

CDAC Community of Practice Call: East Africa Crisis, April 10, 2017

Coordination/staffing:

- Rita Maingi/OCHA deployed to Mogadishu from Regional Office in Nairobi until April 13
- Possibilities for working group being explored

Situation updates:

- Areas not accessible by everyone
- Al Shabaab controlled areas are difficult
- 70,000 people have moved into Baidoa, on top of protracted IDPs
- Similar numbers have moved into Mogadishu
- Cholera outbreak – 500 people have already died, more than 22,000 affected

Community engagement issues:

- HCT recognise that info isn't being well-collated; there is no coherence around feedback from communities
- Appropriate and effective AWD messaging is a significant need
- IDPs are saying that if they don't get sufficient assistance they'll move into Mogadishu soon – humanitarian leadership keen to prevent double-movement
- Communities complaining of lack of coordination, gaps and duplication. With inadequate resources across the board, targeting and communication need to improve
- People are complaining of many assessments but nothing coming back
- One rumour identified is that aquatabs cause diarrhoea for children

Information/communication needs assessment:

- Not yet occurred on interagency level - discussed for Baidoa
- CDAC questions included in other assessments; coordinated with REACH on surveys in villages of origin and displaced locations

Current/planned communication and community engagement response:

- Two major components to a common approach:
 1. collecting and collating feedback (HCT essentially want to know collectively what people are saying so need to reach out to those who have existing mechanisms to share non sensitive info);
 2. boosting advocacy efforts – public advocacy, especially with communities.
- For both, face to face community, community forums, community radio (Argo, a humanitarian content radio service with good coverage in rural areas) will be used
- Community feedback form has been tweaked and sent to clusters – 30 respondents so far
- BBC media action exploring lifeline programming from Hargeisa
- FRR potentially providing radios (radios are reportedly most common tools for communication and widely listened to)
- TWB offering translation to support clusters
- IOM community mapping discussed

Challenges

- Data analysis is going to be difficult due to many different approaches, agency mandates, etc
- Agencies not readily willing to share info; doesn't paint accurate picture when centralised
- Lack of structure around this, unlikely to create an effective, coherent structure at this point due to above
- Situation varies in different places due to safety, presence of armed groups, different authorities

Possibilities for further support

- Consortia eg SOMREP, Returns and others
- ETC has set up an ICT working group, meeting this Thursday (in Nairobi)
- Unicef heavily involved in cholera response

Follow up:

- How are we sharing lessons regionally? Need this to happen real time
- Might have another call in a few weeks' time – Alex to communicate closer to date