



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Somalia

Somalia Drought Coordination Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 29 July 2009
SSS Conference Room, Nairobi (draft)

Opening Remarks:

OCHA opened the meeting and explained that this drought coordination meeting was called to provide a forum for information sharing on recent drought related information, and to agree the way forward in determining appropriate response. It was suggested, and agreed by the meeting, that presentations would be delivered by 3 organizations before the floor would be opened to discussion by all participants.

Presentations:

Swalim presented data on rainfall and river levels. The Power Point presentation is attached.

FSNAU confirmed that the conclusions of their Gu Season Early Warning issued on 12 June were supported by the preliminary results of the post Gu Assessment. The Gu Season Early Warning from FSNAU can be found at <http://www.fsasomali.org/> Results from the Post Gu Assessment will be available 21 August.

Horn Relief presented the findings of their recent assessment in Sanaag region. The assessment was circulated and is attached.

Information provided coincided in identifying the central region as being most severely affected in South Central, with Bakool and Gedo also of concern. In the North the Sool Plateau was seen to be severely affected, with differences on the extent of the crisis in other locations.

Discussion:

The WASH Cluster Coordinator stated that agencies in both Puntland and Somaliland have produced lists of drought affected locations. However, these lists must be improved before they can form the basis for a prioritization of interventions. It was agreed that a prioritization of the areas along with some figures were needed in order to do response planning and the process could not wait for the FSNAU post gu assessment report due on the 21st August. Further, this information could be used to also mobilize donors as various clusters are currently under funded. The WASH Cluster Coordinator agreed to lead a process, in conjunction with the Agriculture and Livelihood and Nutrition clusters as well as FSNAU and FEWS, to work with field staff and information currently available to produce such an analysis.

Action Point: The WASH Cluster Coordinator will lead the process of producing a prioritization based on regions and districts along with population figures in need within 7 – 10 days.

It was agreed that drought is a recurrent problem in Somalia and the humanitarian community needs to make the necessary links with development actors to ensure that the short and long term strategies for drought response are coordinated. This step should follow directly from the development of our shared analysis.

The meeting discussed the hazards of various WASH and agriculture interventions. Salinization from irrigation was an identified concern. The long term high expense of water trucking compared to boreholes was compared. Related to this the contribution boreholes have made to environmental degradation was also highlighted. It was agreed that these technical issues would be referred to the WASH and Food Security and Livelihood clusters for further discussion and the identification of humanitarian intervention priorities in line with best practice.

Action Point: Technical discussions on drought response to be referred to the clusters.