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(OCHA) SOMALIA

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**Summary of discussions - Inter-Cluster Working Group, Tuesday 7 April 2009**

**Venue: OCHA RO Conference Room, Nairobi at 2.30 – 4.00 pm**

**Introductory remarks and Updates**

The action points from the last meeting were discussed as follows:

a) AP: *Discussion on cross-border movement of pastoralists in search of water and pasture should be initiated with the UNICEF Kenya office* – A meeting of the Pastoral Areas Coordination, Analysis, and Policy Support (PACAPS) and USAID - Regional Enhanced Livelihoods in Pastoral Areas (RELPA) was to take place on 09 April, where this issue could be raised. OCHA would forward the details of the meeting to the WASH and the Agriculture and Livelihoods Clusters, which were interested in possibly attending the meeting.

b) AP: *Capacity building of clusters that require technical assistance in reviewing proposals will be rolled out as soon as possible* – the agriculture and livelihood cluster has hired a support officer in addition to the cluster support officer, and have set aside 15,000 USD for capacity building. WFP already has established a training cell and currently has hired a consultant to undertake a capacity building assessment, which once completed can be shared. The general view was that in addition to technical capacity building, training should be provided on admin/finance issues and proposal writing. WFP to provide feedback.

c) The HRF action points will be discussed at the next meeting as Ivana Unluova from the HRF unit was not available.

A query was raised as to whether mapping of national and international NGOs has been conducted. So far, an online contact directory is being developed and available shortly. Some clusters have provided their NGO contact list to OCHA, and UNHCR and Health will do so shortly. The primary OCHA contact for information relating to NGO contacts is: **Lisa Peterson [peterson1@un.org]**

Water shortages in Puntland are a cause for critical intervention. However, there is concern that project proposals received for funding are well drafted. WASH cluster was requested to meet with partners to help them improve and come up with sound proposals prior to submission to the HRF, so that funds are released in a more timely manner.

Cluster leads were requested to supply agenda items so as to make the meeting meaningful in highlighting areas where response could be improved.

### **CAP Mid-Term Review**

The Deputy Head of OCHA gave a 'heads-up' that the CAP mid term review is coming up. Based on received draft guidelines, draft sector inputs are due by 1 June. Comments will be incorporated, compiled and re-circulated by the HC on 3 June. The final draft will be submitted to headquarters by 10 June. The exact details of the process will be circulated before the next Intercluster meeting, and be on the agenda for discussion.

### **Update on IASC Mogadishu Return Policy**

UNHCR gave a brief on the IASC return policy: Since mid January 2009, there have been dramatic changes with the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops and the resignation of former President Abdullahi Yusuf. Today, an estimated 55,000 – 60,000 people are said to have returned to Mogadishu. About 25,000 people have left Mogadishu despite ongoing conflict, displacements and continued mixed migration. These returns precipitated the IASC to take up the issue by developing a Mogadishu return policy paper. In addition, the IASC formed a task force to digest issues related to return.

The challenge however is to ensure that returns are sustainable and occurs voluntarily, in safety and in dignity. The potential challenge of a large-scale return to Mogadishu in a short period of time was explained. The absorption capacity of the area of return needs to be understood and addressed prior to encouraging mass returns. Authorities and agencies need to work closely to make returns happen voluntarily in safety and dignity.

A clear position from the IASC on IDP returns to Mogadishu is that the IASC does not encourage the return of IDPs to Mogadishu at this time, based on analysis of available data on actual and protection risks for civilians in Mogadishu. However, this does not mean that people cannot return, which they will in any event; merely that the IASC is unlikely to be able so assist such returnees.

The taskforce was established to continuously analyze the situation of returnees in Mogadishu and bring recommendations to the IASC. It will be mandated to review next steps after policy has been developed, look at common messaging, and propose policy changes given the ever changing dynamics on the ground. It is chaired by UNHCR and currently constitutes 3 NGOs (NRC, DRC, a third to be nominated from the NGO Consortium), and OCHA. The taskforce will contact Clusters as the need arises to obtain technical information / assistance.

Concern was raised as to whether DSS is granting clearance to international staff and increasing the ceiling of national staff. Participants were informed that efforts are being made to facilitate return of national staff to work and live in the UNCC compound in Mogadishu. There have been 3 missions to Mogadishu so far though missions should increase.

A cholera outbreak was reported in Mogadishu two days ago. WHO is still determining whether cholera is originating from Mogadishu or arriving from other regions in the country. The health cluster will

monitor the situation in consultation with clusters. **Lisa Peterson [peterson1@un.org]** will serve as the focal point for collecting information on live movements and historical movements of populations into Mogadishu.

The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs is planning to come to Nairobi soon to meet humanitarian actors. He is very new to the position, and as a result it would be useful for him to hear from the humanitarian community. Clusters were requested to provide agenda items that could be raised with him as soon as possible. The focal point is **Bediako Buahene [buahene@un.org]**

Participants were requested to share previous studies, surveys and assessments on returns. OCHA will act as a repository for the information. If there are concerns on sensitivity of information, a password protected site could be developed. The focal point is **Lisa Peterson [peterson1@un.org]**

### **Funding Update**

Following a donor meeting held on 2 April, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands have pledged funds to the CAP. The donor meeting focused on Mogadishu returns policy, the humanitarian crisis, and a presentation from FSAU on the impact of the prolonged drought in Somalia vis-à-vis severe water shortage, deaths of livestock, continued displacements of communities and drying up of wells.

The HC outlined the positive developments in Somalia so far, specifically improvement in access and security and a decline in targeted attacks of humanitarian aid workers. The HC stated that the Government's priorities include establishing security and the return of displaced persons to Mogadishu.

A suggestion was tabled for clusters like shelter that are yet to receive funding to use the donor meeting as a possible forum to address shelter/NFI gaps. A Cluster could use the meeting to highlight gaps/key concerns and achievements with a focus on pressing and urgent needs. The a cluster could choose to use this forum and discuss their proposal with OCHA Donor Relations/HRF. Cluster leads embraced the proposal.

The Education Cluster lead requested a more timely and accurate reflection of funding update on the FTS. This follows from the premise that the education cluster has received about USD 2.4 million which has yet to be reflected on FTS. A suggestion was made that contributions made to clusters could be updated as pledges. It was clarified that uploads on FTS are made once donors confirm funding from their respective headquarters.

The link to FTS for current and past appeals is available on:

<http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/pageloder.aspx?page=emerg-emergencies&section=CE&year=2009>

The Health Cluster raised concern over lack of funding for outbreak response. There is a pressing need to conduct early warning and surveillance continuously throughout the year. They sought clarification on life saving interventions as this forms the basis for CERF funding.

**Action point:** The OCHA HRF unit will circulate a list of NGOs that have received HRF funding

### **Indicators for Cluster Report/Donor Meetings**

A draft cluster response indicator was circulated to participants as produced by the OCHA Information Management Unit. It outlines measurable indicators to be used for global reporting as well as concrete programming that has taken place within a month. Clusters were requested to provide feedback on a more systematic and realistic method for reporting and decide on indicators they would like monitored. The feedback should be provided ASAP so that it can form part of the information available for the next IASC Donor Meeting. The information collected will form the basis for the cluster reports and is a build up to the mid-term review process. There was consensus that reporting could start at the end of April. Clusters should provide their feedback to **Lisa Peterson [peterson1@un.org]**

### **A.O.B**

Issues cluster leads would like forwarded to the IASC should be systematically sent to **Bediako Buahene[buahene@un.org]**

#### *Update on National Cluster Support Officers:*

Cluster leads will receive a package of the long listed candidates from Lisa. She will act as the focal point for any issues regarding short/long listing. Interviews will be conducted next week with the exception of the Livelihood cluster's choice who is already in process of being recruited.

#### Summary of Action Points:

- The HRF action points from this meeting will be discussed at the next meeting (OCHA)
- UNHCR & Health Cluster to provide their NGO contact lists to OCHA
- HRF question & answer session to be on next ICWG agenda
- Corrections to indicators to be submitted to OCHA (All Clusters)

*The next joint IASC/Intercluster working group meeting will tentatively take place on 29 April 2009.*