

Minutes of
IASC AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER MEETING

Thursday 25th June 2009 from 09.30am to 11.45am

SSS Conference Room, Ngecha Road

Name	Organization	Email address
Abdigargaar Ahmed	Access - Aid	Aad.org@gmail.com
Ali M Durow	ADA	Activedev1_gedo@yahoo.com
Abdiribah Mohamed	APD	Apd_hqs@yahoo.com
Mohamud Idr	APDN	Apdnet_som@yahoo.com
Mohamed Ahmed Abtidoon	ARDO	aragti@gmail.com
Gemma Sanmartin	COOPI	sanmartin@coopi.org
Giuseppe Selvaggi	COOPI	selvaggi@coopi.org
Mohamed M Gure	CPD	cpdsomalia@yahoo.co.uk
Diriye Abdullahi	DIAL	Dial.org@hotmail.com
Andrew Harberd	FAO Somalia	Andrew.harberd@fao.org
Habon Hussein	FAO Somalia	habonh@gmail.com
Njeri Muathe	FAO Somalia	Angela.muathe@fao.org
Mohamed Abdikadir	FEWS-NET	mabdikadir@fews.net
Abdirizak Nur	FSNAU	Abdirizak.nur@fsnau.or.ke
Grainne Moloney	FSNAU	Grainne.moloney@fsnau.or.ke
Zahra Mohamed Abditon	GEELO	Geelo114@gmail.com
Ali Noor Ali Aden	GREDO	gredosouthwest@yahoo.co.uk
Abdi Bashir Hersi	Green Hope	greenhopesom@gmail.com
Aden Mohamed Ismail	GTZ	Mohamed.aden@gtz.de
Ednah Lukale	HDO	hdokenya@yahoo.com
Osman	IEDP	ieddbroorgsom@yahoo.com
Abdirahman Aden	IRC	Abdirahman.ali@irc.org
Yunis Yarow Ali	MURDO	murdosom@hotmail.com
Winfred Mueni	OXFAM NOVIB	Winnie.mueni@oxfamnovib.or.ke
Issack Sagat Mohamed	SAF	mdiyeeshelo@hotmail.com
Badri Ahmed	SAF	bwiliq@yahoo.com
Faisal Ahmed	SAF	Saf_org@yahoo.co.uk
Suleiman Dahir	SANA	S.dahir@yahoo.com
Omar Ibrahim Mohamed	SANA	umaarigy@hotmail.com
Manana Michael	SANA	Mmanana70@hotmail.com
Mohamed Sheikh Abdi	SAREDO	saredongo@hotmail.com
Dahir A Ali	SDRO	Sodro_org@yahoo.com
Luul Mohamed	Sharmarke Foundation	Lul_hornafrik@hotmail.com
Hashim Abdinor	SIFO	hashimabdinor@yahoo.com
Mohmoud Hassan	SIFO	sifofish@yahoo.com
Osman Amir	SOADO	osmangedow@yahoo.com
Irada Warsame	SOMA - Action	Soma_action@yahoo.co.uk
Charles Muman	SPF	lfarah@sharmarkefoundation.com
Amina Haji	SSWC	sswc@iconnect.co.ke
Abdinoor Faray	SYPD	sypdmog@yahoo.com

Agenda

1. Opening remarks, Review/Endorsement of Minutes and Action Points from previous meetings.
2. Update on Early Warnings/Indications for the *Gu* Season.
3. Cluster Input into the new FAO project proposal to the CERF.
4. Presentation and Discussion: IASC Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster Second Prioritization (June 2009) to Donors of CAP 2009 Projects for Funding.

1. Opening remarks, Review/Endorsement of Minutes and Action Points from previous meetings.

Opening remarks

- On 11th June 2009, a special meeting of the cluster was held to elect a new co-chair. In a very transparent and democratic process, 34 organisations voted. The election was very ably managed by the new National Cluster Support Officer, Habon Hussein. The end result is that Dr. Osman Gedow Amir, who Dr Harberd first worked with in the Ministry of Agriculture in Mogadishu 20 years ago, is the new co-chair of the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster. Dr Harberd congratulated Dr Osman and looks forward to working with him.
- Minutes of the 11th June 2009 meeting are an accurate reflection of the election process. They were circulated on 15th June through the cluster mailing list. Positive comments were received by e-mail concerning the election process, and there being no comments during the meeting, the minutes were endorsed and with them, the election process.
- An identical process is being used to elect national and international NGO representation on the cluster projects review board and will be concluded under agenda point 6 today.

General situation update in Somalia:

- Somalia continues to be probably the worst displacement crisis in the world with in excess of 15% of the population being internally displaced. The intense fighting that started in Mogadishu around 07th May 2009 has to date resulted in an estimated 159,000 people being displaced (within the city, to the Mogadishu-Afgooye road – joining an estimated 400,000 in IDP camps and much further afield).
- The health cluster is facing major problems in implementation as a result of the looting of the UNICEF compound in Jowhar, which maintained the vaccine cold chain for south-central Somalia, and large quantities of pre-positioned emergency stocks, and as well, the withdrawal of MSF from Bakool region. Access to south-central Somalia is becoming even more difficult – and on 22nd June the WFP compound in Marka was taken over by armed militia.
- On 23rd June FEWS Net issued a food security alert highlighting an extension north of drought conditions from the central regions into pastoral areas of northern Somalia (Sool plateau, Nugal valley and into the Hawd, threatening the livelihoods of some 700,000 pastoralists and a significant number of urban households whose income and food sources are linked to livestock marketing and trade.

- Swarms of locusts were reported over northern Somalia from mid-May, most recently on 08th June over Erigavo, and have caused some localised damage. The FAO Desert Locust Information service issued a warning on 12th June concerning the expected movements of swarms with the south-west monsoon winds, across the Gulf of Aden into Yemen and Oman and further into summer locust breeding areas in Pakistan and India. The locusts are not sufficiently mature to breed and lay eggs along the northern coastal areas of Somalia, where anyway conditions are unfavourably dry. FAO has a monitoring system in place in Somalia for Desert Locust surveillance, with an EMPRES (FAO Emergency Prevention System for Trans-Boundary Pests and Diseases) office in the Ministry of Agriculture in Hargeysa, and surveys have been carried out in recent days. The FAO Desert Locust Information service is highly dependent on receiving reports. In order to improve locust reporting, a Locust alert/reporting poster was developed by the FAO Locust Group. From this, in mid-2007 Dr Harberd has produced a Somali language version, and an initial run of 1,000 copies has been printed by FAO Somalia. He would like organizations in the field to have copies of the posters, which list the essential information to be reported when locusts have been observed.

Review of action points

- Action points from previous meetings were reviewed as indicated in the table below:

	Agenda Item	Action/Decisions/Recommendations	Responsible Agency	Time Frame	Status/Results
Cluster Meeting 28 April 2009					
1.					
2.	Item 3 Identification of Strengths and Weaknesses of the IASC Agriculture & Livelihoods Cluster	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		Work in Progress.
3.		Election of new Cluster Co-Chair.	Cluster members	Next Cluster Meeting, 28 th May 2009	Done, process finalized on 11 th June 2009 and announcement of outcome provided on 15 th June 2009 via e-mail.
4.		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	By 25 th June 2009.	Done. Election process was finalized at the monthly cluster meeting on 25 th June 2009.

Cluster Meeting 28 May 2009					
1.	Item 3 Presentation and Review of the ToR for the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster	Re-circulate Cluster TOR to members for input. Provide comments/inputs on the Cluster Terms of Reference	Cluster Support/Technical Team Cluster Members	By 4 th June 2009	Done. Initial circulation to members done on 7 th May 2009. Re-circulation done on 3 rd June 2009. Only 2 members have commented to date. For discussion at meeting at next monthly meeting in July 2009.
2.		Circulate presentation by Cluster Technical Officer on overview of Cluster Approach to Cluster members.	Cluster Support/Technical Team		Done, 17 th June 2009
4.	CAP 2009 Mid-Year Review: Re-prioritization of CAP 2009 and Presentation of prioritized list of projects to donors	Formulate a list of 2 nd prioritization of CAP projects and circulate to cluster members for input. Provide comments/input on the prioritization list.	Cluster Chair Cluster Members	Comments requested by Friday 19 th June 2009.	Done. List circulated by the Cluster Support team on behalf of Chair on 9 th June 2009. Comment from only one organization received to date, 17 th June 2009.

2. Update on Early Warnings/Indications for the *Gu* Season.

- Grainne Moloney informed cluster members that on 12th June 2009, FSNAU released a Food Security and Nutrition brief. The Somali version was released on 24th June 2009. The brief is an early warning for the *Gu* season and the following are the key points:
 - 1) There is a growing Humanitarian Emergency (HE) among the approximately 1.3 million IDPs, which includes those recently fleeing conflict in Mogadishu. Given the continuing insecurity in Mogadishu, these numbers may increase in the coming months.
 - 2) The Central regions are in a sustained HE situation. *Gu* rains in Central regions were poor and patchy hence insufficient to have a positive impact on the sustained drought conditions in the region. Recent nutrition surveys in the region indicates that there is a sustained critical level of acute malnutrition

- 3) There is an emerging drought in Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer due to recent rain failure which has led to insufficient pasture and water. This has led to a high level of livestock and drought induced livestock deaths. . There is an improvement in the purchasing power and food access of the urban populations as a result of lower cereal and other commodity prices especially in the central, north and northeast regions.
 - 4) Early indications are that crop establishment will be near normal throughout most of southern Somalia. Exceptions include northern Gedo, Cowpea Belt, Hiran parts of Bakool and the northwest agropastoral areas.
- FSNAU also announced the plans for the upcoming *Gu* assessment, regional planning meetings will start on 29th June. Field work will start from 2nd/3rd July 2009 across Somalia. Following the fieldwork, regional analysis workshops will be held from 21st to 26th July 2009. The all teams' analysis meeting will be held in Limuru, from August 3rd August. Partners who will have participated in the *Gu* Assessment are encouraged to participate in the analysis. Final results will be shared on August 21st FSNAU is working closely with UNDSS and WFP to be able to access South Central as much as possible despite the prevailing security situation.

Discussion

- A question was raised on where the analysis indicating lower food prices came from. Grainne indicated to review pages 5 & 8 of the brief, where reduction in the local and imported cereal prices reductions are apparent. She also clarified that while food prices are lower during this period compared to the same period last year, however still higher than the 5 year average. She clarified that information on prices is collected monthly from a variety of markets throughout the country
- A question was raised on why local authorities are not involved in the FSNAU led seasonal assessments and why FSNAU field staff are not visible. Grainne confirmed that FSNAU involves all relevant partners at the regional planning stage including local authorities. She also stated that as it is not possible to visit all villages, a sample is taken based on a review and that FSNAU staff are not only involved in the seasonal assessments twice a year but they also conduct , monthly monitoring while keeping a low profile so as to get accurate information. It was also pointed out that all partners (UN and NGO) have been facing challenges of access due to insecurity and FSNAU may therefore be unable to access all the areas planned for the outset. Cluster members with concerns regarding FSNAU's information collection were encouraged to share their concerns directly with FSNAU.
- Dr Harberd noted that whilst reduced prices may be good news for consumers, reductions in farm gate prices result in reduced income for the farmer and ultimately very low prices will be a dis-incentive to farmers to continue production for marketing. Grainne pointed out that the prices last year were artificially high due to the hyperinflation and the current prices are normalizing so it should not be a disincentive to producers to sell. .

5) Cluster Input into the new FAO project proposal to the CERF.

- The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) currently has funding available through its rapid response allocation, and will fund countries with poorly-funded CAP appeals.
- Somalia has already been funded this year and there is a current FAO CERF-funded project in the Central regions which is being implemented together with a number of NGO partners from the cluster – which makes it less likely but not impossible to receive a 2nd round of funding, which is unlikely to exceed the previous allocation of US\$ 2.5 million to FAO.
- FAO intends to put together a proposal by mid July. In the last 2.5 years, Dr Harberd has written proposals generally related to information available from FSNAU. This time round, he would like, to open up the initial process to cluster members. He requested cluster members to write a not more than one page abstract on a geographical area which deserves funding indicating why funds should be channeled to this area, the type of interventions, beneficiaries and reasons for those specific interventions. The abstract should be sent to Andrew.harberd@fao.org before COB on 06th July. Previously, there have been interventions such as cash for work programmes and livestock redistribution to destitute pastoralists. Livestock redistribution is expensive because each pastoralist would receive about 40 sheep or goats; a number that is considered to be a minimum viable unit with which to support one household. In addition, the animals have to be kept in holding grounds, where they can receive basic veterinary care prior to re-distribution to beneficiaries.
- Dr Harberd clarified that at this point, there is absolutely no guarantee that CERF funds will be availed.

Discussion

- CERF is an emergency humanitarian mechanism and the interventions last for 3 months but can be extended to last up to 6 months.
- The current trend in country CERF applications is a collective approach where several UN agencies put in one proposal for funding.
- Aden Mohamed of GTZ suggested that a working group be formed to write the proposal which they will forward to the cluster chair for finalization. It was clarified that essentially the proposal will be submitted by FAO to the CERF, as it is only UN organizations that can apply to the CERF; however, FAO intends to embrace a consultative process by involving cluster members in the initial decision-making process.
- After the abstracts are received from cluster members, and on 07th July, a special cluster meeting will be held to try to agree an outline and key components for an FAO submission to the CERF. In addition, attempts will be made to integrate the project with projects submitted by other UN agencies.

6) Presentation and Discussion: IASC Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster Second Prioritization (June 2009) to Donors of CAP 2009 Projects for Funding.

The CAP 2009 for the IASC Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster presents 73 projects of a total value of US\$ 58,421,482. The second prioritised request for funding in the third quarter of 2009 is for:

- Funding of 20% (20.3%) of the Agriculture and livelihoods component of the CAP 2009 = US\$ 11,856,931
- Funding a total of 16 projects out of 73 projects listed in the Agriculture and Livelihoods component of the CAP 2009
- The funding request is not however in line with guidelines set in the CAP 2009 Cluster response plan
 - 75% resources to areas of AFLC; 25% resources to areas of HE (is 50% to HE and 50% to AFLC)
 - 68% resources to south central, 16% to Somaliland, 16% to Puntland (is 92% to SC, 4% to SL, 4% to PL)
- Funding of 10 out of 11 projects in the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster relating to the current ongoing severe Humanitarian Emergency in the Central Regions (Galgaduud, Mudug and Hiraaan) Regions of Somalia.
- Funding of one project in the current ongoing Humanitarian emergency in Bakool region
- Funding at 50% of the requested level, 2 UN Country-wide projects to work with NGO partners on mass employment generation for early recovery and productive assets transfer in support of Livelihoods establishment
- Funding of one project in the Lower Jubba region
- Funding of one Project in areas of Acute Food and Livelihoods Crisis in Somaliland
- Funding of one project in areas of Acute Food and Livelihoods Crisis in Puntland

Discussion

- Aden Mohamed Ismail (GTZ) suggested that the cluster should review the current process to see what is working, what is not working and lessons learnt and see what can be done better.
- Gemma Sanmartin (COOPI) noted that the cluster can only make suggestions to donors and it is up to the donors to make a decision on which proposals to fund.
- Abdullahi Mohamed Diriye (DIAL) noted that the process should be demand driven as opposed to donor driven.
- The Chair informed participants that during the next donor meeting, scheduled for 6th July, donors will be informed that a lot of work is put into reviewing, improving and re-prioritizing the CAP proposals and this should not be an exercise in futility, particularly as donors have confirmed that they consider this process to be important.
- Aden Mohamed Ismail (GTZ) proposed that there should be a balance in funding between the UN, national NGO and International NGO proposals prioritized for donors. The Chair noted that he could propose a prioritization, reducing the proportion of funds allocated to the UN and increasing the proportion of funds

that are allocated to national and international NGOs, but that in terms of getting funding this might well be counter-productive. He also pointed out that as implementing partners, NGOs receive a very high proportion of the CERF funds disbursed through UN agencies.

7) Election of the Members of the Proposal Review Committee.

- The table below illustrates how organizations voted online and physically:

National NGOs	Number of votes cast (including on line votes)	International NGOs	Number of votes (Including online votes)
Kisima	3	Agrosphere	1
Bay Women Development Network	1	Oxfam NOVIB	23
IMRD	0		
SANA	3		
HIDO	16		

- 6 votes were cast on line and 21 votes were cast during the meeting. In total 27 organizations voted. There were 4 incomplete votes where people voted either for a national NGO or for an international NGO. 7 organizations present during the meeting did not vote as they abstained or left before the voting process started. There was one spoilt vote as one person voted for SAF who had not been included in the nomination phase of the election process.
- The official announcement of the election outcome will be circulated by email. The cluster support team will contact the elected NGOs to ask the NGOs to nominate a person from their agency to participate in the review committee.
- Cluster members have suggested that the voting process should be simplified. The Cluster Support Officer requested cluster members to share with her ways of simplifying the process and this will be taken into consideration.

8) AOB

- ToR of the cluster will be reviewed during the next meeting.
- The meeting was scheduled to start at 09.00am but started at 09.30am as some participants were late. It was agreed that future Agriculture & Livelihoods Cluster meetings will be held from 09.30 am, possibly during the last Thursday of the month and will start on time. During the meetings, FSNAU and FEWS-NET will give updates.
- There was a discussion on possible meeting venues. Jacaranda Hotel was proposed but it is expensive therefore regular meetings cannot be held there. Kalson Towers was also proposed but it cannot be used as it does not meet UN security standards.

- The meeting ended at 12.06 pm.