MISSION REPORT  
ICCG/DOCC Mission to Hargeisa, Somaliland  
30 May – 1 June 2017

1. Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Samson Desie</td>
<td>Nutrition Cluster Coordinator, UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Graham Eastmond</td>
<td>Shelter Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Charles Hopkins</td>
<td>FS Co-Cluster Coordinator, WFP</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Hezekiah Abuya</td>
<td>Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ismail Mohamed</td>
<td>Protection Cluster Support Officer, UNHCR</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Geoffrey Odero</td>
<td>WASH IMO, UNICEF</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Anna Rissanen</td>
<td>Associate HAO, OCHA</td>
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Abdulrahman Abdullah (OCHA) and Gavin Roy (RCO) supported the mission in Hargeisa.

2. Mission objectives

- To identify how the humanitarian community can support Somaliland authorities to coordinate the drought response and recovery efforts more effectively.
- Find ways on how to capacitate and strengthen the National Environment Research and Disaster Preparedness Agency (NERAD)’s role in overall coordination and information sharing.
- NERAD-led Operations Centres have been recently established with the support of UNDP and OCHA, and the mission aimed to identify next steps for full operationalization of these Operations Centres with lessons learnt the already established DOCCs in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Garowe.

3. Engagement with the National Drought Committee and Drought Recovery Committee

The team met members of the both National Drought and Recovery Committees and discussed issues related to coordination, recovery and recently established, NERAD-led operations centres across Somaliland. Both Committees are political entities and temporary/ad hoc in nature, composed of ministers (Religious Affairs, Environment and Finance among others), religious leaders, representatives of civil society and business community as well as journalists. The National Drought Committee is headed by the Vice President of Somaliland, with the main objective to mobilize resources and coordinate the ongoing drought response, whereas the National Drought Recovery Committee was established on 11 May by the President of Somaliland. Its main objective is to assist in the recovery efforts, and has been tasked to raise US$10 million by 26 June to implement priority recovery projects in Somaliland. It was emphasized in the meeting that these recovery priorities should be aligned with the priorities of the line ministries.

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1 Post-Mission Note: On 3 June, Somaliland media outlet reported that the two committees, Drought and Recovery, have been unified to improve coordination and avoid overlapping roles, strengthening transparency and accountability. OCHA, RCO, and UNDP have also met with the Deputy Ministry of Presidency to arrange a joint meeting of line ministries on recovery issues as well as to look at capacity building of NERAD. The urgent need for government leadership on both issues was recognized, however, since then the Deputy Minister has changed portfolio. RCO will follow up with the Presidency to ensure commitments made by the old Deputy Minister are followed through.
3.1. Recovery priorities:
1. **Return of displaced people**: Transportation to 20,000 households displaced by the drought to their places of origin
2. **Purchase two drilling rigs with 800-meter capacity**: Drill 25 boreholes
3. **Construction of soil dams**: Construct 18 dams
4. **Rangeland management**: Establish 26 pasture reserves in Somaliland
5. **Agriculture support**, including restocking for 10,000 households and tractor hours
6. **Support to cultivation areas** in the western regions of Somaliland

The Committee members emphasized a need for enhanced coordination to avoid duplication in relief and recovery operations, noting that Government’s funding is more flexible which could help fill gaps. The Committee members acknowledged improved OCHA-led coordination but pointed out that the drought response has still been ‘delayed’, and therefore they have decided to start recovery efforts in time. The Committee members noted that the five-year National Development Plan 2 will be finalized in coming weeks, and can align the Government, UN and INGO/NGO partners’ planning and prioritization more efficiently.

In response, the DOCC team highlighted the need for improved coordination both among the Government entities and with the UN and INGO/NGO partners, and discussed further the recovery priorities outlined by the Recovery Committee. Regarding NERAD, the DOCC team emphasized the need to strengthen NERAD’s capacity and development into a stable institution which can lead the coordination efforts during the future humanitarian crises, and to coordinate preparedness, relief and recovery efforts. The DOCC team noted that additional support is required to fully operationalize the Operations Centre in Hargeisa as well as in the regional hubs. The DOCC team noted that it is planning a UNCT visit to Hargeisa in July to discuss the UN’s support to Somaliland’s new NDP, which would also require discussions on how the UN can support recovery issues in alignment with the NDP.

The DOCC team highlighted the important role of the line ministries which implement activities with the sector partners, noting that the line ministries should be involved in the coordination and implementation of the recovery projects as they have the technical expertise. It was noted that although the rains bring relief to the dire humanitarian situation in sectors such as Shelter and Health, it will also add challenges. The DOCC team noted that before implementing the recovery projects, the Government should look into lessons learned from similar situations in the region for example Kenya and Ethiopia to ensure well thought out processes, when it comes to borehole drilling, building dams, livestock health and agriculture. There was an indication from the committee that they had not received information about shelter/NFI activities. The DOCC team was able to provide an overview of the response to date and planned activities and will share a Somaliland specific dashboard in the coming days.

3.2. Recommendations
- The Committee’s recovery priorities must be aligned with the line ministries’ priorities as well as the National Development Plan
- Coordination and information sharing to be strengthened
• Expansion of the use of technical expertise including technical support by the UN and partners to
government on its top priorities. Technical working groups have been formed to ensure that projects
are developed and well implemented.
• Conduct joint meetings with the line ministries and strengthen forward-planning and preparedness.

4. Engagement with Inter-Sector Coordination Group and NERAD
Partners brought up concerns related to coordination of humanitarian activities in the meeting, highlighting
duplication of efforts and information / analysis gap between the data gathered locally in Somaliland versus
data provided at the national level. It was also noted that the collaboration between the sectors in
Somaliland and clusters elsewhere in Somalia, should be strengthened, to avoid Somaliland to be
in a ‘vacuum’ and more linked to the cluster system. The DOCC team confirmed that they are ready
to support the sectors, for instance, by providing technical expertise, support for 3W and 4W data collection
and gap analysis. Another concern raised at the meeting was the lack of funding to support both relief and
recovery activities in Somaliland and that the lack of gap analysis and data does not permit clear advocacy
messages to be developed. The partners also noted that single-form of reporting would be when providing
information to the Government and humanitarian agencies.

It was recognized that that in order the humanitarian response activities to be more coordinated,
information must be shared more effectively across the actors. There is a need for a more joined up
approach across different actors, including the line ministries, Ministry of Planning and International
Cooperation (MOPIC), National Drought Committee, Recovery Committee, NERAD and inter-sector
coordination group which includes partners.

5. NERAD-led Operations Centre in Hargeisa and regional hubs
NERAD, supported by UNDP and OCHA, has established an Operations Centre at NERAD facilities in
Hargeisa and four regional information and operations hubs in Awdal, Berbera, Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool
regions of Somaliland. Under the NERAD supervision, a Coordinator and 15 enumerators have been
recruited to run the central Operations Centre and regional hubs.

The primary objective of the Operations Centres is to collect regular information at the community level,
through direct contact with regional authorities, district officials, village community leaders, elders and
other key informants. Data collection started on 27 May, with the help of the recently hired enumerators.
The regional hubs and the Operations Centre are expected to function as a source of information to be
able to provide situational information for authorities and humanitarian partners and to identify gaps. The
Operations Centre regional hubs and all the regional hubs are equipped with mobile technology and online
data collection platform, enabling the teams to submit their inputs and reports to the joint platform that
can generate a dashboard.

The project is in a “pilot phase” and the data is not yet in ready for public consumption. It was noted that
data quality verification and triangulation is very important and needs to be further developed, to ensure
that the data is impartial and reliable. The data should also be collected from all segments of the society,
and the responders should represent diversity regarding gender, age, clan etc. It is also important to ensure
that the data analysis will generate action and required response.
6. Way forwards and action points

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<th>Coordination and capacity building</th>
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<td>1 Continuous advocacy with government counterparts to include the line ministries in the implementation of recovery priorities and ensure that the priorities are aligned.</td>
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<td>2 Bring together the Ministerial-level leadership to agree on more joined up cooperation at the technical level.</td>
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<td>3 Focus on providing technical expertise and institutional capacity building of NERAD and government line ministries to better implement the Somaliland key priorities.</td>
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<td>4 Clusters to review their sector co-lead focal points volunteers/organizations, and determine whether the focal point have the capacity to continue. Clusters to invest in capacity building and training of the sector focal points.</td>
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<td>5 Coordination meetings: In addition to information sharing, strengthen the operational dimension and use the facilities at NERAD (subject to being MOSS compliant) for regional cluster meetings.</td>
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<td>6 Regular visits by Cluster Coordinators to support and engage with their counterparts.</td>
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<td>7 Communications: Enhanced communication with affected populations, civil society, and authorities to inform them on response activities.</td>
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<td>1 There is need to strengthen the Operations Centre in Somaliland applying lessons learnt from Mogadishu, Baidoa and Garowe DOCCs.</td>
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<td>2 Surge capacity (senior staff for 2-3 months) to coordinate, capacitate and train the NERAD staff at the Operations Centre to kick start the process, add NERAD’s value as an institution and develop the Operations Centre.</td>
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<td>3 OCHA to second its National staff to support the Operations Centre.</td>
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<td>4 IM support for the Operations Centre (maps, infographics)</td>
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<td>5 Strengthening the link between NERAD and sector focal points (UN/INGO/NGO). Practical exercises that bring people together, i.e. dashboard data verification.</td>
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<td>6 There is need for commitment by partners to use the Operations Centre.</td>
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