

Humanitarian Coordination Structures in Somalia

For the Somali Diaspora

Introduction

There are hundreds of individual Somali NGOs functioning in the country and outside its borders, providing aid to populations in need. Considering their long-term presence due to protracted nature of conflict in Somalia, **the humanitarian coordination architecture has throughout the years been well-established and is now well-functioning.**

For actors outside this context, only now trying to establish closer links to other Somali organizations, **it can be quite difficult to identify relevant networks, platforms, and coordination mechanisms.** This document was created in an attempt to provide an overview of both UN-led humanitarian coordination structures in Somalia, as well as more local coordination mechanisms for NGOs operating in Somalia. **Its aim is to make it easier for diaspora organizations to navigate in the complex humanitarian landscape.**

OCHA Somalia

<http://www.unocha.org/country/somalia>

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has mobilized and **coordinated humanitarian efforts in Somalia since 1999** and aims to ensure a well-coordinated, effective and principled inter-agency humanitarian response. By providing a coherent approach to humanitarian action in Somalia, OCHA helps to avoid duplication of aid response and maximize resources. OCHA has an office in **Nairobi** and **Mogadishu** and sub-offices in Baidoa, Bossaso, Dhobley, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garowe and Hargeysa. It is also present in Belet Weyne and Kismayo. The annual budget for OCHA Somalia for 2016 was US\$10.1 million.

OCHA is the part of the United Nations Secretariat and is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors **to ensure a coherent response to emergencies**. OCHA's mission is to:

- Mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies.
- Advocate for the rights of people in need.
- Promote preparedness and prevention.
- Facilitate sustainable solutions.

The coordination mechanisms put in place to facilitate delivery of effective humanitarian assistance in Somalia are led by the **Humanitarian Coordinator (HC)**, and include a **Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)**, an **Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)**, the Clusters and zonal/regional coordination structures (see diagram below). Coordination takes place through formal and informal information exchange, often involving local authorities, at bilateral and multilateral level.

How humanitarian partners work together in Somalia:

1. Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), also known as Somalia IASC

The HCT provides strategic leadership and is chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator. It is comprised of UN agencies, international NGOs, national NGOs, Donors and the NGO consortium, which represents a large number of national and international NGOs. Its objective is to ensure that the activities of humanitarian actors are coordinated, and that humanitarian action in Somalia is principled, timely, effective and efficient, and contributes to longer-term recovery.

The IASC membership includes OCHA, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNHCR, CARE, Gedo Health Consortium, Danish Refugee Council, OXFAM/NOVIB, Concern, Save the Children (UK) and Somali NGO Consortium. ICRC is an observer, while FAO/FSAU, FAO/SWALIM and FEWS/NET are technical advisors.

2. Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)

The cluster approach is a technical forum and reports to the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Humanitarian Country Team to ensure greater predictability and accountability in humanitarian response. Eight clusters are active in Somalia: Food Security, Education, Health, Protection, Logistics, Nutrition, Shelter, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. Clusters meet regularly (monthly in most cases). Throughout Somalia, Regional Inter Cluster Coordination Groups (RICCG) also meet on a monthly basis.

3. Humanitarian Coordination Forum (HCF)

To engage the wider humanitarian and donor community, OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator provides an update on the Somalia humanitarian situation through the Humanitarian Coordination Forum (HCF). The HCF provides a forum for humanitarian actors to regularly interact, share information and exchange views on ongoing humanitarian issues in Somalia.

4. Coordination with Diaspora humanitarians

The Office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia has designated a dedicated Diaspora Focal Point to build partnerships and connect with diaspora organisations to enhance humanitarian coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including government and cluster/sector coordination structures, and across regions in Somalia. The Focal Point will play a critical role in functioning as an entry point and building relations between the humanitarian system and diaspora organisations/communities so humanitarian coordination leads to effective humanitarian response.

Diaspora Focal Point Contact

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4. Civil-Military Coordination

The United Nations Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Working Group facilitates dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors, essential to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid competition, minimize inconsistency and, when appropriate, pursue common goals. The Working Groups is convened by OCHA on a monthly basis.

Somalia NGO Consortium (SNC)

<http://somalangoconsortium.org/>

The Somalia NGO Consortium is a voluntary coordination mechanism of NGOs for NGOs: given the highly insecure environment, the complexity of the operating environment and the large numbers of agencies working in Somalia, a coordinated voice is critical to successfully conduct development and humanitarian aid in Somalia.

The Somalia NGO Consortium was established in 1999 and has since grown to become an effective network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working together to improve international aid coordination and raise the presence and profile of NGO representation within the aid coordination structure for Somalia. The NGO Consortium maintains its presence through its offices in **Hargeisa, Garowe, Mogadishu and Nairobi.**

The consortium website also provides access to key documents, useful links, as well as a 'Skills Development Hub' – a platform with articles and publications, database of consultants, e-learning opportunities, and links to other relevant providers and initiatives.

Somalia National NGO Forum

<http://www.somaliangoforum.so/>

The Somalia National NGO Forum (SONFORUM) is the centerpiece of the Somali NGOs coordination. The Somali NGO Forum is composed of national organizations that undertake humanitarian and development programs in Somalia. Its objective is to ensure that the activities of such organizations are coordinated, and that humanitarian and development action in Somalia is in line with the Somalia's developmental and humanitarian needs, its programs is principled, timely, effective and efficient.

The overall purpose of the SONFORUM is to alleviate the sufferings of the Somalis in need and improve their well-being through appropriate programming such that people's lives, livelihoods and dignity are protected.

There are several organizations working in Somalia. SONFORUM stands out as a visible and credible Somali national organization which asserts influence at strategic national level through a combination of effective strategies that coalesce around: advocacy, networking and capacity building to mobilize and enable organizations improve the performance.

SONFORUM is one of the strongest networks that can successfully mobilize and network Somali-based NGOs within Somalia. It will push for laws and policies at national levels to place the organizations at the center of development.

Somali Legal Aid Network (SLAN)

<http://www.legalactionworldwide.org/somalia-2/somali-legal-aid-network/>

The Somali Legal Aid Network (SLAN) brings together sixteen legal aid NGOs across Somaliland, Puntland, Jubbland and south central regions of Somalia. It is the first network of its kind and the only forum to bring local NGOs working on justice issues together across all regions of Somalia. The SLAN provides a forum through which legal aid providers can share information about common challenges and successful strategies to provide marginalized groups with access to justice, keep updated on changes in the legal system, and receive trainings and technical support.

International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)

<http://www.ngosafety.org/country/somalia>

In recent years, INSO has taken over the provision of security and safety services to NGOs in Somalia, which formerly were managed by NGO Safety Program (under NGO Forum). INSO has the ability and capacity to provide a range of useful data and analytical products, as well as advice, training, and assessments to strengthen NGO's risk management systems and ability to operate safely. Moreover, INSO also on a regular basis produces access maps, based on analysis of indicators evaluating the difficulties associated with reaching an area or staying in the area to operate, and the actual presence of international NGO and/or UN staff.

Abaaraha – crisis mapping system for Somalia

<http://abaaraha.org/>

Crisis mapping system for Somalia abaaraha.org was launched by a group of volunteers, in order to assist the relief responders connect with drought victims.

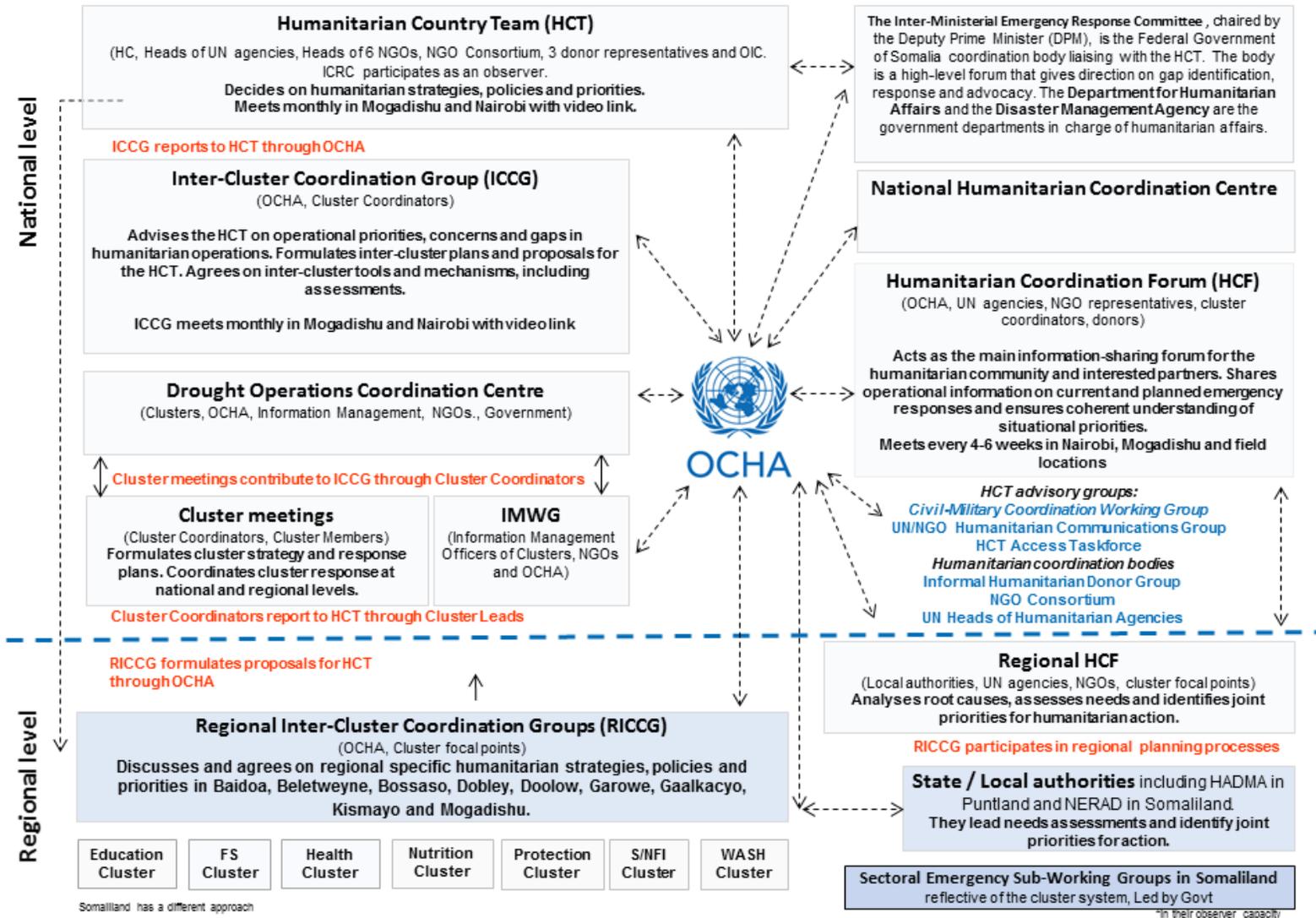
The platform collects data from wide range of sources including social media, and has established tools and approaches to assess the accuracy and relevance of incoming crowd-sourced reports via text, e-mail, photo, video and social media reports.

Abaaraha platform provides vital information at no cost to any relief responder so they can render aid faster and more effectively. All the information published in the mapping system is verified by different sources.



Somalia - Humanitarian Coordination at National and Regional level

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Source: <https://www.unocha.org/legacy/somalia/humanitarian-coordination/coordination-structures>