



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)
SOMALIA

Minutes of the Cluster meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2007

Venue: OCHA Somalia Conference Room, Nairobi at 10.30 – 12.00 pm

Introductory remarks

- The HC briefed participants on the mission to New York together with OCHA. While there is a growing interest in Somalia, the current capacity in-country is not nearly commensurate to the needs of the huge humanitarian crisis. There is need for a political and security solution to the current crisis. There is also need to map who is in control in the various regions in-country.

UNDSS assessment in Afgoye and impact on the operation

- A joint security assessment mission was carried out by UNDSS and UNICEF, including a photographer on 6 November. The mission traveled from K50 to Afgoye junction and further along the Afgoye-Mogadishu road. Of grave concern is the deteriorating malnutrition, and health status of vulnerable groups. The IDP camps begin 2km north from Afgoye junction and continue for another 15 km on either sides of the highway. UNDSS informed participants that day missions will be possible but on a case to case basis and with the necessary mitigation measures.
- Concern was raised that displaced populations could further move away from Afgoye to middle Shabelle given the fluid security situation in Afgoye.
- The TFG will be informed accordingly should K50 become the main operational hub/entry point to Afgoye region.

UN response in Sool Sanag

- Most of the displaced population estimates are figures received from local NGOs and government authorities that have traveled to Las Anod and parts of Sool hosting IDPs. The IDPs have sought shelter with immediate families and clan relatives in other parts of Sool and neighbouring regions.
- Response activities include: Health -UNICEF has re-supplied health posts, maternal and child health centres in Sool. They will partner with SCRC and monitor the situation.
- WASH – UNICEF will support SRCS to increase availability of safe water and sanitation of IDPs. There is need for water trucking and emergency health and sanitization.
- Shelter/NFIs – Family relief kits, including mosquito nets and plastic sheets will be provided to SRCS for distribution to the most vulnerable IDPs. This will cover about 7,500 families. UNHCR and UNICEF are in the process of replenishing contingency stock in the north should the situation deteriorate further.
- Food is reported to be needed. Given the conflicting IDP estimates, there is need to agree on numbers before response is conducted. It was suggested that WFP could send in staff with experience in vulnerability assessment mapping to visit areas hosting large numbers of IDPs.
- In terms of strategy, humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Sool will be provided on the basis of humanitarian needs, irrespective of the origin of the assistance. The HC will be going for a mission to meet the presidents of both Somaliland and Puntland to emphasize one response and one approach to delivery of humanitarian assistance in Sool and Sanag.

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- It was reiterated that response should start immediately. UNHCR has the capacity to provide 6,000 kits and they could airlift supplies from Dubai should the need arise. UNICEF will provide medical kits, UNHCR will provide plastic sheeting and UNFPA will provide hygiene kits.

Issues to be raised by cluster leads

- A query was raised on whether humanitarian needs could be met should access/humanitarian space be granted in south/central Somalia.
- Nutrition and WASH cluster cannot fully meet the needs. So far, the WASH cluster reports that 20% and an estimate 1.5 million people have access to safe water. There is a lack of partners, capacity to deliver as strategies are not adapted to the needs on the ground.
- Education cluster would have to rely on resources from respective agencies.
- On the whole, given the various limitations, there is need for robust early contributions to the 2008 CAP to ensure consistent delivery once humanitarian space is provided.
- There is need to beef up advocacy with Somalis of what is going on in terms of response, need for complementarity when providing assistance and need for constant information of whose doing what where in terms of activities and settlements.
- The logistics cluster will provide information on operational requirements for using K50 as an operational base.
- Protection – while there was an interagency mission to Afgoye to assess how response could be organized, it was unanimously agreed that the figures from the Population Movement Tracking (PMT) should be consistently used. Currently there are 50,000 newly displaced persons from Mogadishu traveling to Afgoye. It should be noted that any figures on displacement should be communicated after consultations have been held.
- Shelter/NFIs – The cluster is working with ICRC for uniformity on response in Afgoye. They are currently procuring supplies for about 4,000 families.

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- Lily Ako from UNHCR is on board to provide technical support on how to best mainstream camp coordination and camp management into cluster activities.
- Cluster leads were reminded that the cluster system is for the whole of Somalia. To that effect, there is need for a cluster focal person to coordinate response in a given region regardless of one's agency or organization.

The next meeting will be Thursday 22 November, 10.30 am, OCHA Somalia.