

Minutes
2nd RELPA Technical Steering and Coordination Group Meeting
Monday, December 10, 2007, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Room 200, USAID/EA, Nairobi

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Welcoming/Introductory Remarks:

Dr. Walter Knausenberger started by indicating that he was soon due for home leave and introduced Dr Candace Buzzard (Director, REGI) who will act as CTO during Walter's absence.

Walter then welcomed the participants at the meeting. He reiterated that the RS&CG is not a coordinating forum per se but brings together key actors in RELPA, every quarter, to deliberate on the progress and find consensus on key issues of the program.

Walter emphasized the need for the stakeholders to work in close collaboration to achieve the synergies that such collaboration can bring. He further stated that all the contracts under RELPA had been awarded and that another 8 awards had been concluded under the OFDA. He wished to see closer collaboration especially between the OFDA grantees and the FEG/PACAPS and ELMT efforts in the implementation of Crisis Modifiers in the REPLA area if needed.

Walter presented a PowerPoint overview of key aspects of the Famine Prevention Fund and the key objectives of the RELPA program, institutional policy changes being one of the key expected outputs under this initiative.

Minute 2/1: REPORTS ON RELPA COMPONENTS

2/1/1: RELPA/COMESA Initiatives

Dr Angel Daka reported that a General Meeting had recently taken place organized by the Food Security unit under CAADP Pillar 3. The following key areas were discussed:

- Public-Private Sector Alliance focusing on **Planting material** and **Joint Fertilizer procurement**
- Identification of food surplus and deficit areas in the countries, food distribution being the key factor. Market access and infrastructure under CAADP can play a significant role in moving food from surplus to deficit areas.
- Contribution of Climate change (droughts and floods) to worsening food shortages in the region
- Poor agricultural production systems
- WWF and COMESA have agreed to work on issues of Climate Change and US_\$ 3.0 Million have been agreed between the World Bank and COMESA for this initiative focusing on Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda.
- Two focal persons will be hired under COMESA to respond to climate change. A food Security workshop is planned for early 2008 to address the food situation with respect to the staple foods.
- Scarcity of food security information in pastoral areas was highlighted and COMESA is now looking at what can be done to address this situation. The Core Regional Pastoralists and Livestock forum will be activated to respond to this information gap.

Abdiweli Mohammed reported on his participation in the recent COMESA Trade Mission to the Gulf countries. Mission visited Djibouti, Yemen, Ethiopia, UAE, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

The three main objectives were:

- To look at specific issues of livestock trade in the Gulf
- To look for trade partners in the Gulf
- To look for partners regarding fertilizer trade

Main issues:

- Team visited the Gulf at the height of main livestock exports season in readiness for the Haji Pilgrimage
- About 300,000 sheep and goats were under quarantine at the port of Djibouti in readiness for exportation to the Gulf. The demand for sheep and goats for this season alone was estimated at 2.5 million, out of which 600,000 were expected to come from the Horn of Africa.
- The RVF is the main impediment for livestock trade to the Gulf
- Saudi Arabia is only accepting livestock shipped from the Djibouti port. It was estimated that 608,000 smallstock would pass through Djibouti in 2007
- Need for more traders to make the market competitive
- Quarantine and feed costs were estimated to equal purchase price of the animals, hence not easy to sell.
- UAE is the next biggest market for all livestock after Saudi Arabia
- Before the recent outbreak of RVF, 90% of the exports of smallstock came from the GHA
- The mission learned that some countries in the Gulf were keen to open markets to Kenya and Somalia but needed to be assured that RVF was under control in the region.
ACTION: COMESA to initiate process of clarify situation regarding RVF in Kenya and Somalia.
- Serious problem of monopoly tendencies in the supply side. The Somalia ports of Bossaso and Berbera allow only a limited number of traders, operating through signed contracts, to ship through the ports.
- Trader Associations being formed in Oman and UAE to re-organize trade and advocacy

- COMESA will collaborate with IGAD in policy initiatives to deal with trade monopolies in the exporting countries, especially along the trade routes like Djibouti.
- COMESA has marked Iraq, Iran and Malaysia as emerging livestock markets. Malaysia has already sent trade delegations to Somalia and Djibouti and is expected to expand existing trade with Kenya.
- Rising fuel and grain costs and appreciating Aus \$ are contributing to increasing export prices from Australia.

DJIBOUTI CAADP PROCESS:

The CAADP process for Djibouti was launched late in November 2007. It is planned to give the livestock sector a high prominence in the Djibouti CAADP Compact.

2/1/2: PACAPS Activities

- PACAPS Draft Program Monitoring Plan was completed and submitted to CTO for comments
- Draft Workplan for the period October 01 2007 to September 30 2008 also submitted to CTO for comments
- PACAPS Branding Strategy and Marking Plan to be ready by Thursday Dec 13, 2007.
- Two livestock trade presentation made at COMESA, Lusaka [August 17 and [Sept. 18, 2007](#)]. Second presentation had a large audience from staff of Government (Zambia) Ministries, international Development Organizations, donors, Farmer Associations and NGOs in the country
- First capacity building workshop for COMESA staff planned for end of 1st quarter 2008. This will improve COMESA in-house understanding of pastoralist issues and will involve travel to a few selected sites in the region that best illustrate pastoral development, livestock marketing and processing, cross-border trade, alternative land use, policies etc.
- Comprehensive baseline report of Early Warning Actors compiled
- A two-day food stress Early Warning workshop done in Nairobi in November. Participants include staff of governments of Kenya and Ethiopia, staff of major NGOs working in the three RELPA ELMT countries (majority of them being staff of ELMT consortium partners), UN-OCHA, FAO, AU-IBAR and private practitioners and researchers in Early Warning. The workshop was rated as very successful with regards to content and level of participation. UN-OCHA has agreed to coordinate future efforts to harmonize the approaches being applied by the EW/ER actors in the region.
- Two-weekly meetings between PACAPS and ELMT coordination units to develop program synergy.
- A PACAPS/ELMT action plan to develop Emergency Contingency Plans has been worked out. Immediate threats were listed as drought in parts of Ethiopia, threat of RVF following outbreaks in Sudan, humanitarian crises in Somali Ogaden Region of Ethiopia and potential floods in river basins in Somalia.
- First Early Response training workshop planned for mid-January 2008 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.
- Incorporation of PACAPS staff as resource persons in ELMT Technical Working Groups is now completed. [The TWG are:](#) Livestock Services; Livelihood Protection; Natural Resources Management; Social Equity and Gender; Conflict Sensitivity and Peacebuilding; Livelihoods diversification and Marketing.

- PACAPS participated in the Regional ELMT launch in Kenya (October 31 –Nov 01 2007) and Ethiopia country-level launch (Dec 04, 2007).
- MoU between COMESA and Tufts University concluded and PACAPS Pastoralist Policy Expert now posted to COMESA, Lusaka.
- Info: PACAPS offices are now located at following address:
 - Rosami Court, Unit #5
 - Muringa Rd, off Elgeyo Marakwet Rd,
 - Kilimani,
 - P.O. 1325 - 00606
 - NAIROBI
 [Land line telephone numbers to be distributed once available]

Comment: WIK observed that UN-OCHA's offer to coordinate future EW initiatives would be very welcome, considering PACAPS does not have enough resources to sustain these initiatives. FEWSNet is also assisting in moving the process forward.

2/1/3: The PRRO initiative

Stephen Anderson reported that he was in the country as a consultant of the WFP, specifically to develop the Protracted Relief and Recovery operation (PRRO) concept being promoted to replace EMOP. This concept will seek to develop linkages with the other relief and Recovery actors in the region in order to reduce duplication of efforts. Anderson will especially look at how this initiative would engage with RELPA in moving the process forward. He saw lots of opportunities for collective action, especially in the area of Social Protection. He further mentioned that experiences of the PLI initiative in Ethiopia have provided useful leads in how efforts of several organizations can be coordinated for synergies.

Action: PACAPS & ELMT to follow up the PRRO process with WFP

2/1/4: Conflict Prevention and Mitigation Activity

- Dominic reported that Simon Richards had left the MSI/PACT consortium but would be still available for virtual consultations. Sabrina Artwater had also left the program.
- The CP&M team has been in consultations with ELMT on the training program starting early 2008. CP&M are reviewing the training manuals with ELMT and will pre-test by January 2008. MSI/PACT were updating the manuals and would present them to ELMT consortium members as soon as the training outline was completed.

Question: WIK enquired to what extent the initiatives of CP&M are linked to the PEACE II initiative just awarded by USAID. In response it was mentioned that CP&M team are looking at the gaps that exist and what can be linked to PEACE II.

- Training for Somalia consortium members would be best done at Mandera instead of Moyale. Vanessa clarified that the two venues will be used for trainings as appropriate.

Action: MSI/PACT to share training manual with relevant RELPA organs

2/1/5: ELMT

- ELMT launched the regional concept in Nairobi, where all the six consortium partners were represented. Country-level programs for Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia were launched at Garissa, Baidoa and Nazret (Adamo) respectively.
- Sub-grants have been signed with all the consortium partners.
- ELMT has signed an operational MoU with Somalia.
- ELMT has developed framework for monitoring and reporting
- Have developed draft log-frame and will submit Activity Plan to USAID in January 2008. The Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPs) are being re-worked, to include activities of sub-grantees
- Six technical working groups have been identified and are developing the terms of reference to include all the three strategies of ELMT (i.e.: to consolidate best practices, scale them up and disseminate lessons learned).
- A workshop planned to take place in Moyale was postponed due to logistical problems of travelling there via ECHO flights. Walter was to follow up with ECHO so as to try to facilitate greater receptivity towards RELPA partners' travel priority on the part of ECHO.
- Environmental Management Plans will be prepared as soon as DIPs are completed
- Draft contingency plans have been discussed with most of the consortium members. ELMT is in discussion with PACAPS/FEG and Save the Children-UK (Ethiopia) to ensure that comprehensive and robust CP's are in place in the shortest time possible. Early Response/CP workshop for partners in Ethiopia planned for Jan 16 – 18 2008. Similar workshop planned for partners in Kenya from Jan 30 to Feb 01, 2008.
- Cary Farley CoP ELMT, added that PACAPS/FEG, MSI/PACT and ELMT are working closely for synergy. He further explained that, because of the large number of partners within ELMT, intra-ELMT meetings have to be reduced to allow the partners to do more work at ground level.
- ELMT is willing to establish linkages with all partners of RELPA only if the linkages are strategic and adding value, otherwise ELMT will stick to the contractual agreement. Limited budgets also make this strategy imperative.

Comments:

- Dr. Candace Buzzard stressed that partners must focus on the main issues at hand and avoid expanding too much in the short time the RELPA program has. (Managers of RELPA activities completely agreed with this view).
- Joe Hirsch, USAID Ethiopia, also felt that USAID needed to be flexible when responding to emergencies for optimum impact.
- Dr Peter Ewell enquired whether ELMT could state how far each WG has gone towards reaching pastoral households. **The response was that ground activities would commence in the first quarter of yr 2008 when all the planning would be completed.**

Minute 2/2: Additional info by WIK:

- WIK mentioned that CDC was planning a workshop in Kenya on the topic of RVF from January 28 to 30th, 2008. He hoped that RELPA would be represented at this important forum. [this workshop has been postponed again, dates TBD]
- Draft report of OFDA activities is under preparation and will cover landscapes in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

- The 2-year PLI program in Ethiopia is coming to a close and will end September 30, 2008. Some partners in the program will stop activities earlier. Evaluation of the program is on-going.
- Tufts University will carry out the impact assessment, and the results of the assessment will be shared with RELPA partners.

Question: P Ewell enquired as to the impact of the conflict in the Somali Region of Ethiopia on the work of PLI. In response, it was affirmed that the conflict is having a negative impact but the extent is yet to be established.

Action: Relevant ELMT partners and PACAPS to participate in the RVF workshop in Nairobi

Minute 2/3: Other USAID Activities in Northern Kenya (WIK on behalf of Makeda)

- Widespread Social Protection initiatives are going on in northern Kenya with the support from WFP, WB, and DFID.
- USAID/Kenya, USAID's Food for Peace Office and WFP are in dialogue about the proposed PRRO.
- The CAADP stocktaking and roundtable process in Kenya will heighten awareness regarding pastoral issues in the region.
- Several livestock marketing /pastoral policy initiatives being developed for Kenya under NEPDP, which it is expected that RELPA partners can complement and take advantage of.

Minute 2/4: Somalia

- It was reported that the UNICEF Water & Sanitation unit is concentrating on water treatment in Baidoa; drilling of boreholes in rural areas of southern Somalia is being de-emphasized compared to the original plan.
- Funds ("1207") from the US Dept. of Defence are channelled through USAID to the EA Regional Mission and the country missions in Kenya and Ethiopia. The EA Mission is working on modalities for supporting Limited Presence Countries (LPC) programs Somalia. Funds will be utilized for conflict mitigation, peace building, livelihood support and build linkages with local authorities, all of which can support RELPA activities.
- US Dept of Defence funds for the Regional programs will be channelled through USAID/EA's PEACE II program.

Minute 2/5: RELPA Geographic coverage (WIK reporting)

- Discussion at the ELMT launch at Nazret pointed out that the ELMT coverage is over ambitious and needed to focus on a limited number of sites in the RELPA footprint area.
- The Hudet pastoralists meeting in Ethiopia involved Somali communities from northern Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. The meeting extended deliberations for an extra day to allow for selection of a Representative Assembly or Council, for the purpose of raising the pastoralist voice with regional and national government. The meeting was sponsored by UN-OCHA and PCI. A similar event is planned to take place in northern Kenya, possibly in Marsabit about mid-year 2008.
- Peace initiatives in Moyale area of Kenya have reduced tensions and conflicts between the Gabbra and Boran. It has resulted in increased livestock trade from the region.

- It was clarified that ELMT is not obliged to intervene outside the RELPA footprint area. RELPA will therefore not intervene in the Ogaden region in Ethiopia.
- Larry Meserve clarified that RELPA resources would be complemented (e.g. from OFDA) if it was found necessary to assist in areas outside the geographic coverage, or to respond to emergencies outside the manageable interest of RELPA - ELMT.
- Larry further advised grantees not to take on activities beyond their abilities or as defined in the Cooperative Agreements.

Question: P Ewell asked for clarification regarding level of intensity considering that field offices are scattered around the region. In response, CoP/ELMT clarified that there will be sub-grants to expand coverage through the numerous CBOs in the region. There will be more clarity when the DIPs are completed early in the New Year.

Minute 2/6: Channelling Communication and Information

- CoP/ELMT informed meeting that the following publications are planned within ELMT:
 - Half year publications
 - Monthly Technical Bulletins in an effort to cut down email communications
 - Other periodic publications of interest
- ELMT /RCU will be clearing most of communications with RELPA/ ELMT partners.
- CoP/ELMT strongly proposed that volume of emails within RELPA partners be reduced to workable minimum to make it more efficient. He further proposed email groups containing only names of contacts that are relevant for each group.
- DEPHA was proposed as a possible hosting site for RELPA information. SIMaC and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) are other potential interlocutors and collaborators for knowledge management and environmental information services. PACAPS had also proposed ELDIS and IUCN-WISP as suitable information hosting sites in the Technical Application. The possible approaches to optimize EIS/MIS will be developed further by ELMT & PACAPS.

Action: PACAPS and ELMT to visit DEPHA to explore DEPHA's capacity and confirm willingness to host RELPA information

- The RELPA – RFA had expected a comprehensive information management approach, but neither PACAPS nor ELMT has sufficient budget and capacity for detailed website involvement
- Internal information sharing may be easy but outreach information sharing may be more difficult to organize
- Internal information sharing can be done through the Technical Working Groups in ELMT
- Proposal was made to have each TWG list all issues worked on and how information was disseminated.
- ELMT sub-grantees have asked RCU to filter all communications and requests originating from external sources, including USAID.
- RELPA partners were encouraged to exchange Technical Applications for the components awarded (some have already done so).

Action: Exchange of Technical Applications between PACAPS, ELMT, COMESA, MSI/PACT

Minute 2/7: Contingency Planning

- PACAPS and FAO were working on the appropriate way for managing the threat of RVF and have taken note of the workshop planned by CDC in Nairobi for late January 2008 [postponed due to crisis in Kenya].
- RELPA needs to add value to existing emergency response mechanism applied by other agencies in the region
- It was observed that RELPA proposed to respond to emergencies posing threats to livestock
- Possibility of additional resources from USAID to RELPA partners in case of emergencies was emphasized

Minute 2/8: Program Monitoring

- The next window for formulating monitoring indicators is April 2008.
- WIK indicated suggested that there may not be a need for a consolidated M&E framework for RELPA, as each component had its own PMP. However USAID/EA has its own PMP which factors in the indicators that RELPA partners are tracking. Likewise, each Mission has its own indicators and reporting framework which need to be taken into cognizance to be sure that RELPA is coherent with those.
- ELMT is liaising with PACAPS in planning for training of ELMT partners in Participatory Impact Assessment (PIA).

Minute 2/9: Linking RELPA with activities of the Combined Joint Task Force in the Horn of Africa (CJTF-HoA) (by Jo Sarmiento)

- Objective is to reduce ideological extremism among the populations of the Horn of Africa
- CJTF-HOA initiatives have been going on over the last three years.
- Only Civil Affairs teams are involved in the initiatives, currently some 17 teams in the region.
- Involvement in : medical assistance, veterinary care, development of wells, rehabilitation of schools, bridges and hospitals.
- Renovation and construction of new school facilities receive high priority. Initiatives do not include supply of books.
- Initiatives may include construction of minor roads if linked to other projects.
- CJTF-HOA works closely with both USAID Country and Regional missions as well as with bilateral government ministries, Provincial and District and traditional authorities. This is intended to minimize duplication of effort and misunderstanding.

Question: J Hirsch enquired whether CJTF-HOA has a map of potential sites where the Unit intends to work in the region. In response it was clarified that CJTF-HOA had two teams in Kenya and two more in Ethiopia. In Kenya the teams are concentrating on the “Swahili Coast” and Garissa. The team has plans to move to Wajir district after the General elections but first needed to evaluate the needs and decide on appropriate approach.

Comment: ELMT-CoP expressed serious reservations about DoD moving into development interventions where he thought the department had little experience in. The real concern is the confusion in approaches between the DoD and regular development partners on same target groups. He was worried that there could even be outright resentment from the communities, which could negatively affect the image of the regular development partners.

Question: WIK enquired what the possibilities were for CJTF to co-share the costs of sustaining the HIU-WebVISTA (Georeferenced database). WIK wondered whether CJTF could train on the use of the WebVISTA, or otherwise support mapping and data access needs. Jo S answered that only the commanders in CJTF could make that determination.

Minute: 2/10: Opportunities for Collaboration with other Agencies

- There are clear opportunities for RELPA to collaborate with other agencies like ECHO Drought Preparedness Programme II and EU funded Microfinance initiatives in the RELPA footprint area.
- It was clarified that ELMT partners had already submitted proposals to the ECHO-DPPPII.
- **WIK also raised the possibility of a T.A. team from the USFS visiting on a scoping mission in the Region in Spring of 2008, funded by the USFS.** ELMT has the USFS as an access partner, and whether this is further developed depends on the guidance of the ELMT NRM TWG.

Question: (WIK) To what extent do we perceive Kenya government involvement in the RELPA activities in Kenya. (This was in reference to proposal by the Govt of Ethiopia to have an MoU defining the operations of ELMT in Ethiopia). It was observed that all the NGO in the consortium had existing agreements and registration with the government of Kenya. ELMT was working in this context.

Minute 2/11: Up-coming Events

- A COMESA Council of Ministers Meeting in March 2008, in Seychelles. Livestock Policy will listed in the agenda.
- COMESA Summit meeting in Harare in May 2008. Several of the policies discussed at the Ministers' Conference will be endorsed.

Action: PACAPS/COMESA to arrange Pastoralist Forum before March 2008. Venue to be decided.

- Djibouti US Embassy has requested USAID for assistance in organizing a Livestock and Marketing workshop in March 2008 in Djibouti. USAID Regional Office is still deliberating on the level of assistance needed.

Next Meeting in Addis Ababa Ethiopia, March 03, 2008

Acronyms

AU-IBAR	:	_____	African Union-Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
CAADP	:	_____	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CBO	:	_____	Community Based Organization
CDC	:	_____	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.)
CJTF-HoA	:	_____	Combined Joint Task Force in Horn of Africa
COMESA	:	_____	Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa
CoP	:	_____	Chief of Party
CP	:	_____	Contingency Plan
CTO	:	_____	Cognizant Technical Officer
DPPII	:	_____	Drought Preparedness Programme II
DEPHA	:	_____	Data Exchange Platform in Horn of Africa
DFID	:	_____	Department for International Development
DIP	:	_____	Detailed Implementation Plan
DoD	:	_____	Department of Defense (Kenya, U.S.)
EA	:	_____	East Africa
ECHO	:	_____	European Community Humanitarian Office
ELMT	:	_____	Enhanced Livelihoods in Mandera Triangle
EMOP	:	_____	Emergency Operation
EU	:	_____	European Union
FAO	:	_____	Food & Agriculture Organization (United Nations)
FEG	:	_____	Food Economy Group
FEWSNet	:	_____	Famine Early Warning System Network
GIS	:	_____	Geographic Information System
HIU	:	_____	Humanitarian Information Unit
IGAD	:	_____	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IUCN-WISP	:	_____	International Union for Conservation of Nature-World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism
M&E	:	_____	Monitoring & Evaluation
MoU	:	_____	Memorandum of Understanding
MSI	:	_____	Management Systems International
NGO	:	_____	Non-Governmental Organization
OFDA	:	_____	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
PACAPS	:	_____	Pastoral Areas Coordination, Analysis and Policy Support
PCI	:	_____	Pastoral Communication Initiatives
PIA	:	_____	Participatory Impact assessment
PLI	:	_____	Pastoralist Livelihood Initiatives
PMP	:	_____	Program Monitoring Plan
PRRO	:	_____	Protracted Relief & Recovery Operation
RCMRD	:	_____	Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
RCU	:	_____	Regional Coordination Unit
ReSAKSS	:	_____	Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support Systems
RFA	:	_____	Request for Applications
RVF	:	_____	Rift Valley Fever
SIMaC	:	_____	Somalia Interagency Mapping & Coordination
RTSCG	:	_____	RELPA Technical Steering and Coordination Group

UAE : United Arab Emirates
UN-OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
USFS : United States Forest Service
VISTA : Visualized Information Synthesized Temporal Analysis
 ([WebVISTA](#))
WB : World Bank
WFP : World Food Programme
WWF : World Wildlife Fund

Attendance List: 10 Dec. 2007 -- Second RELPA TSCG Meeting

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