

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | Feb 2022

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	SNFI Cluster Coordination Meeting- Through Teams		
<b>Date and Time</b>	02 Feb 2022, From 10:00 Hrs to 12:20hrs		
<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
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24	Alistair McArthur	DFID	Alistair-McArthur@dfid.gov.uk
25	Mathaba Agab - Qatar Charity (Guest)	Qatar Charity	

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26	Spyros Livas	DRC	spyros.livas@drc.ngo
27	ALRASHID-AOSCD (Guest)		
28	Mathaba Agab - Qatar Charity (Guest)	Qatar Charity	
29	Rudab Mamoun (GFO )	GFO	

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Main Themes	Discussed Points	Action Point
<p><b>Review of the Action Points</b></p>	<p><b>The Shelter and NFI Cluster Coordinator, Iva Vavic, opened the meeting with a review of past action points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues around disparity between the FTS sectors specific funding levels and people reached figures have been raised with OCHA. Other cluster coordinators reported having the same problem and OCHA suggested a formation of the task force to unpack this, but also to look at the broader ERP process so we can be more agile in the face of emerging crisis.</li> <li>• Possible solution to accurately reflecting the sector funding level (in light of FTS unreliability) is to base it on achievements and activity-based costing, so the task force will also look into improving monitoring and reporting, specifically people reached numbers. The challenge for the S/NFI cluster remains identifying unique beneficiaries to avoid compounding numbers of people reached with Shelter and NFI assistance, since more often than not, these are one and the same people, as well as distinguishing between full kit (as per the cluster standard) and partial kit distribution, as it sends a very misleading picture to the donors, of achieving quite a lot with very little, which is far from the case.</li> <li>• Stock Mapping was also raised at the ISCG level, and the consensus was this should be regularized so we can improve preparedness and predictability in the face of uncertainty. OCHA suggested stock mapping takes place on quarterly basis. The S/NFI Cluster will create a public dashboard to reflect all partners' stock levels which will be hosted on Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep partners informed on the outcomes of the ERP review TF and the NATT.</li> </ul>

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- The Global Shelter Cluster website it's undergoing an update at the moment which will make it more user friendly and increase its functionality. Once this process is complete the S/NFI Cluster will improve Sudan webpage significantly by inserting 5W and achievement dashboards, various documents, meeting minutes and presentations, etc. all of which can support your programming.
  - Lastly, the task force will also focus on improving needs assessments and the level of data that is being collected to facilitate the application of targeting and prioritization criteria. We are struggling to keep up with the rate of new emergencies, therefore, it is crucial we prioritize in a more strategic and equitable manner.
  - Discussions around the MSNA (Multi Sectoral Needs Assessments) are also kicking off in the NATT (Need Assessments Task Team). There is no donor support for the MSNA this year so there was a discussion on whether it will be implemented or not and finally a cost sharing approach was agreed.
  - Contact List update is still ongoing with a big thanks to those that registered through the Mailchimp form. We will switch to the updated contact list in March and those that still did not sign up are encouraged to do so, otherwise they will stop receiving emails from the S/NFI Cluster. Feel free to forward the sign-up form to anyone who might find it relevant.
  - Establishment of additional coordination structures is still in progress (Co-Chair, SAG, SRC, TwiGs)
- Sudan webpage on the GSC website will be improved so that it can be a valuable resource for the partners as soon as the website update process is finalized.
- Sign up for our Contact List below:

[Join our Contact List!](#)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support partners with limited knowledge on Shelter/NFI cluster coordination, the basic training will be organized in the coming week. We invite everyone interested to join.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners interested in the basics of S/NFI cluster coordination to join the upcoming training organized by the cluster.</li> </ul>
<b>General Updates</b>	<p><b>2021 Retrospect – Needs vs. Achievements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021 more than 440,000 individuals were displaced to inter-communal violence which is a drastic increase compared to only 30,000 displaced to the same cause in 2020. With more than half of the total displacement occurring in West Darfur, mounting a robust response in this state remains a priority.</li> <li>The security situation continues to deteriorate with an increasing number of incidents and criminality on the rise.</li> <li>Furthermore, we’ve also seen the increase in cross-border movement with 81,203 new arrivals from South Sudan, 21,300 new arrivals from Ethiopia, 6,567 new arrivals from Eritrea and 560 new arrivals from CAR in the course of 2021.</li> <li>In addition, 77,705 individuals had their houses completely destroyed by flooding which was much less than the previous year when Sudan experienced a 100-year flooding event. So, we don’t necessarily expect 2022 to be as mild flooding wise as the 2021.</li> <li>The sector also supports returns, where we had approx. 27,638 returnees during the course of the year. What is interesting to note if you look at the map, is that a lot of return areas overlap with conflict/IDP hotspots which points to recurrent displacement. In the absence of a system to track assistance delivery we may be facing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since it is clear the needs drastically exceed the available resources, moving forward it is important to have a more strategic response where we focus on a limited number of critical areas and drop the rest. Targeting and prioritization should be improved to ensure a more equitable response. This needs to be addressed in the next cluster strategy update.</li> </ul>

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duplication of our efforts if we keep distributing new items to same people every couple of months.

- It's important to note the above numbers are really conservative as they completely exclude massive needs of the protracted caseload for shelter repair and maintenance as well as replenishment of NFIs which have been damaged or stolen. Furthermore, the emergency figures include only those whose houses have been completely destroyed while households with partially damaged houses have been excluded.
- These severely reduced numbers amount to 131,000 households in need of critical lifesaving shelter and NFI assistance. While the NFI response reached 91,000 households, so 70%, across all cluster partners, the emergency shelter response was severely lacking with only 25,000 households, i.e.,19% supported.

### **Situational Overview – last 3 months:**

- Since October 25 we have seen a general deterioration of the political, economic and security situation in Sudan. Clashes in Darfur are intensifying as well as general criminality with looting on the rise (WFP warehouse in ND as well as UNAMID assets). It's particularly difficult to keep track of incidents in West Darfur with a number reported around El Genina town, in Krenik, Jebel Moon, Sirba and Forobanga localities...
- Due to poor security situation partners were reporting access issues which affected the timely delivery of assistance despite significant stocks been prepositioned in these critical states.

- As part of the strategy update there is also a need to examine how can we better track the delivery of assistance to avoid duplication or efforts in the instance of secondary displacement.
- It's important to examine the reason behind the extremely weak shelter response. Is it the lack of availability of construction materials in the market, is it the issue with partner capacity, is it incomplete reporting which is reflecting the achievements inaccurately? It is critical we identified where the problem lies so we can start looking for the solution.

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- Given the sharp deterioration in security situation, there is limited operational capacity to respond to the current rate of the new emergencies. As an example of the numbers we're faced with at the moment, only in one incident out of dozens in the last 3 months, in Krenik, 5,495 houses were burnt to the ground while 4,056 houses were partially damaged. These are unprecedented numbers while funding levels remain the same if not lower than that of the previous year.
  - In terms of refugee movement, new arrivals continue to increase from both South Sudan with 3,500 new arrivals from the beginning of the year as well as from CAR with 1,578 new arrivals that reach South Darfur while 1,000 new arrivals reached Kassala from Eritrea. SS refugees in White Nile continue to be affected by flooding which threatens to become a year-round problem with the new rainy season approaching soon.
  - A notable displacement also occurred in the eastern corridor of South Kordofan whereby initial numbers indicated more than 8,000 households in need. However, the subsequent interagency assessment led by OCHA identified only 2,609 households in need which highlighted yet again the importance of verification to combat inflated numbers in the context of severely limited resources.
  - With the recent attack on the Tongo Sudanese refugee camp in Ethiopia, Blue Nile remains on high alert for possible large numbers of Sudanese refugee returnees.
  - Additional issues reported have to do with increased operational costs for partners and supply chain issues.
- More donor support is needed in light of increasing needs. S/NFI Cluster to engage in targeted advocacy efforts.

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### CERF '22 UFE

#### Allocation Criteria:

- CERF is a pooled fund available to UN agencies. The total amount of this allocation is 20M across all clusters.
- The underfunded emergencies window is targeting states, and localities in particular, that have been affected by significant displacement but where very few people were reached due to funding limitation.
- The HC limited the grant to inter-communal conflict.
- OCHA has relied on people reached numbers to determine which clusters will receive the funding, which is why it's so important all partners diligently and accurately report through ActivityInfo. Sectors that have less than 50% of people reached in prioritized states will benefit from the grant.
- The size of the allocation for each cluster was determined mathematically, whereby the amount of the allocation corresponds to the number of people the cluster has not reached in target states, multiplied by the cluster cost per beneficiary (activity-based costing from HRP).
- The S/NFI Cluster will receive 3.5M dollars for West, North, Central and South Darfur which translates to 9,500 NFI kits and 4,000 emergency shelter cash grant.

#### CERF Strategy Development:

- OCHA is taking a bottom-up approach whereby no consultations will happen at central level. State strategies will be developed by the Area HCTs. Therefore, field will drive the prioritization based on the firsthand experience from the ground.

- Strengthening reporting within the HRP and ERP monitoring framework is critical as it affects the funding prospects for all partners. The S/NFI Cluster coordination team will reach out to partners to make sure everyone has access to ActivityInfo, and organize a training session to familiarize partners with the reporting tool itself but also with some specific 2022 reporting requirements, public dashboards that can be used for programming and so on (as requested by the participants of the meeting).

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- OCHA insist on the focused approach – 1 theme (inter-communal conflict), 1 (or 2) localities per state, 1 agency per sector - in order not to cut the cake to too many pieces and dilute the impact.
- Area-based approach is the goal, whereby all the sectors focus on one specific locality and provide a holistic package of complementary assistance.
- Conflict-sensitive programming is another priority, meaning all groups residing in a targeted area should be assisted to super peaceful consistence and reduce peritoneal for further conflict. This is not always straightforward for the S/NFI Cluster, particularly when it comes to shelter assistance. If we were to support nomads that forcibly occupied original settlers' land with shelter, we may give them credibility and send a signal that this kind of behavior is ok. Therefore, before applying the conflict sensitivity approach, partners should always frame their interventions through the HLP lens.
- Only critical lifesaving interventions can be proposed.
- This time the grant is for 12 months as opposed to the usual 9 months.
- Localization is also the key goal, whereby UN agencies benefiting from the funding should partners with national NGOs and channel at least 35% of funds to them.
- CERF priorities: women & girls, persons with disabilities, education and other aspects of protection should come across state strategies and agency proposals.
- HCT decides on which agencies will receive funding specifically.

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<p><b>Core Pipeline NFI SOPs</b></p>	<p><b>SOPs for the end-to-end management of NFIs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SOPs comprehensively cover the progression from needs assessment to planning, sourcing, receiving, storing, releasing, distributing, monitoring, reporting and reconciling documentation with respect to NFI interventions.</li> <li>• Second half of the document describes how partners can access UNHCR Core Pipeline and which procedures must they follow in terms of distributions themselves but also record keeping and item safeguarding.</li> <li>• Partners eligible to access the NFI must be active Shelter &amp; NFI Cluster partners that attend and contribute to coordination meetings, information sharing, and inter-sectoral response plans at national/state level.</li> <li>• In terms of risk, SHF and RRF partners as well as those registered on UNHCR's partner portal will have priority due to vetted capacity to implement, but we're happy to assess any other partners as we'd like to support more national NGOs. Operational partners must sign an MoU with UNHCR.</li> <li>• NFI Release Request form is filled by the S/NFI Field Focal Point, in coordination with the distribution partner. The request should briefly outline the targeted persons of concern and findings of the needs assessment, as well as outline any potential for the duplication of efforts. Duly filed request from the field is sent to KRT for approvals.</li> <li>• The request is usually approved instantaneously if previously coordinated with KRT, otherwise it may take up to 72 hours. Once the request is approved it may take approx. 72 hours for items to arrive from the central</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOPs for the end-to-end management of NFIs in the UNHCR Core Pipeline to be shared with all cluster partners.</li> </ul>
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	<p>warehouse to individual states - provided the security situation and seasonal road conditions don't impede the access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon receipt of goods, UNHCR partners must return the scanned signed copy of the Waybill within the same day, and the signed original within 72 hours. Same goes for GRN related to receipt of goods at DSPs or distribution sites.</li> <li>• However, UNHCR will phase out transportation to partner warehouses in the future, and all items must be picked in one of 11 UNHCR warehouses across the country.</li> <li>• In case of damage or loss of goods a special Damage/Loss Form should be completed by warehouse manager or distribution team leader depending on the place of incident.</li> <li>• Partners must comply with the DSP memo and pay attention to the list of reconciliation records that need to be maintained as outlined in the SOPs.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cluster Strategy Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current cluster strategy is due for an update, particularly given the recent events which changed the situation drastically. The session in this meeting is just to kick off the conversation and to get the people thinking. Things we have to explore are how do we go about the strategy update workshop (in person vs. online to make it more inclusive, or something hybrid) and which themes would you like to focus on.</li> <li>• The discussion kicked off with Menti.com where partners were asked to answer: What is your key recommendation to improve the S/NFI response in the future?</li> </ul>	

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- We find ourselves in the situation of increasing complexity (armed conflict, intercommunal violence, climate change, intermittent flooding and drought, deteriorating political situation and breakdown, government institutions, crippling economic crisis, etc.) while at the same time in the context of low funding.
  - What is appropriate Shelter in this context? Something that has to be renegotiated time and time again, that everyone has a different opinion on, from the beneficiaries to the government, donors, and so on. In Sudan the phrase “better something than nothing” is often used, but the question is should we continue with this short-lived approach or come up with a more strategic response all partners can get behind?
  - Should we explore a more sustainable approach with longer term thinking, area-based and conflict sensitivity approaches where we pursue synergies with other clusters and support all groups residing in a particular area?
  - What implementation modalities should be considered – in-kind vs. cash, local vs. international procurement, community-based construction, etc.?
  - How do we improve risk management, with respect to DRR, environmental concerns, HLP, GBV and do no harm considerations, etc.?
  - What are the alternatives to emergency shelter kits give the seasonal availability of materials, the environmental and fire risk and so on?
- A very valuable suggestion comes from ADRA, which is to build the capacity of the private sector in Sudan to increase burden sharing and have them engaged and participating in the emergency response alongside humanitarian actors. This would also result in a more sustainable and cost-efficient response. Partnerships with global entities such as IKEA could also be explored, whereby they could develop capacities of local actors and promote development of innovative solutions.
  - This are some of the things to think about in preparation for the upcoming Strategy Workshop that will be organized in the coming months.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are ready-made solutions appropriate (e.g., tents, RHUs – relief housing units) given the climate of Sudan and high-cost implications?</li> <li>• Can we explore more durable shelter solutions? This requires close collaboration with the HLP sub-sector so that we don't expose people to more harm as well as a settlements approach ideally.</li> <li>• Shelter and Settlements are inextricably linked and should not be addressed separately but rather as a whole. If the poor settlement situation is not addressed, such as overcrowding and inadequate spacing between the shelters for the access/ evacuation routes, proper drainage systems and fire breaks as well as lack of communal facilities and difficult access to public services and so on, constructing durable shelter will only cement people in this bad situation and perpetuate/ reinforce the bad living environment they find themselves in.</li> <li>• How can we scale up more sustainable shelter construction for IDPs in particular – such as Tukul or other forms of mudbrick/ adobe shelters which are environmentally friendly and have excellent thermal properties, that are also culturally appropriate and can harness community-based efforts which allow for cost-effectiveness and a quick scale up given the decentralized approach?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COOPI is willing to organize a presentation on their successful community-based durable shelter project in North Darfur. This would be a good experience to learn from and replicate elsewhere.</li> <li>• That is some food for thought. For those hesitant to speak during the meeting on this <a href="#">link (which will remain active)</a> please share what are your priorities for the 2022/2023 S/NFI response.</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No AOB discussed, meeting adjourned at 11:42</li> </ul>	