

Sudan Shelter and NFI Cluster Meeting

Summary Notes of National Meeting –

Monday, Feb. 24, 2025

Time: 14:00 – 16:00

Venue: Microsoft Teams

PARTICIPANTS (42 in total)

Partners	Representative
International NGOs	ADRA, ALIGHT, LMI, MHUN, NRC, RI, SI
National NGOs	RCDO, AOO, AOSCD, Blue Sky Org, PCS, RDHA, HDPO, AGWA, SAWA, Humanity path, PeaceCord
UN organizations	UNHCR, IOM
National authority	
Donors	ECHO
Others	Sudan DART, NGO FORUM

AGENDA

- **Review of Previous Meeting Action Points**
- **National Cluster Updates**
- **Situation Updates**
- **Rapid Need Assessments in Darfur—Solidarite International**
- **Success and Challenges for Shelter and NFI Programmes—ADRA**
- **Immediate and long-term impact of USAID stop-work order**
- **AoB**

Quick summary:

The Sudan Shelter and NFI Cluster meeting focused on presenting Shelter and NFI humanitarian needs, and response efforts across multiple states. National cluster focal points provided updates on displacement trends, with urgent needs identified in River Nile, Kassala, Blue Nile, and Darfur, where limited resources continue to hinder response capacity. Solidarite International presented findings from rapid needs assessments in Darfur, highlighting severe shelter and NFI needs. ADRA shared insights on successes and challenges in implementing shelter programs, emphasizing important lessons learned and best practices. The impact of the USAID Stop-Work Order was discussed, with serious concerns on its immediate and long-term impact on the affected population. The next meeting is scheduled for the 17th of March 2025.

1. Review of previous meeting action points

The meeting opened with a brief welcome from the coordination team, followed by a review of key action points from the previous meeting. It was noted that:

- The USAID Stop-Work Order Impact Survey has been completed, with findings expected to support advocacy efforts at both the national and global levels.

- The mapping of the sub-national coordination structure is still ongoing, with additional feedback required to finalize the process.
- The discussion on improving reporting mechanisms for cluster funding status continues, with potential new options to be explored in the next meeting.
- The Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) roll-out remains under discussion. A dedicated discussion will be held on this in AOB.
- The coordination team emphasized the importance of continued engagement from all partners to strengthen coordination and response effectiveness.

2. National Cluster updates

The Cluster coordination team provided several updates on national-level related to coordination and funding with emphasis on the following areas:

- Launch of the Sudan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) and Regional Response Plan (RRP): The plans were officially launched in Geneva, with strong advocacy will continue for increased funding towards Shelter and NFI interventions.
- Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Allocation: A total of \$19.5 million has been allocated, though Shelter and NFI remain critically underfunded. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to increase allocations and ensure that Shelter and NFI receive adequate funding from this allocation. SHF state consultations prioritized Shelter and NFI response in some states, but it remains insufficient. The final results of these consultations are yet to be shared.
- Guidance Notes on engagement on principled return: Documents outlining principled engagement in return areas were discussed at the ICCG. Another document on possible humanitarian interventions in return areas is still under discussion as well.
- Intersectoral Rapid Needs Assessment Tool: Work is ongoing to refine the tool, making it shorter and more efficient while maintaining key assessment indicators.
- Wad Medani and Khartoum Response Plans: Partners were briefed on the ongoing efforts in both locations, with a request for additional input on unmet needs, and planned responses. As such, Partners were requested to provide any additional information on Khartoum response plan to allow timely submission to OCHA.
- Cluster Funding Status:
 - Target Population: 2.2 million individuals.
 - Reached So Far: 50,300 individuals.
 - Challenges: Severe funding shortages continue to hinder response capacity.

The coordination team called for more timely reporting from partners to ensure accurate response tracking and better advocacy on funding needs.

3. Situation updates

A series of updates were presented on humanitarian needs, response activities, and challenges across various states:

River Nile State

The inter-sector assessment conducted in early February revealed that 6,615 households (33,075 individuals) are in urgent need of shelter and NFIs. However, available resources only cover 8% of the total needs, leaving a significant gap.

- Response efforts include:
 - UNHCR/ADD has distributed 4,500 solar lamps.
 - Save the Children provided 1,300 households with NFIs in Shandi.
 - IOM is distributing NFIs to 6,000 households in Atbara, Shandi, and Abu Hamad.

The main challenges include resource shortages and disruptions as some IDP return.

Kassala State

During the Strategic Reflection Workshop held on February 16, 2025, partners reviewed 2024 operations and outlined key priorities for 2025. A major discussion point was how best to assist IDPs returning to Al Jazeera and Sennar, with a need for further assessments to guide response planning.

- Response efforts include:
 - UNHCR distributed NFIs to 239 households.
 - IOM delivered 3,500 NFI kits through its partners.

Challenges remain around funding constraints due to Sudanese Pound depreciation.

Blue Nile & Sennar States

The return of 8,000 households from Ethiopia has placed additional pressure on limited resources. Additionally, 55,466 individuals have returned to Sennar, requiring urgent assistance.

- Response efforts include:
 - UNHCR/ADD has distributed partial NFI kits to 1,000 IDP households.
 - AORD has completed the distribution of 1,000 shelter materials and 1,000 NFI kits.

A lack of contingency stock remains a major gap, making it difficult to respond rapidly to new displacements.

Darfur Region

North Darfur

The security situation in El Fasher, Zam Zam, and Abu Shouk camps remains volatile.

- Response efforts include:
 - 16,146 households received NFIs and emergency shelters.
 - \$300,000 allocated for Mellit and \$400,000 for Tawila under the upcoming SHF.

Access remains an issue due to airstrikes, artillery shelling, and movement restrictions.

West & Central Darfur

- 5,000 new IDPs have arrived in Umdukhun.
- UNHCR distributed 2,269 full NFI kits to displaced populations.

However, cash shortages and new NGO registration restrictions requirements continue to impact implementation.

4. Rapid Needs Assessments in Darfur – Solidarites International

Solidarity International presented the findings from their recent Rapid Needs Assessments (RNA) conducted in Tawila (November 2024), Saraf Omra (December 2024), and Golo (January 2025). The assessments aimed to identify the most pressing humanitarian needs in these areas, which have been significantly affected by ongoing conflict and displacement.

Key Findings:

- **Severe Shelter & NFI Shortages:** Most displaced families lack adequate shelter, with many forced to live in the open or in makeshift structures.
- **Overcrowding in Gathering Sites & Camps:** Due to continuous new arrivals, existing sites have exceeded capacity, putting additional strain on shelter, food, and WASH services.
- **Shelter Materials Scarcity:** The availability of proper shelter materials remains limited, increasing reliance on local materials that do not provide adequate protection.

Programmatic Recommendations:

- Urgent multi-sectoral interventions particularly Shelter and NFI are needed in the most affected locations to provide immediate relief for newly arrived IDPs.
- Ensure coordination among partners is required to avoid duplication and effective response coverage.
- Enhance efforts in shelter and NFI pre-positioning to address future displacement needs and allow a quicker emergency response.
- Support from existing Shelter and NFI contingency stocks including the IOM-managed pipeline to provide complete NFI kits when available, which would help partners respond to new displacements more efficiently.

Solidarites International urged all partners working in Darfur to address needs reflected in the assessment findings and collaborate on addressing key shelter and NFI gaps in the region under the leadership of the Shelter and NFI Cluster.

5. Successes and Challenges for Shelter and NFI Programmes – ADRA

ADRA shared insights from their recent shelter and NFI programs across West Darfur, Blue Nile, White Nile, and Khartoum, highlighting key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned.

Successes:

- **Community Engagement:** ADRA successfully involved local actors in the planning and distribution of shelter materials and NFIs, which improved accountability and trust among affected populations.
- **Standardized Distribution Mechanisms:** The use of uniform distribution procedures ensured transparency, allowing for effective tracking of assistance and better monitoring of gaps.
- **Voucher-Based Assistance Model:** ADRA reported positive outcomes from their voucher program, which gave beneficiaries more flexibility in choosing essential items, while also stimulating the local economy by engaging local vendors in supply chains.

Challenges:

- Warehousing and Storage Issues: A lack of adequate storage facilities made pre-positioning of shelter and NFI items difficult, resulting in delays in response efforts.
- Supply Chain Constraints: Restrictions on imported shelter materials, high transportation costs, and logistical barriers in conflict-affected areas slowed down procurement and distribution processes.
- Market Price Fluctuations: Inflation and currency depreciation affected the value of vouchers, reducing purchasing power for beneficiaries and leading to concerns about the sustainability of the assistance.
- Banking and Payment Processing Issues: Delays in fund transfers and limited access to banking services in remote areas created difficulties in cash and voucher programming.

6. Immediate and Long-term Impact of USAID Stop-Work Order

The USAID Stop-Work Order was a major point of discussion due to its significant impact on humanitarian response efforts in Sudan, particularly in the Shelter and NFI sector.

Short-Term Consequences:

- Suspension of Critical Shelter and NFI Projects: Many active programs that were funded by USAID have been put on hold, resulting in delays in the provision of shelter materials, household items, and other emergency assistance.
- Increased Vulnerability of Displaced Populations: Due to halted projects, many newly displaced families remain without adequate shelter, exposing them to harsh weather conditions and heightened protection risks
- Deterioration of Living standards: The absence of NFI limit access to basic survival needs for the families
- Reduced Operational Capacity: Several international NGOs that depended on USAID funding are facing operational limitations, leading to staff reductions and scaled-back interventions.
- Instability and further displacement: Overcrowding and unsafe shelters force families into repeated displacement, straining host communities and existing resources. Families sheltering in schools are requested to vacate school as classes resume, leaving them without alternatives and heightening vulnerabilities

Long-Term effects:

- Families will remain in a prolonged displacement and unsafe living conditions without adequate shelter solutions.
- Families will remain in overcrowded or substandard conditions, increasing vulnerability and preventing long-term recovery.
- Disrupted livelihoods and education remain a very big challenge as unstable shelter situations hinder economic activities and force children out of school.
- There are heightened protection risks due to overcrowding and inadequate shelter exposure

7. AOB

Before closing, several key announcements were made:

- The next Sudan Shelter and NFI Cluster meeting is scheduled for the 17th of March 2025.
- The Cluster is preparing to roll out the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) to assess coordination effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. A survey will be shared for partner feedback in early March, and results will be discussed in a dedicated meeting after Eid.
- Advocacy for funding life-saving activities and durable solutions remains a priority, and partners were encouraged to support efforts to strengthen donor engagement. Further visibility needs to be

Action points

Action point	Led by	Deadline
Continue the process of mapping sub-national coordination structure and identify gaps (Cluster Coordination Team)	Cluster Coordination Team	15 April
Present options for improving reporting mechanisms for cluster funding status	Cluster Coordination Team	17 March
Roll out the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) Survey	Cluster Coordination Team	5 March
Continue refining the Rapid Needs Assessment Tool.	Cluster Coordination Team	
Provide additional inputs on planned Shelter and NFI response in Khartoum	Cluster partners	25 February
Share photos of needs and responses	Cluster partners	

The meeting concluded with thanks from the Coordination team, and a reminder that meeting notes and materials will be shared.

The PowerPoint presentation of the meeting is available [HERE](#)

8. List of participants

Full Name	Agency	Type
Abdelhameed	RCDO	NNGO
Adam Adam Mahmoud	AOO	NNGO
Ahmad Suliman Ahmed Ibrahim	UNHCR	United Nations
ahmed angabo AOSCD	AOSCD	NNGO
Amal	Sudan DART	Other
Amélie COFFIGNAL	SI	INGO
Azzain Jeed	Muslim Hands United For Needy	INGO
BASAEED Rehab Mohammed Abdelrahman	ECHO	Donors
Eljaili Mohammed	UNHCR	United Nations
Essam Al Washaly	NRC	INGO
Farah Baden	PCS	NNGO
Fashion Mawere	NGO FORUM	Other
Gemechis Bizuayehu	RI	INGO
Humanity Path		
Ismail Abdalla	Muslim Hands United For Needy	INGO
Jean Claude Barashyikirana	UNHCR	United Nations
Joséphine PLASMANS	SI	INGO
Kadjo Modeste Kouassi	UNHCR	United Nations
KHALID Taha	IOM	United Nations
Malaz		

Malaz Ibrahim Alamin	ALIGHT	INGO
Maysa ADRA	ADRA	INGO
Maysa Al-Aqil	ADRA	INGO
Mohamed Ali Babiker/ Raise	RDHA	NNGO
MOHAMED Elfaisal	IOM	United Nations
Mohamed Issak	SAWA	NNGO
Mohamed Mohamedain		
MOHAMED Omer	IOM	United Nations
Mohamed Osman	UNHCR	United Nations
Mohammed Seyam	UNHCR	United Nations
Monir Al-Sobari	UNHCR	United Nations
Mugabi Samuel	HDPO	NNGO
Muhammad Abbas Khan	UNHCR	United Nations
Nagmaldeen Abdalaziz	BSO	NNGO
Nahla Abdelrahiem	LMI	INGO
Osman Haroun	ALIGHT	INGO
Owais Khairy	AGWA	NNGO
Rodney Shamoun	NRC	INGO
Shazali Mahmoud	UNHCR	United Nations
Tagelsir Hassan	LMI	INGO
Vincent Okello	ADRA	INGO
Yasir Khatir	SAWA	NNGO

URL: [Shelter and NFI Cluster Sudan Website](#)

