

MINUTES OF MEETING

ECHO Proposal – NGO Coordination

01 September 2008 10:00 hrs, Nias Room – Menara Thamrin

Following ECHO's calls for proposals for projects on food security and malnutrition in NTT OCHA facilitated a meeting between NGO partners to map out current activities and to coordinate on new project initiatives for the ECHO fund.

Chaired by: Ignacio Leon Garcia, Head of OCHA

NGOs with a presence in NTT present an overview of their projects and activities. Majority of organizations focus on food security, preparedness and development

Focus and Overview of NGO Activities:

Action Contre la Faim

- Water and sanitation access
- Provide support to local structures in malnutrition detection and treatment; conducted various nutrition assessments in the last few months
- New project opened in Alor – faced challenge of logistical access
- Low presence of NGOs in Alor
- Look to expand to additional villages with ECHO funding

Oxfam:

- Plan to expand on current activities located in north of West Timor
- Activities include: training of farmers, local extension workers
- Exploring possibility of developing programs to improve income levels; assessments indicate that problems in NTT not reflective of access to food but limited income to buy food
- Some DRR activities

CARE International

- Build on current project activities
- Active malaria project with presence in 36 villages
- Activities include growing vegetables in dry season; preparing irrigation facilities
- Identified need to coordinate with Oxfam to reduce overlap in project activities
- Identified willingness to cover additional geographic areas including TTSS

Save the Children US and UK

- Will submit a collective proposal; by end of November will amalgamate to one organization Save Indonesia
- Geographic areas of focus: Sumbat Timor, Sikat

- Areas of interest include education institutions and school gardens; provision of support to teachers; basic health, nutrition lessons, cooking lessons; DRR programs
- No activities in north of West Timor

Church World Service

- Presence in Timor Tengah Selatan TS
- Focal areas include: nutrition and food security
- Plan to develop proposal to build on existing activities
- Discuss with ACF sub-district Mollo Selatan
- Number of beneficiaries approximately 2000 children under 5
- Will share list of villages with ACF to compare and avoid duplication

UNICEF

- Geographic presence in Sika (8 sub-districts), Flores, Belu (5 sub-districts)
- Shared with WFP food and nutrition, child-feeding strategies
- Provisional training for breastfeeding counselors through mid-wives
- Provided training of mid-wives
- Pledge for support from other NGOs in Belu and Sika to provide more services on breast-feeding
- Focus group are children under five
- Have distributed micro-nutrient sprinkles tablets

Hellen Keller International

- No presence in NTT at this time
- Conducted survey and monitoring through support of UN OCHA and CWS
- Primary interest in reducing malnutrition through homestead food production, national vitamin A program and distribution of sprinkles
- Conducted a one-time survey in 4 districts in West Timor
- Keen interest in area and want to make organization available to support initiatives in NTT

IMC

- No current presence in NTT

Discussion:

- Many NGOs want to expand current programs rather than start new initiatives
- Common areas of focus: capacity building; identify areas of support to coordinate among NGOs; develop response with programs already in place

Talking Point: Is a stronger nutrition component required in NTT:

Oxfam

- Based on survey results, malnutrition is not caused by a lack of food, but income challenges and breast-feeding is a problem;
- Lack of access to water for agriculture is a major issue
- Develop projects to supply simple water systems along with water availability for households
- Examine possibility of partnering with WFP
- CARE will partner with WFP to scale up activities

- Wants to use ECHO fund to conduct a comprehensive assessment of activities to determine best practices

ACF:

- Based on ACF assessment, food access is a more pressing concern than food availability
- Malnutrition is triggered by a combination of access, availability and care practices;
- ACF aim to improve care practices, WASH, capacity building
- Will focus on integrated strategy to improve nutritional statures of children under 5; focus less on poverty or pure food security and work on all basic causes of malnutrition
- HKI has proposed to conduct a survey; recommend HKI to coordinate with ACF to develop a role for surveillance

UNICEF/FAO/WFP

- Will conduct an assessment in 7 districts in NTT to use as a model regarding food security and food prices; use model to scale-up in other districts; results not available until October

Consensus:

- Many surveys being conducted, but investment in Early Warning Systems could be more important
- Many organizations are conducting surveys that reveals the same results – solution: a solid systematic monitoring system
- What is missing: a hard-core analysis of what has worked and what has not; what techniques have made a difference in situation
- Suggestion: HKI could play a role in the analysis; results could reveal what villages could identify what villages are the most vulnerable
- Need to determine the short-term actions put in place to allow for longer-term activities
- Need to identify joint activities that can be carried out with ECHO funds
 - Joint survey with regular data collection; problem of sustainability so need to engage with local GOI
 - Develop systematic early warning system
 - Assess different approaches of what has worked/not worked and then build a new model
 - EWS is only helpful if resources are available to respond; EWS could be used to lobby to GOI

Challenges:

- NGOs identified challenge of coordination
- Determine how to effectively change situation; malnutrition is a chronic problem in NTT
- Some NGOs working in region for years with no substantial change
- How to improve impact of actions; important to maintain momentum for few months to see if it results in better coordination

Actions:

- Agree to conduct an impact assessment
- Prepare concept note (included villages to work in) within broader framework of assessment
- Identify duplication of efforts
- OCHA will finalize map at sub-district level (including other actors not focused on emergency response) and post on OCHA website

- OCHA will develop a separate file on NTT on the OCHA website
- Question for ECHO: why no distribution of cash grants; Oxfam found them to be very helpful
- Guidelines available on ECHO website
- OCHA will call a second meeting once ECHO has reached a decision

Timelines:

- Concept note due 15 September
- ECHO funded projects start 1 November, for one year