

## Minutes of

### IASC AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER MEETING

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009 from 09.30am to 12.45pm

#### SSS Conference Room, Ngecha Road

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### Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Opening remarks, Review/Endorsement of Minutes and Action Points from previous meetings.</li> <li>2. Update from FSNAU.</li> <li>3. Update on CAP 2010 process and on the application for Rapid Response funds from the CERF.</li> <li>4. Drought Response: Feedback and Discussion on the Drought Response</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Working Group meeting. Presentation, Discussion and Endorsement: Cluster Terms of Reference.</li> <li>6. Nomination of Cluster Focal Points in the field.</li> <li>7. Presentation: FAO Livelihoods Support Project.</li> <li>8. AOB</li> </ol> |
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### Item 1 Opening remarks, Review/Endorsement of Minutes and Action Points from Previous Meetings

- Chairing this meeting, the Cluster Co-Chair welcomed the cluster members to the meeting.
- The minutes of the cluster meeting of June 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 and the special meeting on the CERF of July 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 were approved without any amendments or comments from the cluster members.

### Item 2 Update from FSNAU

- Grainne Moloney of FSNAU provided an update on the overall timeline and key dates for the upcoming FSNAU and partners Gu 2009 Assessment. She informed that FSNAU had succeeded in collecting data in all areas of Somalia including South Central and regional analysis workshops at the field level had been concluded. The all team analysis workshops, which will be conducted in Nairobi, will commence in August and is well represented including approximately eighty individuals from various organizations. FSNAU extended an invitation to the workshops in Nairobi to individuals who participated in the analysis at the field level. Vetting and validation of the analysis will take place in Nairobi on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009 and thereafter final results on the Gu 2009 assessment will be presented at the SSS Food Security and Economic Development Committee (FSEDC) on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009.

- Ms. Moloney informed that OCHA had facilitated a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 to discuss the drought situation and a strategic response plan. She noted that while the sustained Humanitarian Emergency in central regions of Somalia due to the drought is not a new phenomenon, the emerging drought crisis in the North of Somalia (especially in Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer districts) is new reason for concern.
- FEWS-Net reported that a near normal crop harvest is expected in the Southern regions of Somalia, especially in Bay, and parts of Juba, and Shabelle regions. However, it was pointed out that due to the impacts of increased conflicts on the main road linking the south and central regions, normal cereal flows will be impeded and no significant reduction in current food prices will occur. Moreover, ongoing armed conflict in Mogadishu, Shabelle, and parts of the central region will continue to contribute to food insecurity in IDP camps and among poor urban populations in host communities. In light of this, FEWS-Net recommended the need for livelihoods support in these affected areas.

<p><b>Item 3 Update on CAP 2010 process and on the application for Rapid Response funds from the CERF</b></p>
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- The cluster Chair, Dr. Andrew Harberd, briefed the cluster members that the overall funding received for 2009 CAP is currently at 53 %, with the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster receiving 12% of these funds.
- The cluster Chair gave a presentation on the CAP 2010 process. The cluster support officer will circulate the presentation to cluster members following the meeting.
- The cluster Chair also gave a presentation on the IASC Guidance Document on projects for inclusion in the CAP 2010. The Chair stressed that an important criteria for an organization to include its project in the CAP 2010 is that: the organizations must be a member of the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster; the organizations must have active field presence and undertaking Agriculture and Livelihoods activities at the field level; and the organizations must have the capacity to implement the projects that they submit toward the CAP 2010. The Chair also informed that with the support of the cluster technical/M&E officer Dr. Ibrahim Dagane Ali, the cluster will put in place monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the CAP 2010 projects. The Chair requested the Cluster Support Officer, Habon Hussein, to circulate the IASC guidance document to the cluster members for their review and input.
- The cluster Chair informed that, on behalf of FAO, he had drafted and submitted in mid July 2009 a proposal to the CERF for funding under the CERF's Rapid Response window. The proposal was framed in line with the consultations undertaken with the cluster members at the special meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and concept notes submitted by some cluster members following that consultative meeting. The funding requested is for USD 698,469, targeting a total of 125,000 beneficiaries (62,500 males & 62,500 females) in the South/Central zone. The primary aim of the project is to provide a time-critical intervention during three months of the current dry season to contain Peste des Petite Ruminantes (PPR), a devastating viral disease of sheep and goats, and protect productive livestock assets essential for the livelihoods and survival of some 73,000 pastoralist households in the two Kenya border regions of southern Somalia of Gedo and Lower Jubba.

Additionally, the project intends to provide essential emergency veterinary services to protect the livelihoods and food security of the same 73,000 pastoralist households inhabiting the two Kenya border regions of southern Somalia of Gedo and Lower Jubba. The Chair pointed out that if this project is funded, FAO will work with local NGOs as well as appointed regional vets in the project implementation regions.

- Badri Ahmed of Evergreen Humanitarian Foundation expressed concern that the percentage of CAP funding received by local NGOs tends to be considerably lower in comparison to what International NGOs and the UN receive. Consequently, he deemed the CAP process futile and questioned the rationale for engagement by local NGOs in the upcoming CAP 2010 process.
- The cluster Chair pointed out that the CAP process is not an entirely hopeless one for the local NGOs. First, as indicated in the CAP 2009 Financial Tracking Schedule, local NGOs such as SADO have received direct funding from France facilitated by SADO's project enlisted under the CAP. Moreover, the Chair pointed out that the FAO project submitted under the CAP and funded by the CERF had received USD 2.5 million, of which 70% of the funds was channelled to local NGOs as implementing partners.
- The UNDP representative, Nur Hussein, pointed out that the CAP is not the only avenue for seeking funding and local NGOs can and do receive funding from other sources. He highlighted, for instance, that UNDP has received CERF funds and at least 90% of the funds were channelled to local NGOs as implementing partners.
- With regard to the submission of CAP projects, the GTZ representative Mohamed Aden recommended that the cluster jointly submit proposals for a limited number of projects (8-10 maximum) that was focused to the cluster priorities, targeting areas in need and encouraging agencies to collaborate in their interventions. Moreover, Mr. Aden acknowledged that while local NGOs do benefit from the CAP and CERF as implementing partners, there is a need to enhance the level of engagement and empowerment of the local NGOs especially vis-à-vis in the project design phase.

#### **Recommended Action Points:**

- Cluster Support Officer to circulate to cluster members presentation on the CAP 2010 Process.
- Cluster Support Officer to circulate to the cluster members the IASC Guidance Document of Projects for inclusion in the CAP for their input/comments.

#### **Item 4 Drought Response: Feedback and Discussion on the Drought Response Working Group meeting**

- The Cluster Chair briefed the cluster members that on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 the government of Somaliland, through National Environmental Research and Disaster Preparedness Authority (NERAD), declared drought emergency in that region (especially Sool, Sanag and Togdheer districts) and appealed to the international community and national institutions to provide emergency

assistance. Equally, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009, the Puntland authorities, through HADMA, also declared drought emergency and requested for assistance. FSNAU has also consistently reported on the looming drought crisis persisting in the central region and now emerging in the North region.

- In light of these trends, the Chair updated the cluster members that OCHA had initiated a meeting between key stakeholders on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 to deliberate on the drought situation and agree on a strategic response. The cluster Chair informed that he would present a proposal to OCHA presenting strategic intervention options. Nonetheless, the Chair concurred with FSNAU's earlier comment that the drought crisis in the Central region has been well publicized and is not a new phenomenon and despite its previous attempts the cluster had not received funds to mitigate this crisis.

#### **Item 5 Presentation, Discussion and Endorsement: Cluster Terms of Reference (TOR)**

- The cluster support officer, Habon Hussein, briefed the meeting that a task force had been established to refine the cluster TOR. The task force was made up of six (6) organizations, all of which are members of the cluster, and included: SOADO, Evergreen Humanitarian Foundation, AFREC, GEELO, GTZ and FAO. The cluster support officer thanked the taskforce for its valuable contributions and efforts.
- The cluster support officer presented to the meeting the draft TOR refined by the taskforce, with the objective of seeking additional comments and eventually endorsement of the TOR by the cluster members.
- The cluster members endorsed the TOR, pending the changes recommended at the meeting. The cluster support officer will circulate the final TOR, with recommended changes, to the cluster members.

#### **Recommended Action Points:**

- Cluster Support Officer to circulate to cluster members final Cluster Terms of Reference, incorporating the changes made at the cluster meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009.
- Cluster technical/support team to circulate second Somalia Quarterly Cluster Report (prepared by the clusters and submitted to OCHA) to the cluster members for their review and future contribution toward preparation of the report.

#### **Item 6 Nomination of Cluster Focal Points in the Field**

- The cluster support officer informed the meeting that the cluster was currently seeking to enhance its field presence and improve the co-ordination of field activities by nominating field cluster focal points and possibly co-chairs.
- The cluster support officer explained that a Field Cluster Focal Point volunteers to act as the Cluster Chair in a field location. The Field Cluster Focal Point and Co-chair should be based in a field location and coordinate the activities of the cluster at the field level. This would include facilitating the identification of needs and gaps in assistance, facilitating field cluster meetings, maintaining a contact

list of field cluster members, actively sharing information with the Cluster Chair in Nairobi. The Field Cluster Focal Points may also help the Cluster Chair in Nairobi prepare for the 2010 CAP. Field focal points and Co-chairs are ideally agencies that have the interest, commitment and the capacity to undertake the above activities, without which efficient field co-ordination and adequate response to humanitarian needs is hindered.

- The meeting was informed that the deadline to submit cluster focal points was by 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009. With the support of OCHA field officers, the Cluster Support/Technical team had made efforts to communicate with a few organizations in some regions of Somalia and had requested the cluster members to recommend focal points for the remaining areas.
- The Cluster members recommended that the cluster members to be provided more time to consider the selection of field cluster focal points for the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster as well as to make the process inclusive. In this regard, the cluster support/technical team suggested that they would send out an e-mail following the meeting to request cluster members (agencies) who are interested in becoming the lead focal point in the recommended regions to express their interest by e-mail by Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009. As well, it was noted that there may be need to add additional locations if necessary and members were requested to propose these additional locations and potential focal points.

#### **Recommended Action Points:**

- Cluster Support/Technical team to send e-mail following the cluster meeting to cluster members requesting members interested in becoming focal leads to submit their interest by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2009.
- Interested cluster members to provide input on the field focal point issue by Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009.

#### **Item 7 Presentation: FAO Livelihoods Support Project for Improved Food Security for most Vulnerable Households in South/Central Somalia**

- The presentation was given by Francesco Baldo of FAO, with the aim of sharing information and seeking input from the cluster members. For more details, please refer to the presentation to be circulated by the cluster support/technical team.

Significant comments that emerged from this presentation are as follows:

- Mr. Baldo stressed that the aim of the project is to re-distribute wealth by encouraging those individuals who are better off economically within the community to transfer their assets to the more destitute individuals within the same community.
- Mr. Baldo confirmed that, in spite of the fluctuations in prices, the project budget was able to meet the targeted households.
- It was clarified that the minimum baselines used by the project is based on the minimum basket modality as well as data collected by FSNAU.
- It was explained that the project compliments the efforts of ongoing initiatives

to mitigate the current drought situation in the Central region as the project mainly tries to hinder the transfer of livestock outside the community and therefore not altering the existing ecosystem

- Mr. Baldo informed that the selection of beneficiaries was done in conjunction with the communities.

#### **Item 8 AOB**

There was no AOB.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next cluster meeting will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2009, at 9:30am, at the SSS Baobab Conference Room. Documents in preparation for this meeting will be circulated a week in advance.