

Meeting of
IASC AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER
ENDORSED MINUTES

Friday 20th June 2008 from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.

FAO Regional Office Conference Room, Eden Square.

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Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Opening Remarks. 2) South Central Food Security Crisis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CERF ▪ ISFP 3) Cluster Response to Awdal Pastoralist Livelihoods Crisis. 4) Livelihoods Establishment Programme | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> in Support of Most Vulnerable Households. 5) Cluster reporting and the CAP 2008. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised Cluster Response Plan ▪ Mid Term Review 6) AOB |
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1. Opening remarks

- Minutes of the IASC agriculture and livelihoods cluster meeting that was held on 15th February 2008 were reviewed, amended and endorsed as a true reflection of the discussions.
- Agenda item number 2 was amended to read “South Central Food Security Crisis”

- In relation to the position of Cluster Coordinator for the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster, recently advertised, the FAO Emergency Coordinator has clarified that FAO Somalia will consider without prejudice, for the post of Cluster Coordinator, even a Somali national who at the time of applying, does not have documentation allowing him or her to reside and work in Kenya. Applications for the position from qualified Somalis are actively encouraged.

2. South Central Food Security Crisis

- CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund of the United Nations)

- FAO has received approval for funding for a \$ 2 million dollar project. The funding is part of the rapid response window of CERF and the funds should be spent in 3 months. The proposal is a continuation of a US\$ 800,000 Swedish Government-funded FAO project in which FAO also coordinated the activities of 2 international NGOs (Agrosphere and Water for Life) – funded with a total of US\$ 500,000 through the HRF. FAO and the two international NGOs worked with national NGOs to implement cash and food for work interventions to rehabilitate infrastructure in Lower Shabelle. Priority was given to Lower Shabelle because of productive capacity, high population in humanitarian emergency and according to FSAU analysis, with productive infrastructure in a dilapidated state and requiring rehabilitation to enable recovery during the 2008/09 “Deyr” season.

- ISFP (Initiative for Soaring Food Prices)

- FAO has held, from 03-05 June in Rome, a high level conference on world food security, which discussed soaring world food prices and impact on food security. Plans to have the TFG Minister for Agriculture and the Director General attend the meeting were thwarted by bogus applicants that created confusion and delayed the process to the extent that it was no longer possible to make arrangements for the Minister and DG to attend.
- FAO has prepared a US\$ 5.5 million proposal as part of the ISFP initiative. The proposed multi-component project aims at substantially increasing maize production from the major maize production area of the Lower Shabeelle through inputs (quality seed and fertilizer) support to farmers, as well as protecting production through a pest management intervention and improving grain storage through the provision of small steel silos for on-farm grain storage. One idea for the pest management initiative is providing cash for the collection of tons of neem seed to produce natural insecticide, from Mogadishu, where there are an estimated 100,000 mature neem trees. It is an experimental idea, and if not viable, the funds would be rolled over into small steel grain store fabrication and distribution.

3. Cluster Response to Awdal Pastoralist Livelihoods Crisis

- In mid January, there was a serious problem in Awdal region with freezing rains and small stock dying. An inter-agency assessment took place and recommended a number of interventions. However, a subsequent assessment conducted by FAO pointed to the major underlying problem being the existence of livestock diseases especially *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) which is a viral disease of small ruminants. The assessment team had discussions with the Ministry of Livestock (MoL) and the Minister agreed to issue (on 13th March 2008) a declaration of disease outbreak in Awdal region. Following this it was decided to develop an intra-cluster

intervention jointly coordinated by FAO and the MoL to carry out a large-scale emergency livestock vaccination (against PPR and *Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia* (CCPP)) and treatment campaign in Awdal region. Essentially:

- FAO supported Vetaid to obtain funds from the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) for an emergency vaccination and treatment operation, as a component of the project.
- SAHSP is supporting the intervention in disease surveillance.
- ECHO agreed for COOPI to move funds from their programme in the South to the disease control intervention if needed.
- The project will be in two phases. Phase 1 will involve disease surveillance and massive vaccination and treatment, while phase 2 will involve re-stocking.

- An extremely disappointing aspect of this attempt at a coordinated intra-cluster intervention is that VetAid in direct contravention to the agreed strategy and the directive of the Minister of Livestock has, with funding obtained from UNHCR, carried out a re-stocking operation in the disease outbreak area.

4. Livelihoods Establishment Programme in Support of Most Vulnerable Households

- Recently, US\$ 650,000 has been made available by the Swedish Government to support livelihood interventions with IDPs. This follows on from the ECHO-funded project underway in Hiiran (distribution of farming tools) and in Galgadud (distribution of livestock to destitute nomadic families) and in Mudug (fisheries support to IDPs in Hobio). Unlike with the ECHO funding, with the Swedish Government funding, funds will be used to support interventions implemented by national NGOs. The FAO Emergency Coordinator noted that it's challenging to work in the central regions, but that similar interventions can be done in other area if there are proposals that FAO and the cluster can support.

- In response to Abdi Raghe of AFREC, Andrew Harberd clarified that some 80% of the funds being programmed by FAO are longer-term development type funding obtained from, especially the EC in respect generally of Calls for Proposals. He noted that FAO looks for funding that can address longer term issues from the EC, the World Bank, etc. but that in most cases these funds are already directed by the donor to a particular sector or geographical area. Essentially, however, it is the job of the Emergency Coordinator for FAO Somalia to get funding to respond to emergency situations, and in general, it is easier to get funds for emergencies for Somalia, than for early recovery and development.

- Raghe/AFREC noted that the situation in the Juba valley is no longer regarded as a critical emergency/humanitarian situation, but that funds are needed to support livelihoods and recovery programmes that will prevent the situation from returning to emergency again. In addition the *Gu* cropping season prospects are not good. Rains have been poor in Juba and people have not had enough seed for planting. A post harvest assessment will be done soon. He was concerned that FAO was ignoring the Juba valley while planning for interventions. The Emergency Coordinator clarified that this is because 60% of FAO Somalia's funds are from Calls for Proposals in which the area of intervention is specified, and that emergency funding is sought in response to emergency situations. Following discussions, it was agreed that it was important that the IDP support focus should continue in the central regions, but that funding should additionally be sought for other areas.

- Abdiwahab of ASEP and co-chair of the cluster emphasized the need to consider focusing livelihoods support to the urban poor, as well as to rural households. This is because the urban poor are hardest hit by the soaring world food prices, and the urban poor cannot benefit from the distribution of seeds and farm inputs. The proposed project on neem seed collection in Mogadishu is one that would focus on employment creation for the urban poor.

5. Cluster reporting and the CAP 2008

- Revised Cluster Response Plan

- The FAO Emergency Coordinator attended the inter-cluster meeting during which there was a discussion on the revised cluster response plan. OCHA had requested clusters to revise the cluster response plan. A blank matrix was circulated to agriculture and livelihoods cluster members for their input but no feedback was received. The FAO Emergency Coordinator then proposed a revised cluster response plan based on an increase in requested funds that reflects proportionally the increase in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, since the cluster response plan was developed for the CAP in December 2007. This was circulated to members, but again no response or comment was received.
- **Action:** FAO will re-circulate the cluster response plan for further review by cluster members and feedback to the Emergency Coordinator on Andrew.harberd@fao.org

- Mid Term Review

- Proposals worth 52.6 million were presented in the agriculture and livelihoods component of the 2008 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), but so far, only 20% of this is funded.
- NGOs should not just wait expecting to get funded if the cluster lead gets funded. Proposals that are in the CAP can also be independently presented to donors, and because they are in the CAP are broadly supported from the cluster.
- It was noted that the agriculture and livelihoods cluster is not getting enough feedback on the (CAP). It is expected that once FAO succeeds in recruiting a dedicated cluster coordinator, information flow will improve.
- **Action:** FAO will circulate the 2008 mid term CAP review for input from cluster members.

6. AOB

- The next agriculture and livelihoods cluster meeting will be held in July at a date that will be communicated.