

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

Meeting Minutes	SNFI Cluster Coordination Meeting – MS Teams and UNHCR White Nile Conference Room		
Date and Time	26 January 2023, From 10:00Hrs to 11:30Hrs		
Attendance:			
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29	Zeinab Jasmar		
30	Zubaida Ahmed		

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

Key Points Discussed:

Main Themes	Discussed Points	Action Points
Introduction:	<p>The Shelter & NFI Cluster Coordinator, Iva Vavic, opened the meeting by welcoming the Shelter/NFI members who were both present in person and online presenting the agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Darfur States Update 2. Khartoum Al Takamol Fire 3. Fashoda Displacement to South Kordofan and White Nile 4. Blue Nile Displacement 5. Red Sea Flooding 6. End-of-Year Report 7. AOB 	
Darfur States Update	<p>Update on the Darfur States response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional coordinator shared an update of the response in Darfur. Between December and January more than 4000 conflict affected IDP's in West Darfur and 450 Sudanese refugees and 288 fire affected households received SNFI assistance in North Darfur. • The ongoing conflict and access limitations in Central Darfur has made responding a challenge. 899 households were accessed and partners and currently DRC has 370 NFI kits in their pipeline and SCI ready to assist up to 500 HHs with UNHCR covering any identified gaps. • 12,000 NFI and Emergency Shelter kits covering 54% of the massive flood-affected caseload in South Darfur. <p>Al Genina Fires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since November fire incidents have become common place in Al Genina (West Darfur) gathering sites. Recent incidents have been reported in Habila and Morni. • ARDA will provide support to 70 affected households in gathering sites through provision of Emergency Shelter kits. 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<p>Update on Beliel Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December an intercommunal conflict erupted in Beliel locality between members of the Dajo and Rezeigat tribes in South Darfur. The conflict resulted in the displacement of 3,644 households affected by fire in 16 villages with at least 9 completely burned to the ground. • The current response included the provision of communal shelters mostly for unaccompanied women and children supported by UPO, GFO and SRCS, provision of psychosocial support, registration and NFI kit distribution to around 900 HHs mainly blankets, jerricans and sleeping mats from GFO, SRCS, PHF. • A joint interagency assessment mission to the IDPs host camps and actual villages affected by the fire have been conducted and verification is ongoing. • 1470 households will receive family tents with support from UNHCR-750, Qatar charity-250 and Alight-480 and 1855 NFI kits from IOM, SAO, HOPE and Alight. Distribution of tents will commence at Fajalhalal as soon as the beneficiary list is received from IOM. • Lack of durable shelter solutions, ensuring protection of resources after distribution, resources to cover the total caseload (20,000 HH as of August with an additional 3,644 in December), instances where SNFI kits are available but unable to meet the operational and distribution costs and cold winter nights were highlighted as key challenges. <p>Update on Challenges in Darfur States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of cluster partner engagement and capacity in Central, East and North Darfur affecting response planning e.g., in North Darfur during the first coordination meeting with only 5 partners in attendance. • Lack of coordination from HAC for instance it took a month of back-and-forth communication to make a decision on whether to move refugees to a camp from the gathering site or provide emergency shelter kits. • Unreliable data owing to HACs exaggerated figures and difficulties in accessing assessment figures affecting and delaying the response. 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLP issues continue to be the main driver of intercommunal conflict, affecting the transitional or more substantial interventions hampering the allocation of safe and suitable lands Harmonization and standardization remain a key challenge, with variations in Bill of Quantities and NFI kits composition. Moving forward innovation is key in seeking to find durable shelter solutions considering supply and procurement issues. This was touched upon during the SNFI Cluster retreat and hopefully the establishment of a TWIG will create a forum for furthering these discussions. CCCM was highlighted as a gap area by OCHA in relation to gathering sites with politically related constraints affecting provision of assistance e.g., humanitarian actors are discouraged from providing assistance in gathering sites so that the refugees would have no other option but to leave. While the previous regime was opposed to having a CCCM in place it was suggested that this issue ought to be brought back to the attention of UNHCR senior management to see if there any changes in the government's position The lack of resources cuts across the entire response even as we aim to find durable shelter solutions. There is currently only \$7.00 per person for the targeted people in need. UNHCR and partners are in the same boat when it comes to staffing with general staff having to attend meetings across 8 sectors and it's difficult to expect meaningful engagement under such circumstances. Despite these challenges there are examples of areas where partners have been mobilized with great success for e.g., in South Darfur where the focal point was lauded for leading the process mobilization in addition to preparation of information products used to engage partners i.e., hopefully the situational update can be replicated. 	
Khartoum Al Takamol Fire	<p>Update on Khartoum Al Takamol Fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Takamol is one of the open areas with a residence of 3,733 individuals and shelters are mainly constructed from plastic sheeting and other materials that catch fire easily. 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 17th of January fire broke out in Al Takamol open Area Block 2 which is very congested. 386 household and 1979 individuals were affected with one causality a 65-year-old male. • Recent pictures from a site visit were shown during the meeting by UNHCR which were really helpful in demonstrating the level of devastation. • There has been an increase in the provision of health services, hot meals were provided for three days and in-kind food donation, provision of dignity and NFI kits and psychosocial support of UNHCR, SSD, COR Khartoum, COOPI, NRC and WHO/MOH. <p>Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for food distribution at least for period of one to three months, provision of school kits, protection responses, CBI, and shelter materials*. • UNHCR has provided shelter materials* which only includes plastic sheets and full NFI kits, but they still need other materials for e.g., polls that can help them to build. At the present moment, NFI kits will be provided as stabilizing assistance as negotiations are ongoing with the government who are strongly opposed to provision of ESKs. The pressure is mounting to relocate these refugees as the land they are currently occupying is designated for provision of Education and Health services according to local authorities. <p>Long term response plan/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned UNHCR intention survey in collaboration with government is designed in a way to help map the profiles of the people. It will be comprehensive and thorough discussions will take place with the community because they cannot be approached as a homogeneous crowd, as they have different circumstances, some of them maybe not want to move because of their ties to livelihoods, families, and some of them would want to move contingent upon what is offered. Possible solutions include putting forward to government during negotiations a condition that if the 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<p>relocation takes place, they have to ensure they will get more sustainable shelters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With UNHCR’s out of camp policy another alternative would be to identify those that have livelihood opportunities and integrate them into the community by offering for instance cash for rent to stay and stabilize them at the beginning or if they have relatives they can move in and then receive cash assistance to extend their houses etc. • Partners were also informed by the National Cluster Coordinator about a possible SHF grant to COOPI who are operational in the AI Takamol area to provide a more sustainable transitional shelter project. The funding is conditional to the identification of a suitable site and relocation of the refugees. • COOPI acknowledged that while relocation is the best option it would require time and a significant amount of funding and with the uncertainty needed clarity on the suggested way forward. It was clarified that NFI assistance will be provided as stabilizing assistance and will be the only form of assistance that can be provided now. It still remains unclear if emergency shelter kits can be provided as a midterm solution and an update will be shared on any developments. • Based on feedback from ongoing protection discussions it seems they are taking on an approach where tribal connections are being considered as the basis if the relocation happens and they will split the new side based on these ties. • IF it comes to voluntary relocation, there is a high probability of improving the shelter and settlement situation provided a suitable site is identified taking into account factors like the topography and space to avoid flooding and congestion. • There are still a lot of IFs on the feasibility, implications, and the lack of clarity on the approach. For instance, if UNHCR agrees to relocate the refugees, it may create a precedence for more fires in the future so that the host community will push the refugees out to a different location and that is why UNHCR is trading carefully to avoid agitating the government which 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<p>might result in the worst-case scenario of forceful eviction that remains a possibility.</p>	
<p>Fashoda Displacement to South Kordofan and White Nile</p>	<p>The Co-Coordinator moderated the remaining part of the discussions on Fashoda and Blue Nile displacements and the Red Sea flooding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the past 3 months an influx of new arrivals of South Sudanese refugees has been witnessed in White Nile entering from Jouda and South Kordofan through Al Amira reception center. • In South Kordofan a total of 678 households new arrivals with total 1741 individuals biometrically registered jointly by UNHCR and COR from 10 to 26 Dec 2022. All the new arrivals in Al Ieri were covered by biometric registration, 29 new arrivals have only been covered by level 1 registration • In White Nile 6143 individuals have arrived. 2847 individuals (632 HH) have been transported by UNHCR and located in Al-Jameya Camp in Alsalam locality. • UNHCR Save the children distributed NFIs for 518 HH new arrivals refugees' families in Al Ieri during December 2022. Save the children in close coordination with the UNHCR and COR distributed shelter materials to 400 PSNs within the old refugee population in the eastern corridor (150 families in Abu Jubayhah, 100 hhn Al Serajia, 75 families in Gedeid and 75 families in Gerid). • From 21 – 26 Dec 2022 UNHCR through Save the Children International distributed NFIs for 1174 households most vulnerable old refugees families at Darbatti refugees' settlement in Al Ieri with total of 5,870 individuals. • On 6 December 2022, the humanitarian actors working in the eastern corridor of South Kordofan State led by UNHCR Abu Jubayhah Office conducted joint rapid needs assessment for the new arrival's refugees in Gedeid and Gerid. • NRC under their repaid response mechanism (RRM) fund conducted rapid needs assessment for the new arrivals in Al Ieri from 15 – 18th of December 2022. Based on the findings of the assessment cash assistance was 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<p>distributed to 696 HH and a total of 1661 HH new arrivals in Al Ieri in the period 14 to 16 Jan 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biometric registration started on the 23rd of January which will allow for the provision of assistance to the new households (mainly food) • Based on feedback from a White Nile meeting that OCHA participated in it was brought to the attention of those present that SRCS has withdrawn from White Nile due to funding constraints. A concern was also raised on the suspension of the verification of IDPs since December and request made for follow up on the reasons behind the suspension. • With the existing HLP issues in White Nile and influx of refugees the suspension of IDP verification further exacerbates the situation and top-level advocacy is needed to find durable solutions. New land had been identified for the relocation however there is compensation that needs to be paid to the private landowners. HAC is taking the lead on this negotiations. • With the signing of the Peace Agreement in Blue Nile there is a push for the IDPs to return but the likelihood is low. 	<p>→ The National Cluster Coordinator will follow up on the reasons behind suspension of IDP verification and share an update.</p>
<p>Blue Nile Displacement</p>	<p>Update on Intertribal Conflict Displacement in Blue Nile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been intertribal conflict since mid-July in Blue Nile resulting in the displacement of 127,000 individuals. The displaced people are mainly in schools and other commonplaces in Blue Nile in almost all the localities except like Kumar and Bao. • On 13-14 January 2023 in Wad Al Mahi locality clashes broke out between Funj communities and security forces resulting in 4 deaths including one from Sudanese Armed Forces • In Blue Nile state, out of 4,047 HH of IDPs assessed during October 2022 IRNA, 1,779HH in Nusaiba school and Abu Elfayed center are still pending NFI distribution from IOM/DOSHA (2,000 kits in final stage of dispatch from their national pipeline). • A total of an estimated 3400 IDP's in Sennar have received assistance from partners. The gap constitutes 738 households located in in Um Shuka, Mayrno, Galdi, Al Dindil and Sharqi Sinnar. 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current security situation has improved after the signing of the peace agreement with fewer security personnel on the roads in Ed Mazine and surrounding areas and reduction in check points from 6 to 2 to. In recent weeks there have been developments where the Hausa are being escorted by military personnel from Wald Al Mahi to Ed Damazine in the morning to access markets and back home in buses the evening. 	
Red Sea Flooding	<p>Update on Red Sea Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been an unexpected time for flooding and according to the findings of an intersectoral assessment conducted between 26th and the 27th of December 2022 houses were either destroyed or damaged in Port Sudan Town due to flooding. 1171 houses were partially damaged and 245 for has completely destroyed. 1143 families, approximately 5717 individuals are now left with no proper shelter in 42 residential neighborhoods. Cash interventions will not be feasible because markets were completely destroyed in the central segment as well as the surrounding houses. Unofficial unverified reports state that there were 4 casualties and one child. In the eastern segment people left their homes seeking safer shelters or safer places and some are being hosted by the relatives, as it's usually the case here in Sudan. Based on results from an interagency assessment IOM had committed and to distribute 1400 emergency shelters and NFI kits, blankets, mosquito nets and plastic sheets. Cooking sets are one of the priorities. There was an identified gap in the head count verification as conflicting numbers have been received from government and partners. In response IOM confirmed that they have completed the verification process in Port Sudan and will share numbers once finalized. UPO raised a concern of the shelter materials provided especially to those affected by these fires where one has no frame and provision of materials like plastic sheets becomes redundant when one has no frame to hold up the structure. A suggestion was also made to ensure the response is 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<p>projected in a similar fashion with the needs including adding updates on regions like Sennar and Gedaraf. The importance of having CCCM in place was reiterated even though it is inactive in Sudan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter response in Sudan is quite a struggle in general and it should not be conflated with NFI assistance. There is a need to find an alternative for emergency shelter which was highlighted as the number one priority for this year. While natural materials are available in country there are several reasons why we there are challenges in prepositioning. Shelter kits are massive and take up quite a lot of space and there is a lack of warehousing space. There is also a cost implication as they cost a lot to store and deteriorate if they are not used in a timely manner, becoming brittle and unusable lending cash as a good alternative even though the implementation is not currently being done well but there is room for improvement. • With cash as an alternative in areas with functioning markets those with damaged houses can at least tailor the cash assistance to their shelter or damage type. This is why we will aim to have a TWIG this year not just for Emergency Shelter but also for cash to boost it. • Advocacy for funding will continue but at the moment it is still very challenging with other emergencies like Ukraine drawing attention from Sudan and partners were encouraged to frame their projects in a way that demonstrated impact as opposed to a band aid approach which donors do not see as either feasible or sustainable worthy of their investment. • Last year for instance the main challenge was that SHF never supports all the sectors, especially with the standard allocation and this also applies to CERF funding. They require a very targeted approach targeting certain localities, certain states, because this is the only way one can have an impact with limited resources. If these resources are spread too thin, then you get \$1.00 everywhere and you can't do anything really with it. • Last year, the shelter cluster was excluded from the standard allocation because the proposals of the previous year were not well written. 2.5 M had been allocated but only proposals with a 1.5M ask were submitted forcing OCHA to reprioritize. 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, this year SNFI has higher figures (including severity 5) than other clusters which increases the chances of getting more funding, but partners have to play their part to ensure they do not miss out on funding opportunities. • Partners were encouraged to make a case for their projects to increase chances of getting funding for instance suggesting different shelter solutions that provide recovery type of projects. • Efforts are also being made at National level to support National Partners by advocating to introduce criteria for favoring National Partners increasing their possibilities of securing funding e.g., suggestion to become part of consortiums with other International NGOs to help increase funding possibilities • The standard allocation is the more long-term funding opportunity and there is room for partners to suggest emergency recovery type of projects, whereas when it comes to the ERRM and RFP, these are projects for emergency shelters and the strategy is to suggest cash projects. 	
End-of-Year Report	<p>Update on End-of-Year Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, there were approximately 310,000 newly displaced IDP's compared approximately 400,000 in 2021. • According to the 2021 prioritization strategy there was an overall of 146,393 newly affected households (11,218 new arrivals, 62,066 newly displaced, 24,459 and 48250 households whose houses destroyed and damaged). against 174,485 reached targeting 52% refugees,35% IDPs,10% vulnerable residents and 3% returnees. • In 2022 the priority 1 target (either newly displaced people or newly affected people) was exceeded by slightly over 100% that means some protracted caseload including vulnerable residents who have been affected in situ in comparison were targeted in comparison to 70% priority 1 reached in 2021.The reason for this overachievement can be attributed to less needs in 2022 with 100,000 less internally displaced and fewer refugee arrivals and not more funding with Shelter and NFI Cluster in Sudan funding remaining at 18%. 	

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting January 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 sector partners reached a total of 147,984 households with NFI kits and 14,058 households with emergency shelter kits (ESKs), 4,887 households received cash/vouchers for emergency shelter assistance and 1,076 households received tents. A total of 731 households received in-kind durable shelter support while 4,180 households received cash/vouchers for transitional/durable shelter assistance. Similarly, 1,569 households received construction materials for shelter upgrades. The following population groups were targeted: Partners were lauded for their efforts in supporting hard to reach areas in Abyei PCA (GAH-800 NFI kits) Al Jazeera (UPO-500 NFI kits), Sennar (SCI-500 NFI kits and UNHCR-818 NFI kits), River Nile (IOM-772 NFI kits), Red Sea (WHH-2000 NFI Kits) and Kauda in Kordofan (2000 NFI kits). <p>Update on Activity Info</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting for 2023 will only capture achievements and not targets Training will include two online sessions accompanied by a training guide Focus on improving the timeliness and quality of information uploaded in activity info Accountability by partners to ensure respective organization activity info focal points are up to date and communicated 	<p>→ Training date to be communicated</p>