

# SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	SNFI Cluster Coordination Meeting – MS Teams		
<b>Date and Time</b>	04 August 2022, From 10:00Hrs to 11:57Hrs		
<b>Attendance:</b>			
<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
1	Ibrahim Degass	ALIGHT	ibrahimd@wearealight.org
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## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

### Key Points Discussed:

Main Themes	Discussed Points	Action Points
<b>Introduction:</b>	<p>The Shelter &amp; NFI Cluster Coordinator, Iva Vavic, opened the meeting by welcoming the Shelter/NFI members and presenting <b>the agenda</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>General Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blue Nile Displacement</li> <li>○ Updates from Darfur</li> <li>○ Updates from Kordofans</li> <li>○ Updates from East Sudan</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>New Reporting Requirements</b> for the Emergency Response presentation <b>from OCHA</b></li> <li>• Shelter/NFI Cluster <b>2023 Strategic Planning Workshop</b> announcement</li> <li>• <b>CCPM</b> (Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring)</li> <li>• AOB</li> </ul>	
<b>General Updates:</b>	<p>Update on the <b>Blue Nile situation</b> by UNHCR’s Head of Office Ravi Velusamy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence that erupted mid-July caused massive displacement in Blue Nile that spilled over to neighboring states.</li> <li>• It is mostly <b>Hausa tribe members</b> that were affected however some members of the local community also got caught in the crosshairs due to the nature of the clashes.</li> <li>• Initially the situation was very chaotic with IDPs struggling to reach safety due to <b>impeded access on the bridge</b> connecting Damazine and Rusayris, however finally people found safety in the military school compound where HAC registered 17,500 people initially. The situation in <b>3 schools</b> was extremely <b>overcrowded</b> and multiple sectors responded with immediate stabilization assistance while the <b>relocation/ decongestion</b> plan was being developed.</li> <li>• As a start, people were relocated to <b>5 schools in the center of Damazine</b> where HAC requested humanitarian actors to concentrate the response. The numbers of schools have since been reported to have increased – verifications are ongoing. There are also reports that host community may be populating the schools in hopes of benefiting from assistance.</li> </ul>	

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Several coordination meetings</b> were held so that <b>the contents of the package</b> to be provided to beneficiaries was agreed amongst all humanitarian actors. Furthermore, partners shared their capacities, and it was agreed who will contribute with what in order to <b>avoid duplication</b> but also to agree on a <b>contingency stock reserve</b> since the population remained largely in flux still.</li> <li>• Amongst the <b>first responders</b> we had UNHCR, UNICEF, SCI and HAC (contribution from Civil Defense), etc., while IRW, MSF and ICRC shared they have NFI kits <b>in the pipeline</b>.</li> <li>• In terms of challenges, which is common for all earlier emergencies, is that there is a strong push to quickly deliver truck loads of assistance without asking too many questions and without registration and verification. The humanitarian is now pushing back and insisting on having <b>a more evidence-based response</b>.</li> <li>• Initially local authorities were <b>limiting access to beneficiaries</b>, and it was also impossible to interact with them with someone always looking over your shoulder. In addition, there was a strong push for humanitarian actors to <b>handover assistance to the government</b> so they could distribute it, as well as to <b>support local communities</b> that were <b>not affected at all</b>.</li> <li>• There were also certain <b>actors which did not join the established coordination mechanisms</b> and proceeded with uncoordinated funding requests which resulted in duplication and ineffective use of resources.</li> <li>• With now as much as 31,000 people reported to be displaced across all states, the focus will be on <b>verification and assessment missions</b>, particularly in <b>Sennar</b> where the majority of the population moved, while in Blue Nile the focus shifts on <b>those staying with friends and family within the host community</b> that were left out of the response.</li> <li>• Moving forward the challenge will be to identify the <b>longer-term approach</b> and the feasibility of return or reintegration so that a more sustainable response, in relation to Shelter in particular, can be planned (e.g., reconstruction – cash for shelter, etc.).</li> <li>• The S/NFI Darfur region coordinator Abbas asked a question about the <b>sustainability of sheltering the population in schools</b> as in WD they have a similar issue and whether they could learn from the BN response if an</li> </ul>	

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	<p>alternative was discussed/identified. Ravi commented that this problem is very much the hot topic at the moment because the conditions in the schools are not adequate while at the same time they need to reopen again, which is why <b>significant investments cannot be made at this stage</b>. The <b>security situation</b> will play a major role on how the longer-term strategy will play out. The <b>camps</b> are <b>discouraged</b> since the <b>segregation of an ostracized community</b> is counterproductive, while at the same time there is the <b>HLP issue</b> and competition for land, which is what started the conflict in the first place. At the moment it remains a <b>work in progress</b> pending more discussions with both the communities and the government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Save the Children</b> conducted the preliminary assessment in Sennar as well as responded with food assistance and dignity kits but stressed there is a high <b>need for NFIs</b>. In response, Ravi mentioned there is a major inter-agency assessment ongoing in Sennar now and that all those <b>partners with capacity to respond</b> should reach out and be <b>part of existing coordination structures</b> related to Blue Nile displacement so there could be a joint response.</li> <li>• There was further interest on sustainable approaches to the crisis and <b>SORR</b> asked whether there have been any initiatives in collaboration with local authorities with respect to <b>peace and reconciliation efforts</b>. Ravi mentioned the efforts started whereby native administration leaders from other states came to BN to mediate and calm the situation down, while at the same time a lot of high-ranking officials arrived as well in addition to a team from UNITAMS. So, there is a multi-pronged attempt to move this agenda forward, but it is still at a very early stage.</li> </ul> <p>Update on <b>White Nile</b> by UNHCR's S/NFI sub-national focal point Mosab Tallbala:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So far preliminary figures indicate 732 HH have arrived to White Nile (Rabak and Kosti), while the numbers continue to increase. HAC, SRCS, ADRA and UNHCR conducted an inter-agency assessment, and the final verified results are expected.</li> </ul>	<p>→ Partners with <b>capacity</b> to respond in <b>Blue Nile and Sennar</b> to reach out to <b>Blue Nile coordination team</b> (<i>Claude Mahoro: <a href="mailto:mahoroc@unhcr.org">mahoroc@unhcr.org</a> and Ravindran Velusamy: <a href="mailto:velusamy@unhcr.org">velusamy@unhcr.org</a></i>) in order to avoid any duplication and maximize the impact through a joint response.</p>

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Plan Sudan</b> confirmed they are able to support 50HH while <b>UNHCR</b> will contribute the remaining NFI kits which will be distributed by <b>ADRA</b> (SHF to support distribution and transportation costs).</li> </ul> <p>Update on the five <b>Darfur States</b> by UNHCR's S/NFI Regional Coordinator Muhammad Abbas Khan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The states which experienced <b>conflict and displacement</b> in last months such as West Darfur and North Darfur continue to face gaps still despite a significant inter-agency response. Most recently conflict erupted in South Darfur displacing 2,500 HH.</li> <li>• With the onset of the <b>rainy season</b> thousands of HH have been affected mainly in Central Darfur, South Darfur and East Darfur.</li> <li>• In terms of the response in addition to standard NFI distributions, there are efforts to strengthen the Shelter response through 500 cash grants in South Darfur. However, there are concerns around HLP issues as well as technical matters and protection considerations. NFI gaps in North Darfur to be addressed next week, while 423 HH received support in Zam Zam camp through CBI. Flood affected communities still await NFIs in East Darfur while beneficiaries received a significant amount of shelter kits. Despite the massive inter-agency response in West Darfur, gaps still remain, particularly when it comes to shelter.</li> <li>• General <b>challenges</b> around HLP and competition for resources and natural disasters driving increasing needs in a context of limited resources. The coordination team at Darfur level has invested a lot of effort into <b>advocacy and partner outreach</b> in order to bring actors under the umbrella of existing coordination structures. Moving forward the key remains identifying innovative solutions amidst the complex operational environment, particularly with respect to the shelter response.</li> <li>• <b>Standardization/harmonization</b> of NFI/Shelter kits continue to be a challenge with a potential to continue causing tensions among communities that receive assistance of varying quality and content. There is room for</li> </ul>	<p>→ Due to heavy rainfall expected in the coming weeks <b>ad hoc preparedness meetings</b> have been called at <b>state level</b>. Partners have been asked to be on <b>stand-by</b> and <b>share updates on stocks and response capacity</b>.</p>

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	<p>contextualization but at least at state/regional level we can aim for some consistency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The S/NFI coordinator inquired about an <b>update on the PBF</b> durable shelter project and potentially <b>IOM's durable shelter project</b> that was outlined in '22 HRP, in light of a number of reconciliation agreements that have been signed in West Darfur. The feedback was that while the government is taking active steps towards de-escalation of tensions and peaceful co-existence, and while they continue with their pressure on relocation of IDPs from schools/ gathering sides, IDPs still largely perceive situation as insecure and do not want to go back to Krinding, therefore still no progress on more sustainable shelter options in WD.</li> <li>IOM shared will soon be ready to respond with NFI and CBI support in West Darfur, but the <b>IOM country-wide pipeline</b> is not operational just yet since some of the items are still in the process of being received. IOM also flagged their pipeline will be <b>reserved for natural disasters</b> whereby they would not be able to release any items for conflict-related emergencies.</li> <li><b>GFO</b> has provided <b>firsthand information about flooding</b> that occurred in South Darfur in the last few days. There seem to be many people affected according to preliminary HAC reports. GFO will participate in the coming assessment/ verification missions and partake at state coordination mechanisms.</li> <li>There was a general question from Amel <b>BHA</b> on the status of the <b>sector pipeline</b> and <b>stock levels across all partners of the S/NFI Cluster</b>. The response referred to stock taking exercises which were taking place in the past (the last one in May), but these are still happening on an ad hock basis, and we are due for an update. It's important to share there were discussions at <b>ISCG</b> to <b>structure and standardize stock taking exercise</b> across sectors and launch them on at least quarterly basis at the same time. In terms of the <b>S/NFI</b> sector in particular we aim to set up a <b>more systematic way of collecting information</b> so that we can establish a <b>public online dashboard</b> on the <b>Sudan Page</b> of the Global Shelter Cluster website, where interested parties can check stock levels at any given time. Dagim from <b>OCHA</b> confirmed the stock mapping will now be more structured and Cluster</li> </ul>	<p>→ Partner to take note of <b>IOM's pipeline</b> being <b>reserved for natural disasters only</b> and to prioritize requests accordingly once the IOM pipeline becomes operational.</p> <p>→ The S/NFI Cluster to establish a <b>mechanism for conducting stock mapping exercises</b> in a regular and systematic manner, which will facilitate the development of an <b>online/public dashboard</b> where stock levels across all cluster partners can be easily accessed at any given time.</p>

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	<p>Coordinators are requested to collect data not only on stocks in the country but the pipeline information as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SORR</b> also came in with an update on their response to 700 HH in West Darfur</li> </ul> <p>In terms of updates on <b>Kordofan</b> states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gaps still remain following the recent <b>conflict in Abu Jubaiha</b>, while South Kordofan is also amongst the states that have so far been heavily affected by <b>flooding</b>. In addition, <b>South Sudanese new arrivals</b> continue to arrive while <b>tensions</b> are rising with the <b>host community</b>.</li> </ul> <p>In terms of updates on the refugee response in the <b>East</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last couple of months in Gedaref the focus was on preparedness for the rainy season and <b>site development works</b> such as road and drainage construction, so that the scenario from last year, where camps were heavily affected by flooding, could be avoided. In general, since land is one of the most valuable resources, sites allocated for refugee settlements around the world are usually in very unfavorable locations and prone to all kinds of risks, and hence large investments have to be made to mitigate them.</li> <li>• Large numbers of <b>Emergency Shelter Kits</b> have been distributed, which is interested to see, since other regions struggle with supply of large quantities of natural materials. We can explore whether this is just good planning or whether natural materials are readily available in this area throughout the year, which is not the case with other regions. We are pushing for establishment of <b>TWIGs</b> at <b>regional/state level</b> so that technical solutions are context specific/appropriate.</li> <li>• The <b>Tukul</b> construction has been progressing very well and the funding for the Ethiopian refugees was significantly higher than any other population group in Sudan, but it's already been almost two years since the Tigray conflict started and with new crisis emerging globally, very soon we'll see funding for</li> </ul>	

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	<p>Ethiopian refugees start to dwindle. With the unit cost of Tukul of around <b>1,500 USD</b> it's interesting to juxtapose it to some of the other similar projects like <b>COOPI's</b> mudbrick shelters for IDPs in North Darfur. While it's definitely not as sophisticated technically, it did have quite a similar impact with a unit cost of only <b>237 USD</b>. Hence, there is a lot that partners working in the refugee response and partners working in the IDP response can learn from each other in order to find a middle ground and harness the full capacity of affected population while at the same time having technically sound, safe and sustainable shelter solutions.</p>	
<p><b>New Reporting Requirements by OCHA:</b></p>	<p>Presentation on the <b>new reporting requirements</b> in relation to the <b>emergency response</b> by Dagim Tadesse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When it comes to the emergency response reporting, <b>OCHA</b> is now requesting Clusters report on the <b>monthly basis</b> so that <b>HCT members</b> and <b>donors</b> can have a clear understanding of the partner response capacity, achievements and gaps at any given time, not only for situation awareness purposes but for advocacy and resource mobilization purposes as well.</li> <li>• The purpose is also <b>harmonization across sectors</b> so that all Clusters report at the same time so that an integrated/inter-sectoral analysis can be presented.</li> <li>• This entails several steps:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Based on <b>inter-agency assessments at state level</b> OCHA in consultation with Cluster Coordinators prepares the situation overview</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>→ To comply with new reporting requirements from OCHA, <b>partner reporting focal points at national level</b> are expected to collect information from their sub-</p>

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	<p>which defines the <b>number of people affected</b> and in need to emergency assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partners then report on response capacity and achievements at the end of each month so that we can have timely information on <b>people reached</b>.</li> <li>○ People affected – people reached = <b>the gap</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To facilitate this process, <b>since some Clusters do not have structured reporting</b>, OCHA has developed a tool for collecting achievement updates so that partners can comply with the new reporting requirements. This should not be an additional burden as the indicators remain the same as in the PMR/HRP. The tool that OCHA developed works in a decentralized manner whereby sub-national coordinators collect achievement updates from partner reporting focal points at state level at the end of each month.</li> <li>• However, <b>for Clusters that have structured reporting systems, OCHA does not want to create a parallel one</b>, so <b>S/NFI partners will continue reporting through ActivityInfo</b> just with the <b>new frequency</b> – meaning at the end of each month.</li> <li>• So, the <b>S/NFI partner</b> reporting focal points <b>at national level</b> will collect achievement updates from their field counterparts and enter them to <b>ActivityInfo</b> the latest of the 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> of each month (but good practice would be to do it following each distribution – so in real time).</li> <li>• This would allow the <b>S/NFI Cluster Coordinator</b> at <b>national level</b> five days to check and clean the data and then <b>share it with OCHA</b> on the <b>5<sup>th</sup></b> day of each month.</li> <li>• <b>OCHA</b> will then have another 5 days to <b>compile</b> the data received from all sectors into one <b>inter-sector situation report</b> and publish it on the <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> day of each month.</li> </ul>	<p>national counterparts and <b>enter achievements</b> in <b>ActivityInfo</b> at the <b>end of each month</b> (each 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>)</p>

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<b>2023 Strategic Planning Workshop</b>	<p>The S/NFI Coordinator announced the upcoming <b>2023 Strategic Planning Workshop</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workshop is a <b>full day, in-person</b> event in <b>Khartoum</b>, scheduled for Wednesday, <b>August 24</b></li> <li>The aim is to define response priorities for 2023 in a consultative manner whereby the outcomes of the workshop will inform the development of the <b>HNO, HRP and CRP sectoral chapters</b> as well as the update of the <b>Cluster Strategy</b></li> <li>The workshop will bring together <b>sectoral focal points across partners</b> but also the <b>country-wide coordination team</b> (all sub-national coordinators).</li> <li>Focus will be on <b>all geographical area</b> across all population groups so <b>IDPs, refugees, returnees and vulnerable residents</b>.</li> <li>The day will be split into 4 main themes – <b>Needs Overview</b> (key drivers, MSNA results, PiN and Severity indicators); <b>Response Strategy</b> (cluster objectives, activities, target populations and prioritization); <b>Technical Aspects</b> (shelter designs, kit composition, costs, modalities, procurement/markets); and <b>Cluster Performance</b> (cluster core functions &amp; AAP, CCPM results and measures to address identified weaknesses &amp; gaps).</li> <li>If possible, <b>partner field staff is also encouraged to attend</b>, but if that is not feasible then <b>partners are encouraged to discuss strategic priorities internally</b> with your <b>field teams beforehand</b> to ensure voices from the field are captured in the workshop discussions.</li> <li>Only those that are able to attend in-person should register on the online form.</li> </ul>	<p>→ Partners available and interested in joining the workshop should fill <a href="#">this form</a> by <b>August 9 COB</b> when registration will be closed. <b>Only those that register</b> will receive the <b>information on the venue</b> and the <b>detailed agenda</b>.</p> <p>→ If you have registered, but you are unable to join if your plans changed, please send us an email so we can unregister you.</p>
<b>Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring</b>	<p>In preparation for the workshop the S/NFI Coordinator announced the launch of the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The survey aimed at assessing Cluster Performance against its 6 core functions and AAP is open until <b>August 22, COB</b></li> <li><b>The results</b> will be presented at the <b>2023 planning workshop</b> on August 24, where we aim to <b>jointly identify measures to address identified weaknesses &amp; gaps</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>→ Partners are asked to complete the <a href="#">CCPM survey</a> before the end of the day on <b>August 22</b></p>

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | August 2022

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	AOB	