



## **Strategic Advisory Group Meeting**

**21 December 2015**

**12:00-13:30**

**UNHCR Office (16, Lavrska St., Kyiv)**

*Present: Shelter Cluster, UNHCR, IOM, DRC, Caritas, DFID*

### **Agenda of the meeting**

1. Review of the Cluster activities and main achievements in 2015, 10 min
2. Debrief on the external audit, 15 min
3. Update on winterization 2015-16, 10 min
4. Update on Cluster architecture: co-chair, meetings and priorities, 10 min
5. Strategic orientation for 2016, 10 min
6. Discussion and validation of the strategic orientation,. 45min
7. Wrap up

### **Agenda item 1. Review of the Cluster activities and main achievements in 2015**

*See Achievements at glance, annex to the minutes*

Notes:

- Cash is reflected in the 2016 Cluster Response plan at three levels: emergency assistance (winterization cash), transitional solutions (conditional cash for rent) and monetization of durable solutions through the payment of reconstruction with installments. Cash is a modality to provide the assistance, but not a separate activity. Therefore, all monetized forms of assistance shall be encompassed by the Strategy.
- Access has been a significant constrain for aid delivery during 2015 and this has impacted the initial plans;
- Repairs (light and medium repairs as well as any others) are season driven, which means that weather conditions make impact on the feasibility of repairs. Despite problem of access in NGCA achievements are pretty good.
- Fuel is not yet included in general reporting as it was part of a separate winterization exercise;
- Many activities were planned and targets developed in the situation and context of then recent Deblatsevo, which resulted into perhaps, overestimation of targets especially for the acute emergency one;
- Caritas does not have its contingency stockpile anymore, as it is used for winterization distributions currently.
- For contingency the 70,000 HH initial target could be revised with a stock of 10,000 HH in country.

Problem: what is the best way to bridge the gap between emergency and development.

### **Agenda item 2. Debrief on the external audit**

*See Debrief on External Audit, annex to the minutes*

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Key points:

### **Agenda item 3. Update on winterization 2015-16**

*See Map on winterization coverage and Map on gaps in the grey area, annexes to the minutes*

Notes:

- For coordination of winterization response guidelines were developed back in August 2015 as well as a special matrix that allowed to collect information from partners on their plan and see the general picture.
- While cash activities are more focused in the South, in-kind, esp. fuel are more used in the North.
- DCR suggested to share best practices for coal distributions.
- DCR also brought attention of participants to the cash feasibility assessment carried out by the DFID Consortium members recently.
- While all are focused on the contact line and huge needs are there and along the grey area, humanitarian needs are existing in other areas as well. Extremely vulnerable cases are being reported and identified in all areas, regardless of contact line proximity. What differs, is the feasibility of coverage, as not always in small or remote settlements assistance may be regularly provided.

### **Agenda item 4. Update on Cluster architecture: co-chair, meetings and priorities**

*See meeting presentation, annex to the minutes*

It was unanimously agreed that sub-national for Northern Donbas shall continue as it has proved to be a significant asset and efficient mechanism for the coordination bringing the field and Kyiv together and reaching all the small grass roots initiatives.

Meetings at Kyiv level shall take place monthly.

It was recommended to focus more on different thematic meetings.

DRC has brought more attention to the need to be more present in the Mariupol area.

Subnational for other areas: as operations in NGCA are very limited there is no need to establish a subnational at this moment. However, there are benefits that both local and international partners may receive from Cluster presence. Also, given sensitivity of the situation, presence of the Cluster itself may be harmful, and other ways to coordinate shall be considered (just working group meetings, nothing formal). It was noted, that Luhansk and Donetsk NGCA shall be considered separately given different environments and existing circumstances.

Also, operations in NGCA for shelter activities are strongly linked with shipments and procurement which is not a simple and fast process. Depending on donors requirements for reporting and internal procedures, some agencies choose to go for remote management or use local partners to ship goods through the contact line.

### **Agenda item 5. Strategic orientation for 2016**

*See Cluster Response Plan 2016, annex to the minutes*

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Cluster Response plan was developed during HRP 2016 exercise as result of project submissions. HRP 2016 for Ukraine was not yet released. It was noted that delay in such a release may affect the funding from medium and small donors.

### **Agenda item 6. Discussion and validation of the strategic orientation**

Shelter Cluster Response Plan 2016 was validated.

Next priority activities were identified:

- More focus on durable solutions in GCA, esp. with regard to newly adopted Cabinet of Ministers integration program;
- Heavy repairs and reconstruction shall be paid more attentions too, while need for light and medium repairs is decreasing;
- Linkage between damage assessment and types of assistance shall be established;
- More guidance on solutions per profile of beneficiary is appreciated;
- First quarter 2016 – session on experience sharing with regard to cash for rent implementation
- Cluster more engage with national and local authorities, esp. with regard to integration issues.

Database of beneficiaries was discusses, however, no agreement has been reached.

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### **Attendance list:**

Name	Agency	Function	Email
Petro Matiaszek	Caritas Ukraine	Director of Programming	pmatiaszek@caritas-ua.org
Fergus Thomas	DFID	Humanitarian Advisor	Fergus.Thomas@fco.gov.uk
Pierre Vischioni	DRC	Head of Programme	pierre.vischioni@drc.dk
Ester Ruiz de Azua	IOM	Emergency & Stabilization Programme Coordinator	eruizdeazua@iom.int
Andrii Mazurenko	Shelter Cluster	Shelter Associate	im.ukraine@sheltercluster.org
Igor Chantefort	Shelter Cluster	Cluster Coordinator	coord.ukraine@sheltercluster.org
Srecko Neuman	UNHCR	Snr. Reg. Programme Officer	neuman@unhcr.org

Absent with excuse: PiN, ECHO, OFDA and NRC.

### **List of Annexes:**

1. Achievements at glance
  2. Cluster Response Plan 2016
  3. Debrief on External Audit
  4. Map on gaps in the grey area
  5. Map on winterization coverage
  6. Meeting presentation
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