizing, an amount of 20% of the CAP 2009 budget will be considered and probably around 15 of the projects in the cluster portfolio will be presented to the donors. Given the fact that the situation hasn't changed radically in terms of priority areas, it is expected that the prioritized list will be a subset of the list of 30 prioritised projects prepared for donors in January 2009. Dr Harberd will draw up a list for the 2<sup>nd</sup> prioritized list and it will be circulated to cluster members after which a special cluster meeting will be called to discuss the list.

### **3. Presentation and Review of the ToR for the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster – By Cluster Technical Support/ M & E Officer**

- Dr Ibrahim Dagane presented in PowerPoint Generic ToR for the lead agency. The ToRs had been circulated earlier on by email. The next step will be to expand the ToRs so as to have ToRs for the cluster and for the lead agency.

#### Discussion

- There is need for clear ToR for the cluster showing the responsibilities of the various cluster members. Following the circulation of the ToR for the cluster lead, feedback was received indicating that they be broadened to include ToR for the cluster. The ToR will be re-circulated with appropriate comments incorporated.
- There is confusion among some partners working for Somalia on the respective roles of the SSS and the clusters. The ToR will be reviewed during the next meeting to give clarity on the cluster approach.
- The presentation by Dr Dagane will be circulated to cluster members.
- Cluster interventions in 2009 have focused on Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis areas to prevent them from sliding into Humanitarian Emergency.

### **4. Presentation: Attributes and Requirements of the Cluster Co-Chair - By Cluster Technical Support/ M & E Officer**

- Dr Ibrahim Dagane presented in PowerPoint the attributes and requirements of the cluster co chair.

#### Discussion

- Eng Warfa Baiow deemed the conditions to be too strict and felt that no person present was qualified.
- There was a proposal that the co chair periodically reports to FAO as opposed to regularly reporting.

- The Cluster technical/support team informed participants that the co chair should be available in Nairobi or are able to travel back and forth and be in Nairobi to attend to cluster responsibilities as appropriate.
- The Cluster technical/support team explained that the purpose of the presentation was to guide cluster members.
- The presentation will be circulated to cluster members for comments.
- Irad Warsame felt that the attributes are comprehensive and if there is no candidate meeting all the requirements, a candidate meeting most of the requirements is good.

**5. Agreement on the process of election of new Cluster Co-Chair – By Cluster Support Officer**

- The procedure for electing a new co chair was circulated and feedback was received and considered. It was agreed that the procedure to be used must involve the cluster members who are based in Somalia and have no representation in Nairobi. The process will also be fair and as inclusive as possible while taking into consideration the interest of time so that the process does not consume a lot of time.
- Following discussions, it was agreed that cluster members who are in Nairobi will vote by secret ballot while those who are field based will vote by email. Online and physical votes will be counted together. It was agreed that for agencies that are present in Nairobi, they will have to vote physically.
- It was agreed that nominations be done during the meeting. Field based cluster members will also get an opportunity to nominate candidates. The 2 lists will be consolidated and all nominated candidates will be voted for.

The following people offered their candidature for the position of a co chair:

1. Dr. Osman Geedow Amir
  - Dr. Osman Geedow Amir is an agrobiologist working for Somali Organic Agriculture Development Organization (SOADO). SOADO has been working in Somalia since 2000. Dr. Geedow would like to co chair the cluster so that he can improve it.
2. Mohamed Ali Mahamud
  - Mahamud Ali Mohamud is from Peace Action Society Organization for Somalia (PASOS). PASOS works across Somalia. He is a sociologist and has a diploma in conflict management and resolution. In addition, he has a wealth of experience in NGO social development. He is interested in co chairing the cluster to improve the cluster as per suggestions in the April meeting. PASOS has worked since 1997 without donor support and this shows their commitment to improve the livelihoods of the Somali communities.
3. Dr. Mussa Hussein Abdi
  - Dr. Mussa Hussein Abdi works for Somali Action for Community Development (SACOD) an organization that advocates for marginalized communities and is working in Lower Shabelle. He has a PhD in Biochemistry and is also a philosopher. He did research in African Medicinal research in 2002 to 2004. He is an active member of the cluster and well understands the challenges of the Agriculture & Livelihoods Cluster.
4. Hibaq Adan Ahmed

- Ms Hibaq Adan Ahmed works for Himilo Foundation<sup>1</sup>.

## 7. AOB

- Dr Andrew Harberd expressed his appreciation for the work of the outgoing cluster co-chair, Abdiwahab Sheikh Mohamed. Abdiwahab may not have been present at every meeting because of commitments to his NGO, ASEP, but has played a key role in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster and was instrumental in the development of the CAP 2008 and CAP 2009.
- Abdiwahab noted that he co chaired the cluster for two and half years. It was a period of learning for him though he was not able to attend meetings regularly and sometimes encountered difficulties. He noted that the incoming co chair has an advantage in that he has a strong cluster support team with which he will work.
- He noted that Agriculture and Livelihoods is the only cluster that has a local NGO as a co chair and has the largest membership. He hopes that the incoming co chair will do a good job and sustain the big participation in cluster meetings. He informed meeting participants that co chairing is voluntary; there is no financial gain.
- Amina Hersi of SSWC informed participants that her organization expressed interest to work with FAO in the CERF funded OSRO/SOM/906/CHA project but they have not received any feedback. She sought to know the criteria that were used for selection. Dr Harberd informed her that FAO as an institution has staff members who have different responsibilities. Dr Harberd wrote the proposal for funding, the funds were received and now a Project Manager and his team are running the project and they are the ones who selected NGOs using a certain criteria. 96 NGOs expressed interest and 32 NGOs were selected. Ayoo Odicoh the FAO Gender and HIV Coordinator will follow up with the Project Manager and find out why the SSWC expression of interest was apparently unsuccessful. She will also find out whether there is any possibility of involving SSWC at this point.
- Zahra Ugas from FERO informed participants that her organization is working in Galgaduud and Muddug in partnership with UNICEF. FERO expressed interest in working with FAO in the CERF funded OSRO/SOM/906/CHA project but her organization has not received feedback from FAO. Zahra felt that women organizations are marginalized and very few women organizations are selected. She sought to know why women organizations were not selected. Ayoo Odicoh will follow up with the FAO Somalia Project Manager for feedback.

The meeting ended at 12.07pm

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- <sup>1</sup> Ms Hibaq Aden Ahmed offered her candidature soon after the cluster meeting ended. She did not announce her intentions during the meeting.