

**MINUTES FOOD AID CLUSTER MEETING**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**OCHA OFFICES, NGECHA ROAD**  
**TAMARIND CONFERENCE ROOM**

**AGENDA**

- Review and adoption of last meeting minutes.
- Presentation on the Food Aid Cluster Response Plan (2010).
- Presentation on WFP's upcoming operations.
- Nutrition update.
- Updates by agencies.
- A.O.B.

The meeting was called to order at 11.15am and was chaired by Keith Ursel (Cluster Chair). Members carried out self introductions.

**REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

- WFP-Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme (TSFP) was scheduled to start in mid-September in Mogadishu.
- APD – 180MT were distributed in May in Lower Juba.

With the above amendments, the meeting approved the minutes of previous meeting.

**PRESENTATION ON 2010 CAP RESPONSE (Keith Ursel)**

- The Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) is a tool used by aid organizations to plan, implement and monitor their activities together. It is also used for resource mobilization globally.
- The 2010 Food Aid Response Plan is based on a worst case scenario with the food security situation in 2010 expected to deteriorate. This forecast was based on the FSNAU Post Gu Assessment and market analysis. Factors aggravating the food insecurity were the volatile political situation, civil insecurity in Mogadishu leading to ongoing population displacement and persistent drought in most parts of the country.
- Despite the marked increase in agricultural production in Lower Shabelle, the meeting noted that the neighboring districts would not benefit from the produce due to road inaccessibility.
- There was a decrease in the prices of food commodities which was attributed to the decline of global fuel prices and improved livestock body conditions. However, this was not expected to translate into increased household food security for the urban population due to the decline in wage rates.
- 3.8 million people were identified by FSNAU in need of humanitarian assistance. The Food Aid cluster will target to provide humanitarian assistance to 3.2 million beneficiaries. Priority will be given to areas identified as HE. However, nutrition and recovery interventions will also target AFLC areas to prevent them from falling into HE.
- Capacity building was identified as a cross cutting issue within the CAP.

### **Priority Areas for the Food Aid Cluster**

- Saving lives and protection of livelihoods.
- Donors and agencies agreeing on funding adaptable interventions that provide food rations to those at risk in the most appropriate methodology e.g. wet feeding for urban poor targeted SFP.
- A significant strengthening and support to inter-cluster collaboration.
- Improved and detailed monitoring and evaluation of programs.
- Priority to vulnerable groups – women/ children headed hh, PLWA, TB.
- Linkages with Livelihoods Cluster.
- Training of CP and UN staff on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.

Some of the objectives of the nutrition cluster were built into the Food Aid Cluster because food aid complements the nutrition cluster objectives. *(Details in attached presentation)*

### **PRESENTATION ON WFP'S UPCOMING OPERATIONS**

*(September to December 2009)*

- Pipeline break expected in early November 2009 due to significant reduction in donor contributions. This was mainly due to suspension of release of funds/ support to the CAP by USAID (which funded over 65% of the Food Aid Cluster). The suspension remains in force until the US government makes a decision on whether or not to continue funding projects in Somalia. The main concern was on how to control humanitarian aid from benefiting terror groups.
- WFP partners were informed that signed FLAs remained in force. However, no distributions would take place during this time. A no cost extension would be issued in the event that FLAs expired during this period.
- The suspension of distributions was indefinite and subject to funding.
- The cereal ration within the family ration had been reduced from 75kg to 50kg.
- In November WFP would have 15-16,000MT of food stocks. These stocks would be distributed using the following criteria:
  1. Relief
  2. Supplementary feeding
  3. Institutional Feeding
- No new FLAS would be signed during this time.
- A member notified the meeting that the TFG had expressed concern over WFP's continued distribution of food during the harvest period. He was informed that WFP had sent a mission to Mogadishu whose agenda would also include meeting the TFG representatives to address this issue. He was also informed that WFP had significantly reduced the food distributed during the harvest period.
- Insecurity had worsened with a marked increase in attacks on humanitarian workers.
- This had forced WFP to review its food delivery strategy. Discussions were underway and the final strategy would be communicated to all as soon as it was finalized.

## **NUTRITION UPDATE**

### **Penina Muli (Food Aid /Nutrition Support Officer)**

- The Post Gu Analysis had been finalized. The analysis is by sector (livestock, Agriculture and Nutrition) . Other areas highlighted in the analysis are the impact of the Gu' performance on gender, climatic situation, civil insecurity and markets.. The presentation had been posted on the FSNAU website.:  
<http://www.FSNAU.org/fileadmin/uploads/1546.ppt>
- Somalia Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) map (July – Dec '09) is also available on the same website /presentation.
- On 24<sup>th</sup> August, FSNAU released a press statement highlighting the Somalia Humanitarian Crisis.
- Mapping of nutrition treatment and prevention interventions had been completed.
- The Nutrition Cluster Response for 2010 had also been finalized.
- There was need to intervene in the northern region- according to the FSNAU Assessment, 20% of malnourished cases were from the north.
- ACF had initiated an EPI programme in Mogadishu. In Gedo, CESVI has also initiated a mobile health programme.
- The food security situation continued to deteriorate amongst IDPs.

### **MarcProst (WFP Nutrition Officer)**

- In the Central region, the blanket SFP intervention will end in August. The transition to TSFP may be delayed if the pipeline situation does not improve.
- Discussions were held between WFP, UNICEF, and the nutrition cluster over the MCHN nutrition support in the SCZ. WFP will phase out 12 centers in Bay, Bakool and Lower Shabelle areas to open 9 centers in Puntland.
- The high cause of malnutrition as reported in the FSNAU assessment for Bay region was attributed to poor/inadequate child care and infant feeding practices, limited access to health care and disease outbreaks.
- Although central region had shown marked improvement as per the latest FSNAU report, there was a very high likelihood that the situation would deteriorate in the coming months.

### **Norwegian International Organization (NIO)**

- Had operations in Gedo and EL Waak.
- Implemented projects on FGM and WASH and are interested in undertaking food distributions.

### **HIMILO**

Implement SFP projects in the Southern part of Somalia. However, were forced to stop operations due to increasing insecurity. Compound was attacked by insurgents. Staff relocated to other regions. Last distribution was done in July.

### **African Muslim Agency (AMA)**

Implementing an SFP in the Lower Shabelles.

### **SAF**

Implementing an SFP in Afmadow, lower Juba.

### **ADA**

Focused on women's empowerment in Gedo region. But were interested in implementing nutrition interventions.

### **DRC**

- Out of 16 kitchen sites, 15 were operational. There were no plans to resume feeding at the remaining site. Four sites would be relocated to other areas due to their proximity to the frontline.
- Stocks for two months were in place.
- Nutritional screening was carried out at the feeding sites by ACF.
- DRC had secured additional funding for the wet feeding program. However, working with multiple donors posed various challenges, e.g. monies were provided in euros and spent in dollars. This had led to losses due to the exchange rates. Measures have been put in place to address this issue in the current phase.
- DRC had developed indicators to guide the continuation or change of distribution strategy in Mogadishu. These indicators had already been shared with the development partners.

### **AOB**

**Cluster Co-Chair:** Members were informed that one of the key criterions in the selection of a cluster chair was that they would be “the organization of last resort provision” in the event that WFP closed its operations in an area. CARE was the previous Co-chair as it met this criterion (with a US\$ 70 Million budget).

The next Food Aid Cluster meeting would be held at the Somali Support Secretariat (SSS) on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 11.00 at a conference room to be communicated later on email.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**FOOD AID CLUSTER MEETING, 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009,**  
**OCHA OFFICES, NGECHA ROAD, TAMARIND CONFERENCE ROOM.**

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