

Minutes on the Ad hoc meeting held in Mandera.

Venue: Trocaire Office

Date: 7/10/09

Time: 9:30-10:30.

Participants.

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Agenda:

1. Identify the weak and flood prone areas along Jubba/Dawa River.
2. Establish effects of the possible floods.
3. Identify capacity and resources for flood induced emergency available at the field level.
4. A.O.B.

Min 1.

The meeting which was chaired by Abdullahi Hersi managed to discuss about the areas that are flood prone where there is a possibility of river break and eventually floods. The participants agreed that following are flood prone areas:

- Malkariye, Gawido and Unsi all along the Dawa.
- Bantal and Gubata areas of Dolow district.
- Lugh town and Gurac bul areas.
- Burdubo settlement and surroundings.
- Golweyn area
- Many villages (from Mardha up to Salegle) along Jubba River in Bardera.

The meeting also learnt that the floods can develop as a result of inland runoffs. The example cited include: Halul and Funuje areas in Garbaharrey and Gargelis and Khalalio of Bardera district where flash and torrential floods can not only cause serious damages but also increases number of roads and farming land that go underwater.

Min 2.

The meeting discussed about the humanitarian implications that may occur as a result of floods induced by El-nino phenomenon. Based on the experience and the lesson learnt in the last El-nino of 1997 and torrential floods in 2006, the meeting underscored that the following are some of the expected effects from the possible floods:

- Heavy rains may contribute high mortality of already weak and emaciated animal especially shoats.
- Since Gedo has no tarmac roads, expect floods will adversely affect the access and movement of both commercial goods and humanitarian supplies to the different districts and settlements in Gedo.
- Food prices will be skyrocketed while lack of supply will further impede the food stock available in Gedo.
- Crops along river and the other flood prone areas would be destroyed.
- Farm structure would be obliterated.
- Farm tools will be washed out and lives of riverine farming communities will not be spared.
- Breeding of mosquito and other disease carrier vectors will cause more human and animal diseases.
- Water pollution and poor environmental sanitation may stimulate incidence of water borne diseases.
- Child and maternal deaths will be expected to move up should the appropriate measures for averting possible disaster are not put in place.
- The floods precipitated asset loss and displacement will jeopardize livelihood while increases number of persons in needy external assistance.
- Lack of necessary shelter and other essentials for the domestic use will place the vulnerable especially the IDPs in a very dangerous and indignity position.
- Poor awareness and lack of information about the possibility floods indicates absence of the necessary emergency preparedness and probable effects from the floods.
- Negative perception against humanitarian community may impede the access to the people in flood affected areas.

Min 3.

The participants of the meeting also talked about the existing capacities and resources available at the field level and actions already carried out by the different agencies in a bid to mitigate the effects of the floods. The following are resources and capacities currently available in Gedo:

- Trocaire informed the meeting that it has enough technical staff that is capable to contain the situation should an outbreak of diseases as a result of predicted floods start. Trocaire also deposited the medical supplies, pumpnets and food for OTP feeding centres and hospitals in Belet-Hawa, Lugh and Garbaharrey and other main health posts in Dolow, Elade, and Burdubo.
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) told the meeting that 600 household kits of Non Food Items (NFIs) are their stores in Garbaharrey. NCA expressed her willingness to quickly respond and distribute the NFIs should genuine flood induced need arises.

- SADO updated the meeting that it has 3,500 empty bags in Bardera and the same can be used to block the weak and flood susceptible points. SADO promised to make available the 3,500 empty bags for flood protection. SADO further indicated their previous experience and competency will enable them to effectively respond to such calamities.
- VSF-Suisse informed the participants in this ad hoc meeting that their organization is de facto veterinary authority in Gedo. VSF-Suisse told the meeting that 7,500 vouchers for deworming and treatment of common animals diseases. VSF-Suisse has also a plan to provide post flood animal vaccination including Rift-Valley Fever other possible disease outbreaks. To improve rain water harvesting strategies, VSF-Suisse also intends to expand retention capacities of 2 earth pans i.e. one in Gariley while targeted area other pan is yet to be identified.
- The representatives from ASEP told the meeting that with view of mitigating the effects of the predicted Elnino phenomenon, their organization has already mobilized the riverine communities in Belet-Hawa, Dolow, Lugh and Burdubo. ASEP maintained that, though it currently has no financial resources to intervene, it has the needed capacities to respond should the necessary financial support is provided to them.

Action points

- Agencies in the meeting agreed that there is need for more community awareness on the possible effects of the flood.
- The Islamist administration needs to be negotiated for them to provide security for the humanitarian supplies and staff while allowing unhindered access to the needy should flood induced be emerged.
- Using radio FM where available business persons should be sensitized to reserve more food stocks in their stores at the major towns.
- There is need for more NFIs, VIP latrines, protection of water sources and water treatments.
- There is need more food should be deposited to each and every district as the road will be affected by expected floods which may easily obstruct movement of supplies.
- There is also need for medical and vaccines for both human and animal population in Gedo.

Min 4.

A.O.B.

Since there was no any other business the meeting ended at 10:30.