SOMALI DROUGHT EMERGENCY MEETING

Date: 9 September 2017
Time: 11:00-14:00 (15:00)
Where: Rynkeby, Stockholm
Attendees: See participants list attached.

Agenda:
- Welcome and Introduction - Mrs. Mauconduit & M.Osman
- The Humanitarian sector’s drought response – M. Mustafa M. Omer, Humanitarian Liaison Officer & diaspora focal point, OCHA Somalia (Skype)
- What causes drought and famine? Academic perspective - Dr. Hakim
- Sharing information and mapping the diaspora response - M.Osman
- Discussing strategy, partnerships and innovative cost-effective actions for improving diaspora emergency response – Mrs. Mauconduit & M.Osman
- What’s next? - Mrs. Mauconduit & M.Osman

Welcome and introduction

Many of the Somali diaspora in Europe are responding to the severe drought in the different parts of Somalia. The DEMAC project organised together with the Abaaraha platform a Coordination Meeting to facilitate constructive dialogue and encourage coordination between diaspora organisations and individuals providing humanitarian aid in Somalia.

The Diaspora Emergency Action and Coordination project (DEMAC), funded by ECHO, is implemented by Danish Refugee Council, AFFORD & the Berghof Foundation. DEMAC works to foster a more inclusive humanitarian system through improved coordination, building technical and operational capacity, and promoting linkages between diasporas and the formal humanitarian system that reduce the risk of parallel-action and increase effectiveness of humanitarian action. The contribution of diaspora organisations offers an added value to humanitarian action through deep knowledge of local culture and context, timely access to information through direct networks and the ability to act quickly when needed. DEMAC is working with the Somali, Nigerian, Syrian diaspora organisations in Europe.

Abaaraha is a mapping platform to assist the relief responders connect with Somalia’s 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. All the information published in the mapping system are verified by different sources. The platform provides vital information at no cost to any relief responder so they can render aid faster and more effectively.

Skype presentation by Mustafa Omer, Humanitarian Liaison Officer for OCHA in Somalia

The presentation was followed by a Q&A covering the following themes:
- Appeal in March 2016 to prevent famine from the Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA Somalia
- 3,2 million facing food security – 3 millions benefited from support
- Level of assistance has not been enough in comparison to the high level of needs
- Issue of displacement (2 millions – 20% of the population)
The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan is guided by three strategic priorities that ensure humanitarian assistance reduces human suffering caused by conflict and natural disasters:

- Address humanitarian needs by providing lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance to people in need, prioritizing the most vulnerable;
- Restore and strengthen livelihoods and basic service delivery to build resilience to recurrent shocks;
- Strengthen the protection of the displaced and other vulnerable groups, and catalyse durable solutions.

- Drought response and famine prevention: nutrition, food security – specific clusters prioritized: livelihood support and lifesaving.
- Way forward: investing in community’s capacities – resilience more than just drought response activities to avoid dependence on humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian and National plans are focusing on resilience.
- Objective of the diaspora focal point: liaison with all the actors including diaspora groups to work closely.

What causes drought and famine? Academic perspective - Dr. Hakim

- Droughts are a frequent occurrence in Somalia and have been occurring for generations
- The downward spiral of conflict and famine in Somalia is due to the absence of good governance, not climate
- Reasons that cause famine: inadequate transport network, decentralized response leading to little or no relief coordination, middlemen/corruption, violent groups, high market prices
- Famine caused by human action and inaction
- When authorities fail to contain the effects of a drought, people die. Drought happens in other places in the world, but people are not dying.
- Droughts can be managed and their effects mitigated.
- The two things frequently attributed to climate, famines and conflicts, can be prevented, or at least their impacts minimized, if the institutions and mechanisms of good governance are in place.

For more information you can read the article “The downward spiral of conflict and famine in Somalia is due to the absence of good governance, not climate” from Dr. Hakim and the DEMAC Study Report “Diaspora Drought Response in Somaliland and Puntland” from 2016.

Information about the famine in Somalia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, and the humanitarian response: http://interactive.unocha.org/emergency/2017_famine/

Sharing information and mapping the diaspora response

This session was divided into two sub-sessions: the mapping and a discussion session on how to improve the diaspora emergency response.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>App. amount in USD</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>How</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samata bixi Soomaaliya</td>
<td>Food distribution</td>
<td>1000 USD</td>
<td>Countryside camps outside of Mogadishu</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>By Hawala to a local partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umis</td>
<td>Collection for the drought response</td>
<td>20,000 USD</td>
<td>Drought Committee in Mogadishu</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>By Hawala to the drought committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia haa noolato</td>
<td>Food distribution Medecines</td>
<td>328,52 USD</td>
<td>Balanbale, Galguduud Burco Mogadishu</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
<td>GofundMe to Somali Faces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughters of the horn</td>
<td>Food and water distribution Medical support</td>
<td>2800 USD</td>
<td>Village of Faroor (north of Hargeisa)</td>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Bank transfer to Islamiska Valgorenhets Center (IVC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutrala ungdomsföreningen</td>
<td>Food and water distribution</td>
<td>12,500 USD</td>
<td>Bay and Bakool region</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>By Hawalad to a trustworthy person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caawi Walaal</td>
<td>Water, food, and medicine</td>
<td>20,877 USD</td>
<td>Remote villages in different regions</td>
<td>Jan-Aug. 2017</td>
<td>By Bank transfer and mobile money</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A map was established by Abaaraha during the meeting to provide a geographical overview of the diaspora drought emergency response. Additional diaspora-led responses to the drought are visible on the Abaaraha platform.
As part of the mapping process participants were sharing information and comments about the current response. Some of the main points were:

- The diaspora individuals and organisations present in the meeting organised various fundraising events in Sweden to collect money for the drought response in Somalia. They also used social media and fundraising platforms to mobilise the Somali diaspora and collect funds.
- Social media plays an important role for sharing information about the drought situation, and the needs of the communities. Local partners and communities share video clips, photos and interviews to share the impact of the drought with both other regions of Somalia as well as diaspora community.
- It has been difficult for the young Somali groups to know where to send their contribution in Somalia. They don’t have the contacts and the network in the country. The Abaaraha platform has been created for that purpose. Somali groups or individuals that want to send funds in response to the drought can see the urgent needs reports and can find the local organisations delivering humanitarian assistance in the affected areas.
- The diaspora groups connected with local organisations, elders and trusted people in the affected areas can act rapidly and send their contribution directly through Hawala.

How can the Somali diaspora improve their emergency response?

**Summary of group discussion:**

- There is a need for better information and knowledge about the different Somali diaspora organisations that exist and are active in Sweden and in Europe. Some Somali diaspora organisations, mostly from Denmark, can be found on the demac website.
- ‘We do not lack awareness, we lack coordination’. The Somali diaspora in Sweden needs to better coordinate to conduct collective and joint response. Hence, there is a need to establish an umbrella organisation/special committee to improve diaspora-led humanitarian interventions in Somalia.
- For future droughts it is important to build local community resilience and livelihood. There should also be an increased attention on how to support nomadic people and people living in remote areas.
- Abaaraha platform is advocating for long term contributions and actions from the diaspora organisations to support Somali communities and villages and build their resilience.

**Participants**

Thanks to all the participants for their active contributions to this meeting.