



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – SOMALIA

**MINUTES OF FLOOD COORDINATION MEETING HELD AT HIRAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
THURSDAY- 8TH OCTOBER 2009**

Agenda/topics discussed in the meeting

1. Status of floods control/embankments or weak points on the river embankments and potential flooded areas in Belet Weyne.
2. Flood prevention activities updates by agencies.
3. Agencies' flood preparedness and response plans in the region.
4. AOB

Documents Distributed:

1. Proposed Agenda/Topics of the meeting
2. River embankment breakage monitoring form

Opening remarks and introduction of participants

Meeting chaired by OCHA. Participants introduced themselves and the agenda of the meeting was read and endorsed by the participants.

OCHA briefed the meeting the background information that prompted this meeting. Following the anticipated Elnino floods for Deyr season, the flood working group in Nairobi recommended for the nominated lead agencies to activate the field level local committees for the areas most at risk for 2009 anticipated floods and work flood preparedness plans. Since most of the agencies work in Belet Weyne district, the flood information will be shared the other districts in the region where the Shabelle river passes.

Minutes

1. Status of floods control/embankments or weak points on the river embankments and potential flooded areas in Hiran;

Despite the preparedness and response plans to the risks of possible floods, the participants underlined and agreed that Hiran region is currently in acute hazards of drought, water scarcity crisis is being reported from most of the districts in the region, many animals especially cattle and shoats are dying due to lack of water and pasture. Many pastoralists already lost their livestock and are destitute displaced in the towns and rural settlements. These drought affected people could not meet the basic needs. In addition there are many other pastoralists who are on the way to become the same if actions to mitigate the effects of the drought not undertaken.

Coming to the flood issue, the Participants agreed that even though the weather forecast units confirmed the flood in 2009, there is no sign of floods currently in the region and the information from upper stream of Qalafo and Mustahil of Somali zone of Ethiopia indicate that the river has not yet rise.

FAO –SWALIM – informed the meeting that they collect the river level, discharge measurements and river water quality data by measuring the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), Total Suspended Solid (TSS), Electric Conductivity (EC), PH etc. He reported that the river level has been fluctuating between 2.0 to 3.40m and the slight increase of the river in September was due to the release of Godey dam. When asked current quality of the water, he confirmed that it is good for irrigation and drinking particularly animals. He promised to work and share information with the flood committee and lead agency. He added that generally the rains are expected in mid October and end of November and high risk season could be with in these periods.

BYDO - shared the participants information they collected from various parts of the river embankments they surveyed one day before the meeting. The villages of Helikaliyo 7 km north of Belet Weyne and in the Belet Weyne town the locations of Bilisdid and Dhurdhere were identified as weak embankments that need reinforcements. Some of these points are the entrance of the rain water to the river that is called Hud in Somalia. If these hud are broken the rain water could flood the villages. Therefore the flood protection of such locations needs special attention.

CMC - reported that they rehabilitated several locations of river embankments in 2007/8 to protect the floods worked well although there were no major floods occurred after that. But the rehabilitation of Warabole canal was very useful and worked well to protect the flooding from the town. This canal was build during the colonial time for the protection of the flood from the town and it locates in strategic location. CMC identified one of the discharge gates is very narrow and needs to enlarge for efficient protection of the floods.

MERCY GROUP- reported that they rehabilitated two embankments in the area of Abdi Dirie and Liqliqato in Hawlwadaag section that are functioning. He suggested to the meeting the need for desilting Warabole Canal for easy passage of the river water and strengthening of the Warabole embankment.

Flood protection community initiatives undertaken with their contributions were mentioned in the meeting such as Hawatako river embankment. Another community has contributed to construct a wall at Dhaqahjabis canal (Hud) to prevent floods and is on going and needs to be completed.

Weak Embankments in Belet Weyne District that was mentioned in the meeting are:
Helikaliyo, Dhurdhere, Bilisdid, Warabole, Bundo Kowad of Hawatako village, omar Dhurre, Filtaro, Ali Salah, Nor Mo'alim, Hilo Berdo and Bashir Mo'alim are the weak embankments and floods potential areas in and outside of Belet Weyne town.

2. FLOOD PREVENTION ACTIVITIES UPDATES BY AGENCIES.

All representatives from the respective NGOs reported that there is a not flood prevention/protection activity that is under way by their agencies. It was mentioned in the meeting that NGOs are lacking the capacity and the funds to respond emergencies on time.

3. AGENCIES FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANS IN THE REGION

IMC- reported it has preparedness plans to response any emergency particularly in health. They have requested additional health supplies from UNICEF and have mobilized standby team in order to respond on the time if flood emergency occur. The flood risks are diarrhea, cholera, malaria outbreaks and IMC have preparedness plans for such risks.

HWS- reported that they are partner with UNICEF and has a contingency preposition of chlorine, soaps and other WASH related items in there store but the quantities will be confirmed latter.

GEELO - in partner with **CISV** has emergency health supplies in their stocks and mobile clinics for any emergency for displaced people.

WARDI- reported that they in partner with UNICEF have WASH emergency items in their store.

SRCS- reported is has emergency preparedness plans and volunteer teams that consist of first aid and emergency teams who will be deployed for any type of emergency. In addition it has some stock as well as plans to request additional flood stock.

DRC- reported it has stock of NFI kits for 3000 families that consists of Jerry cans 2, Plastic sheet 1, Blanket 2 and set of household utensils.

ADRA – reported that it has no life project currently but is carrying out education baseline survey and it will assess the floods along its education assessment. It will share the findings with Nairobi office.

SOMARDC- will provide technical consultations to the farmers that may be affected by the floods.

SC- UK- has currently no prepared plans for responding to the floods.

WHO- will support technically and supplies with the agencies involved in the health sector like IMC, SRCS. WHO will support health surveillance activities in the region when an emergency crisis occurs.

FSAU- will collect data related to issues affecting the food security and livelihood and share with their partners.

OCHA- informed that it is the lead agency and would like if any partner would like to volunteer to be lead agency for Hiran floods. OCHA as usual will continue to facilitate and support the coordination of flood preparedness and response actions. There is a TOR for the lead agencies that clarifies the roles and the responsibilities of the lead agency. This TOR will be shared with the volunteer lead agency.

4. AOB

The meeting discussed the current access issue in the region as AOB and participants agreed that all districts in Hiran region are accessible but contacting and communication with administration of the specific area to be worked is important. Otherwise there are no issues.

The next meeting will be called by OCHA and the date and the venue will be communicated to the partners.

Action points

- ✓ Agencies to collect list of the high flood risk villages in Belet Weyne district in their knowledge and submit to the lead agency;

Participants

PARTICIPANT	AGENCY	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE
Abdullahi Warsame Abdi	UNOCHA	warsame@un.org	62564255
Dahir Shire Mohamed	ADRA	Shire220@yahoo.com	5557032
Hassan Abdullahi Hussein	DRC	hiran.agri@gmail.com	5564275
Mumin ali Osman	FSNAU	mumin_41@hotmail.com	5564275

Abukar Abdullahi Hashi	SRCS	Alcadaala118@hotmail.com	5907308
Abdullahi Mohamed Hussien	SCUK	Duuliye999@hotmail.com	5502603
Omar Sabrie Olad	FAO SWALIM	Omarsabrie8@hotmail.com	5572415
Abdi Farah Muse	MGV	Mgvorg1@hotmail.com	5587568
Mohamed Sh. Hassan	SEA	fardowsa-sea-org@hotmail.com	5588226
Osman Mohamed Afrax	ADRA	Osman_adde@yahoo.com	5595827
Mohamed Omar Aden	SAWDA	Sowdango@hotmail.com	5220708
Abdisalan Yusuf	IMC	imcbeled@hotmail.com	5564125
Da'ud mo'alin abdi	HICDO	Hicdolugo_a@hotmail.com	5532161
Mohamed Sugal Hassan	GEELO	Geelosamalia@gmail.com	62606260
Hassan abdirahman abdi	WARDI	Enghassan722@hotmail.com	5440506
Dirie abdi Mohamed	SOMARDC	Caddaan99@hotmail.com	5893454
Muse Abdulle Awale	SAMRADO	samradongo@hotmail.com	5574981
Hussein Dhubow Abdi	CMC	lqp12@hotmail.com	5501688m
Mohamud Mohamed biriq	HWS	Hiranwater@hotmail.com	5539360
Osman Abdi Yusuf	Muslim aid	mabeletwein@hotmail.com	5584737
Mohamed Cilmi Hassan	MURDO	Murdo.org@hotmail.com	5541231
Farah Mohamed Abukar	C.R.D.O	Biowo1@hotmail.com	62587968
Abduwahab Abukar Hassan	B.Y.DO	Bydo114@hotmail.com	5527845