

Minutes of

SOMALILAND AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER MEETING

Monday 31st August 2009 from 11.20am to 12.30pm

FAO office Conference Room

Name	Organization	Email address
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Agenda

1. Opening remarks
 2. Discussions on the newly established Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster group in Hargeisa
 3. AOB
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Agenda # 1: Opening remarks

Amran Ibrahim, the cluster chair welcomed the members of the newly established cluster in Somaliland.

This meeting following a series of meeting organized by the IASC Cluster Support Officer in Nairobi represented by Haboon Hussein who came to expand the cluster system to Somaliland as a means of improving coordination of field activities by nominating field cluster focal points and co-chairs. This was successfully done and FAO being the Global Cluster Lead in Agriculture and Livelihoods is also to lead and chair the Somaliland Agriculture and Livelihoods sector and the co-chairing post went to Candlelight while HAVOYOCO is to lead the cluster in Togdheer.

Agenda # 2: Way forward for the newly established Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster in Hargeisa

- In this session, a number of points related to the formation of the cluster was discussed viz. the frequency and duration of meetings, how to include more members and how to reach them so that they attend future meetings.
- Hassan M. Ali suggested weekly meetings for the first two months (September and October), by doing so, he reasoned, we can accomplish the necessary ground work for the establishment and smooth running of the Cluster. The worsening drought situation also

calls for concerted actions and regular meetings and consultations. The idea was seconded by all the members and it was agreed that meetings should be held on Sundays, 11:00 am for the coming two months (September and October). It was agreed that meeting sessions continue for an hour's time.

- In order to enhance the participation of interested member organizations who are involved in the Agriculture/Livelihoods Sector, Amran mentioned that although she widely circulated the information related to the cluster, she would again write message with more details about the Cluster and its significance in "one to one e-mails".
- Nearly all the participants have mentioned some difficulties met in filling the 3Ws format and it was decided that Amran will modify it (by undoing the formulas embedded in the forms) for easy insertion of data. The usefulness of the format i.e. 3Ws and organizational contact persons were discussed and reviewed. Amran agreed to distribute the revised forms by the end of the day.
- Abdikarim from OCHA mentioned the importance of including the e-mails of cluster members to Nairobi Cluster so that they can regularly receive updates from the bigger forum in Nairobi.
- A contact list of all cluster members indicating the contact person of each organization and an alternate person, in the absence of the former, is to be submitted showing the name, organization, mobile # and landline, e-mail address and his/her function in the organization.
- Sadia from PENHA, raised the gravity of the drought situation in the country and at the same time stressed the need for concerted actions. This has generated the idea of organizing a rapid assessment to be carried out by the participating organizations which could then be used as an advocacy tool in the drought mitigation.
- Abdikarim from OCHA volunteered with some tips for effective running of the cluster. He said we should not leave all tasks to be shouldered by the Chair and the Co-chair, but we need volunteers to share the workload, since they are also too busy with their organizational commitments.
- The issue of establishing a local 'project review committee' has generated an extended discussion and was finally understood to be sensitive and could create mistrust among members, no matter how transparent it is handled. Therefore, project review process, particularly for HRF interventions, be left to the committee in Nairobi. Instead, it was decided the said committee, which the name it will carry was not decided yet, should limit its role on advising and guiding other organizations on the best way they can access funds, providing them with crucial information such as the priority needs, who is doing what, where and when. Finally a criteria for the committee is to be set during the next meeting.

AOB.

The need for the conduct of a Humanitarian Forum in which the current situation will be discussed (including a presentation by FNSAU) as soon as possible was articulated by the participants. Two cluster members {Ahmed Ibrahim (Candlelight) Ali and Hassan Mohamed Ali from (VETAID)} were assigned to meet NERAD Commissioner and discuss with him on the urgency of the meeting, and then report back to the Cluster.

Next Meeting

The next cluster meeting will be held on Sunday, 6 August, 2009, at 11:00am, at VETAID office.

Minute taker: Ahmed Ibrahim Awale

