

Meeting of
IASC AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER
ENDORSED MINUTES

Wednesday 6th August 2008 from 02.30pm to 04.35pm.

FAO Regional Office Conference Room, Eden Square.

Participants

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Agenda

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Opening Remarks. 2) Shabeelle Food Security Crisis.
- Brief presentation of the CERF project 3) Livelihoods Establishment Programme in Support of Most Vulnerable Households. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of proposals: AFREC, JCC, ASEP, HARDO. 4) Funding of the CAP 2008 and selection of priority projects for submission to the HRF. 5) AOB. |
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1. Opening Remarks.

- Minutes of the Agriculture & Livelihoods cluster meeting that was held on 20th June were reviewed and endorsed as a true reflection of the discussions.
- During the meeting, draft minutes of the previous meeting, presentation on CAP 2009, and the CAP project registration sheet were circulated to participants.

Action points from the previous meeting

- a) 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 . The plan was re – circulated and no feedback was received.
- b) FAO will circulate the 2008 mid term CAP review for input from cluster members. Re – circulated. No feedback was received.

2. Shabeelle Food Security Crisis

- Brief presentation of the CERF project

- The project manager of the CERF funded project Andrea Berloff, and the Assistant Project Manager, Dan Opiyo Owuor, were introduced during the meeting.
- The Shabeelle is going through a food security crisis because of the 2006 “Der” riverine flooding, low annual cereal production in 2007 (it was the lowest in 10 years), sharp increase of inflation at 125%, devaluation of the Somali shilling, massive increase of cereal prices since January, disruption of trade and economic activities due to civil insecurity which has increased the number of IDPs.
- The CERF funded project has a budget of US\$ 2,000,001 and is being implemented by FAO. It is titled “OSRO/SOM/807/CHA: Integrated cash and food for work in support of populations in food security crisis in Middle and Lower Shabeelle regions of Southern Somalia”. The objective of the project is to support cash and food for work interventions for both riverine farmers and pastoralists, in the middle and lower Shabeelle regions by providing an income, food and saving lives and livelihoods whilst rehabilitating important rural production to enable recovery for rural populations.
- The target beneficiaries are 383,000 people (53,300 direct beneficiaries and 330,000 indirect beneficiaries) who will receive support through cash and food for work assistance. The project will be implemented by local and international NGOs and CBOs. At least 30% of the beneficiaries will be women. Poor and very poor members of the community, IDPs, returnees and urban poor who are deeply affected by skyrocketing food prices and declining purchasing power, will be targeted by the project.
- FAO will work closely with UNDP which is implementing a similar project in Middle Shabeelle and will contact WFP to discuss how to jointly implement food for work activities. FAO will regularly update OCHA on the progress of the project.

The expected outcomes of the project are:

- Stabilization of the current food security crisis in the Middle and Lower Shabeelle regions.
- Protection of the most vulnerable from nutritional deprivation or from resorting to harmful coping strategies.
- 53,300 poor households in the Middle and Lower Shabeelle regions will have benefited through access to cash and food for work programs.
- 800 km irrigation canals in the Middle and Lower Shabeelle regions will be rehabilitated through cash or food for work.
- 40 km river embankment in the Middle and Lower Shabeelle regions will be repaired through cash or food for work.
- 100 water catchments in the Middle and Lower Shabeelle regions will be rehabilitated through cash or food for work.
- 400 km rural feeder roads in the Middle and Lower Shabeelle regions will be rehabilitated through cash or food for work.
- At the moment, key staff are being recruited to work on the project and NGOs which will work with FAO are being selected. The interventions will involve scaling up emergency humanitarian assistance and are based on FSAU analysis and recommendations.

Discussion

- CERF funds are spent within 3 months with a no cost extension of 1 month and completion of activities within 3 months. It was noted that the “Der” rains that are expected in October may delay implementation of activities.
- The CERF project will only rehabilitate secondary canals. This is because the activities that are planned for are labour intensive while the rehabilitation of primary canals would be mechanised by use of excavators. The use of excavators would in effect reduce the number of direct beneficiaries. Specific areas in which the interventions will take place will be determined by community priorities and the applications that will be received from NGOs. NGOs were urged to present their intent to work on the CERF project by 11th August 2008 so as to provide for adequate time for discussion with Lower Shabeelle administration after the selection of NGOs and before the project starts.
- UNDP is implementing a cash for work project in Middle Shabeelle and Hiiran regions. 60% of the funds are going directly to the beneficiaries through cash for work. However, UNDP is not sure they will be able to initiate the interventions in Hiiran due to insecurity. A decision will be taken during the week starting on 11th August on the basis of information that will be received from the field. Community management committees are identifying the NGOs that will work with UNDP. The local administration is represented in the community management committees. The primary objective of the UNDP project is to inject cash into the community.
- **Action point:** International NGOs to write to Dan Opiyo dan.opiyo@fao.org / danopiyo@yahoo.com by close of business on 11.08.2008 expressing interest in implementing the CERF project. Selected NGOs will be requested to write a proposal.
- **Action point:** Local NGOs working in Lower Shabeelle which have not been contacted by FAO should get in touch with Dan Opiyo on the above address and express interest by close of business on 11.08.2008. Selected local NGOs will be requested to write a proposal.

3. Livelihoods Establishment Programme in Support of Most Vulnerable Households - Presentation of proposals: AFREC, JCC, ASEP, HARDO

FAO has US\$ 650,000 given by the Government of Sweden to support livelihood interventions for IDPs. FAO will work with cluster member NGOs to implement the project. AFREC, JCC, ASEP and HARDO presented their proposals as follows:

AFREC

- AFREC did an assessment a few days before the 2008 CAP process started to determine the number of IDPs who arrived in Jilib district following conflict in Mogadishu and to determine their needs. As result 700 households mainly secondary IDPs were registered. In response to the identified needs AFREC put a proposal in 2008 CAP with a budget of US\$ 175,000.
- Since the last assessment, there has been a drastic increase of IDPs from Mogadishu and Jamame into Jilib district. To be able to respond to the needs of the IDPs, AFREC and WFP recently conducted an assessment to determine the number and needs of IDPs and host communities in the district. During the assessment, it was found out that 3,000 IDP and 2,000 host community households need urgent assistance. AFREC submitted a proposal to the Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster

targeting 3,000 IDP households and 2,000 host community households. The amount of money requested in the proposal is US\$ 414,794.

- The livelihood situation in Jilib has deteriorated because of soaring food prices, lack of access to income, hyper-inflation, lack of alternative livelihood support, and a poor harvest in “Der” season while “Gu” harvest is equally very low due to poor rains. As a result, MSF Holland has had a 64% increase of admission of cases in their therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Marere.
- The focus of the interventions is to increase production by the local community through the provision of seeds, farming tools, fishing gear and tractor hours. The farms of returnees are bushy and need to be cleared for farming hence the need to provide farming tools and tractor hours. The provision of fishing gear will encourage fresh water fishing and this will improve the nutrition status of the beneficiaries.
- Raghe/AFREC noted that there has minimal interventions in Jilib district and this should be taken into consideration in as much as the funds are earmarked for Mudug, Galgadud and Hiiran regions.

JCC

- JCC has been working in Middle Juba for the last 17 years and in Bakool from 2007. They have prepared a proposal for IDP livelihoods support in Bakool and are seeking US\$102,000 in funding. There are about 800,000 IDPs from Mogadishu who are currently in Bakool. JCC is targeting 500,000 beneficiaries who are currently receiving food aid from WFP.
- Interventions will include rehabilitating 15 shallow wells through cash for work by 500 IDPs for one month. Another intervention will be the establishment of 10m X 10m vegetable gardens. JCC will provide them with farming tools and seeds. Already, there are individuals who have vegetable gardens. Other interventions will be to dig pit latrines for IDPs. UNICEF will be requested to provide the slabs.
- JCC will also send a proposal to the HRF for the assistance of the pastoral community in Bakool.

ASEP

- ASEP proposes to have cash for work interventions for IDPs in Luuq district, Gedo region to rehabilitate farm infrastructure and is seeking US\$ 191,000 in funding. The project will complement the on going food security project which is being implemented by ASEP and will build on activities of the flood mitigation project which was completed this year. The main goal of the project is to integrate IDPs in Luuq district into the host small holder farming communities in which they are living to improve their food security and that of the host community.
- Project activities will include rehabilitation of 26 primary irrigation canals which are 600m long and 0.8m wide. The target beneficiaries are 520 households (direct beneficiaries), 1,560 households (indirect beneficiaries). 80% of the target population will be IDPs, and female headed households will get priority. All the work will be done manually using hand tools and sandbags.
- It is expected that the project will increase food production, increase the purchasing power of the beneficiaries, improve household income, and inject capital in the local economy.

HARDO

- HARDO seeks US\$ 151,565 funding and is targeting 4,250 beneficiaries (800 households) who are agro – pastoralists in Jalalaqsi district of Hiiran region. They

also plan to target 50 households with weak, disabled and old people to give them US\$2 per day for 90 days. 84% of the funds will go directly to the beneficiaries.

- The activities will be cash for work for three months to earn 2US\$ per day to enable the beneficiaries stay in their areas until the time when the “Der” rains come so that they can cultivate their rain fed farms.

Discussion

- The cluster coordinator noted that the funds available at FAO are for livelihoods establishment but the activities proposed by JCC do not reflect this. However JCC feels that the IDPs can use the money that they will earn from the cash for work interventions to pay their debts and to buy items/property that they require for re-establishing their livelihoods.
- He also clarified that only 10% of the total budget can be spent in areas that are not in a state of humanitarian emergency (HE).
- Raghe/AFREC proposed that the information that FSAU is about to release should also be taken into consideration. This is because different areas may be in humanitarian emergency and such information will help the cluster to re – prioritize.
- It was noted that there are other sources of funding and those proposals that will not be funded with the money that is available in FAO may be presented to other sources of funding.
- **Action point:** All proposals will be circulated by Friday 8th august by email together with a matrix so that cluster members can rank them. The responses received will be evaluated by 17th August and presented to cluster members during the next meeting.

4. Funding of the CAP 2008 and selection of priority projects for submission to the HRF

- OCHA requested each cluster to select 3 proposals which will did not receive funding from the CAP in 2008 for consideration for HRF funding. FAO reviewed 51 proposals (of which 10 were from FAO) and selected 6 of them that were presented during the cluster meeting. Below is a summary of the proposals:
- Oxfam NOVIB: The proposal titled “Livelihoods programme, sustainable rural development for local communities” seeks US\$ 700,000 to improve food security and self reliance of local communities in South Central Somalia. It targets 75,000 beneficiaries focusing on disadvantaged sectors of the population (women, children, IDPs and the minority).
- SACOD: The proposal titled “Emergency livelihood support to vulnerable marginalized and minority communities” seeks US\$ 217,000 to save lives of IDPs and very vulnerable host communities through improved food security in Lower Shabeelle region. It targets 7,000 beneficiaries (1,500 women, 5,000 children and 500 youth).
- PASOS: The proposal titled “Integrated livelihood support to vulnerable populations” seeks US\$ 135,750 to increase livelihood means to communities in Balcad district of Middle Shabeelle region. It targets 1,000 families.
- HARDO: The proposal titled “Food security for affected families in Hiiran” seeks US\$ 250,000 to contribute to the improvement of household livelihoods through provision of agricultural inputs. The project targets 1,460 beneficiaries (584 children, 511 males and 365 elderly people).
- APDN: The proposal titled “3.5km irrigation canal rehabilitation to improve food

security of Bangalley village of Afgooye district” seeks US\$ 54,997 to increase and provide food security for farmers in Lower Shabeelle. The project targets 2,100 beneficiaries who include children, women and men.

- VSF Swiss: The proposal titled “Livestock re-stocking /re-distribution programme amongst vulnerable groups in Galgaadud and Muddug region” seeks US\$ 505,000 to improve food security and economic opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized groups in Central Somalia. The project targets 1,000 households (800 IDPs and 200 female headed households)

Discussion

- The cluster coordinator noted that the APDN proposal is likely to be funded through the ongoing CERF funded project.
- Regarding the VSF Suisse proposal, it was noted that it is better to have each household receive 30-35 goats than 5-10 of them which beneficiaries are likely to sell and be left with nothing.
- The maximum amount of money that the HRF can fund is US\$250,000.
- Mario/UNDP noted that the FSAU IPC maps are probably being used too restrictively. He suggested that the cluster should consider the possibility of having interventions in acute food and livelihood crisis (AFLC) areas funded so that these areas do not slip into a state of humanitarian emergency (HE). On the other hand, the cluster coordinator felt that it maybe a luxury to fund areas that are in AFLC while there are areas that are in HE situation and insufficient funds to meet even a fraction of the needs of these areas.
- **Action point:** It was agreed that the proposals and a matrix for ranking be circulated to cluster members. Cluster members will be required to select 3 proposals out of the six. The selected proposals will be forwarded to the HRF.

5. AOB

- None.
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