

## SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting February 2023

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	SNFI Cluster Coordination Meeting – MS Teams and UNHCR White Nile Conference Room			
<b>Date and Time</b>	27 February 2023, From 13:00Hrs to 14:30Hrs			
<b><u>Attendance:</u></b>				
	<b>SN</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
	1	Abuzer Abdalla	GAH	gah.su.director@globalaidhand.org
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	14	Phoebe Njihia	UNHCR	njihia@unhcr.org
	15	Rodney Shamoun	NRC	rodney.shamoun@nrc.no
	16	Tibyan Omran	COOPI	civilengineer.khartoum@coopi.org
	17	Waweru Ndungu	UNHCR	ndunguw@unhcr.org
	18	Wye Yee Yong	Medair	wye-yee.yong@medair.org

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### 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 who were both present in person and online presenting <b>the agenda:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State updates</li> <li>2. Al Takamol fire/ Nivasha relocation update</li> <li>3. Medair presentation on Blue Nile assessment findings</li> <li>4. PDM KoBo tool presentation</li> <li>5. AOB</li> </ol>	
<b>State Updates</b>	<p>Update <b>on staffing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before proceeding with the state updates the National Cluster coordinator briefed partners on the current staffing. The SNFI cluster lost two staff members; the Regional Darfur Coordinator who took up another offer and the South Darfur Coordinator whose contract ended and was not extended due to resources limitations. The newly recruited West Darfur Coordinator is now on board and will hopefully assist in filling these gaps.</li> </ul> <p>Updates on <b>Darfur states</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since last year December, <b>South Darfur</b> has had massive displacement with over 1,850 households losing their homes as a result of not just <b>intercommunal conflicts but fires that have been on the increase particularly in gathering sites.</b></li> <li>• The issues surrounding gathering sites has not been easy to deal with. The government's resolve to relocate all those sheltering in public building in Al Geneina back to the camps has not waned. However, the people are hesitant to return due to <b>insecurity</b> in addition to the conveniences of being in the town where they have access to livelihoods and all other public services which would not be the case if they moved to the camps. This has resulted in cyclical displacement over the years as whenever they return, they get attacked and end up right back in the camps.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite the deplorable conditions those in the camps are living in the <b>government has not allowed the provision of support to those in these gathering sites.</b> After months of advocacy partners are now allowed to provide limited Shelter &amp; NFI assistance which is not sustainable.</li> <li>• Fires are becoming increasingly common across the country and with the approaching flood season partners need to rethink how to respond using an urban approach lens, e.g., Identification of areas where people can be integrated within the host community. The S&amp;NFI cluster will also seek to connect and collaborate with the HLP sub sector.</li> <li>• Other activities include the ongoing <b>cash for shelter</b> in <b>West Darfur and in Central Darfur where 870 HH received S/NFI assistance.</b> This was made possible through the CERF grant for the flood response which enabled people to tailor cash to their shelter type and/or their damage types. Hopefully more of this will be done in the future.</li> <li>• <b>7,354 NFI kits planned for prepositioning across all four Darfur states; SD-1,020, ND-1500, ED-4,334, WD-500 respectively.</b> In regard to <b>prepositioning of assistance one should anticipate delays</b> that can be as a result of various factors. There's been significant budget cuts all across in terms of staffing and programming for example UNHCR has lost 50 % of its Shelter funding in comparison to last year which was also not well funded. The S/NFI cluster depends on the SHF grant which in the past has facilitated the prepositioning of kits. This year will be the first that the S/NFI cluster has not received the funds immediately after spending previously allocated funds. <b>The implication of not receiving these funds timely is that procurement of kits cannot be done in time for the flood season.</b></li> <li>• Crime has been on the increase with several reported incidents; UNHCR for instance lost one of their cars a 4 by 4 in CD and an aid worker was harassed in Al Geneina. The situation at the border of CAR, Chad and Sudan is also one to keep an eye on. Tensions are rising as tribes in the region have begun mobilizing their own people to lay claim on an area rich in gold. This has the potential to result in massive displacement if anything was to happen.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHH who are expecting to receive German funding for emergency response enquired what they could add in the proposal that is under development regarding the scope of assistance. At the moment they are operational in North Darfur and focus mainly on emergency shelters. In response an example of work done by COOPI was highlighted where they did a Mudbrick project in ND. The success of this depends solely upon the soil conditions hence not feasible in all areas. It is cost effective, and one can easily provide transitional shelters at a cost as low as \$ 270 with the most significant costs being for the doors and windows. COOPI did a presentation showcasing their work in ND last year which highlighted how they worked with the communities to overcome HLP issues and mobilizing the community to save on labour costs. For instance, at the community level dispute resolution was put in place, they also organized themselves into shelter committees and construction groups so that other community members can support construction for Persons with disability (PSNs). <b>This is the direction the S/NFI is taking encouraging all partners to borrow a leaf from the COOPI example and find contextualized innovative ways of providing resilient shelters while still saving money in the long term.</b></li> <li>Partners were also informed of the upcoming standard allocation for the SHF grant and encouraged to apply. The SHF covers longer term projects for more durable interventions. There has always been a challenge with the SHF because they cannot fund all clusters but hopefully the S/NFI Cluster will be included.</li> </ul> <p>Updates on <b>Abyei Diffra Fire</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>On February 22<sup>nd</sup> fire broke out in Diffra Market</b> and GAH confirmed during the meeting based on finding from the rapid assessment they conducted <b>that 126 houses and 20 shops were completely destroyed.</b></li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While the scale of the fire might look small it leaves the affected population in a terrible situation where they have lost everything including their livelihood in addition to having no humanitarian actors on ground.</li> <li><b>UNHCR will send 100 NFI kits</b> and some more additional kits for prepositioning purposes. IOM was not present at the meeting to confirm what support they were able to provide. GAH will support with the distribution just like they did last year.</li> <li>GAH raised a concern on the challenges faced in prepositioning kits impeding timely response. For instance, last year they were only able to respond in November 2 months after the floods occurred. <b>There is a challenge when it comes to prepositioning, especially in Abyei</b>, unfortunately due to bureaucratic impediments and therefore UNHCR is unable to have an offline stock without going through long processes to acquire waivers etc. and are looking at ways of overcoming this in addition to resources constraints.</li> <li>GAH will discuss with UNISFA who have warehousing facilities to explore opportunities for prepositioning stock if resources are available. UNHCR also has warehousing facility in Kordofan however the current impediments hinder prepositioning.</li> <li>GAH also confirmed that there is market accessibility and there will further discussions to look into conducting a market assessment and exploring what is feasible through cash assistance.</li> </ul>	<p>→ GAH will be given an opportunity to share a video presentation during the March S/NFI meeting showcasing their work in Abyei in 2022.</p>
<p><b>AI Takamol fire/ Nivasha relocation update</b></p>	<p><b>Update on AI Takamol fire/ Nivasha relocation update</b></p> <p>The National Cluster Coordinator provided an update of the Nivasha site assessment, intention survey results and ongoing planning exercise in consultation with The Ministry of Planning colleagues including presentation of maps from drone images taken of the site by UNHCR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As highlighted in the previous meeting around 400 HHs completely lost everything in the AI Takamol fire. There is a strong push by the government to relocate them and these sentiments are shared by the Host Community. There are various reasons for the need to relocate, to begin with the land was not allocated for the refugees and is set aside for the building of a school</li> </ul>	

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	<p>and potentially a health centre. There are also claims that the camp has become a hide out for gangs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan is to relocate them to the Nivasha open area, and an <b>interagency site assessment</b> was conducted with UNHCR, COR, HAC, COOPI, NRC,MSF, NCA and representatives from respective government departments including the locality, Wali’s office and police among others participated.</li> <li>• COOPI and DRC requested for the site assessment report. DRC wanted to make reference to the assessment findings to inform their prioritization having recently received EU funding.</li> <li>• Nivasha is remote with limited livelihood opportunities, infrastructure, and services. Available amenities include water supply, sanitation which was established by COOPI,CARE and NRC, two schools and a health facility set up by MSF although it has challenges with capacity and a mosque under construction.These conditions are mirrored in the adjoining host community.</li> <li>• Relations between the host community and refugees are good with a lot of refugees working in the host community and the host community going to the camp to provide services. This implies that both populations will benefit from the building of community facilities. However, despite this seemingly good news <b>there is one problem as the results of the intention survey indicate that none of the refugees want to leave Al Takamol (3% of people said they want to go and then 2% of people said they don't know).</b></li> <li>• Initially they wanted to relocate but there was a change of heart with claims of interference from the community leaders who put pressure on the refugees to say that they don't want to go because they are reaping benefits from having them in Al Takamol. Despite this efforts opportunities to continue engaging in informal discussions with all parties involved to see how best to move forward are still being pursued.</li> <li>• Maps were developed from the drone images taken of the site by UNHCR and presented during the meeting distinguishing planning drawings done by both the Ministry and UNHCR. The site is not congested, and most refugees live in mud-brick shelters. There’s quite a lot of space, with refugees having</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ The site assessment report will be shared with all once finalized.</li> <li>→ COOPI engineer and planner will be informed and invited to attend future meetings with the Ministry of planning.</li> </ul>

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	<p>plots around 20 by 30, as opposed to Al Takamol where people lived on a 4 by 6-meter space. The UNHCR plans presented plots that were intentionally much bigger 18 by 15 meters intended to mirror the existing plot size in Nivasha. The government however held a different opinion and wanted the plot size to mirror those in the East and as a compromise a plot size of 15 by 12 meters was settled on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The particular area that was allocated for Al Takamol refugees is super flat and really a catchment area. There is therefore a flood risk associated with this and there is a need depending on available resources there is a need to elevate the side or at least build 1 main channel if tertiary drainage cannot be put in place. In addition, there is a need for street lighting to minimize the risk of SGBV and also improve just the life of those residing in the area. However, there were challenges with the GPS module of the drone and inquiries are being made with the refugees themselves on where the water catchment is and how the site is sloped which will be taken into account.</li> <li>• The UNHCR plans also proposed greening the space with no tree in sight which would provide shade for the residents, creation of some children's playgrounds with inexpensive materials for e.g., old tires etc. and possibly an extension of the water network, lighting but all these is dependent upon the availability of resources.</li> <li>• In the long term based on how this plan progresses it will provide a basis to advocate and strengthen integrated approaches with other clusters where there is the creation of livelihood opportunities and so on which will really make a difference.</li> </ul>	
<b>Medair presentation on Blue Nile assessment findings</b>	<p>Medair accepted the invitation by the SNFI Cluster to share findings of a multisectoral rapid needs assessment (MSRNA) needs assessment conducted in Blue Nile between 17-22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. Since July 2022, there has been an increase in intercommunal conflict with a majority on newly displaced individuals being located in Blue Nile State. The MSRNA was undertaken to assess the humanitarian needs of people affected by these conflicts, including internally displaced people (IDPs), in 13 locations across four localities: Damazine, Ar Rusayris, Wad Al Mahi, and Geissan .</p>	<p>→ The Medair report was shared by OCHA but will be reshared in case some partners did not receive it.</p>

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	<p>The presentation focused on highlighting findings on identified critical humanitarian needs in these locations with the top needs being mainly in Health, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), S/NFI <b>with accompanying pictures that demonstrated the dire situation in areas assessed key for advocacy purposes to encourage intersectoral responses.</b></p> <p><b>Health and Nutrition challenges and needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antenatal care (ANC) coverage is low with only 2 out of the 13 assessed facilities providing ANC services and only 3 facilities providing normal delivery services. There were no clinics providing basic emergency obstetric and newborn care, and none of the assessed facilities were providing mental health and psychosocial support services.</li> <li>• There is underreporting of SGBV cases which may be attributed to a lack of sufficient SGBV awareness.</li> <li>• Access to health services remains a challenge as functioning centre have been abandoned by health personnel who fear for their lives due to insecurity, restrictions in movement affecting referrals and limited medical supplies especially in areas where intercommunal conflict is rife.</li> <li>• Medair proposed to support if they receive ECHO funding in some of the locations after confirming with the respective clusters where there are no actors or minimal operational presence. Their proposal to establish a stabilization centre is aligned with the Health Ministers strategy shared during a recent meeting aimed at bringing both tertiary and secondary services closer to the community.</li> </ul> <p><b>WASH challenges and needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Majority of the communities engaged during the assessment, approximately 62%, reported that they did not have enough water for household needs like cooking, bathing, washing clothes etc.</li> <li>• In some areas, water sources have been destroyed, while in other areas water sources are located far away, which then makes it very difficult for people to collect water. For those who have to buy water its expensive and which limiting their access to water supply. These water is usually not treated</li> </ul>	

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	<p>prior to consumption and when treated it is done using bleaches or chlorine. However, the testing for free residual chlorine is not done often.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lack of access to appropriate sanitation. Open defecation is the common practice reported by 69% of the participants during the focus group discussions conducted. This heightens the risk of cholera outbreaks. <b>The existing pit latrines in the villages are shallow and easily flooded and with the approaching rainy season partners have a small window to try and salvage the situation.</b></li> <li>• Lack of proper medical waste segregation and waste management at the health facilities. Medical waste is often burnt openly in either a pit, on the ground or in the metal container.</li> <li>• Hand pumps constituted some of the most common water sources however some are located so far away and even the existing pumps are not enough to cater to the rising number of newly IDP arrivals. <b>Jerrycans were highlighted as a gap with more required.</b></li> <li>• One picture particularly stood out as it highlighted how the Private Sector is reaping profits from gold mining in the vicinity while the same community members have no access to basic water and sanitation services. <b>Questions arose on why the Private Sector cannot help support the community and advocacy is needed to highlight this anomaly.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>S/NFI challenges and needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 13 locations have at least one serious problem in the area of shelter. <b>The most common problem raised is insufficient shelter (85%) with people sleeping under the stars with nothing to cover themselves to offer protection weather elements. Some of the existing shelter structures can barely remain standing if wind</b></li> <li>• <b>Overcrowding at collective shelters (38.5%) came in second.</b> It's common to have more than one family living together in a small tent providing <b>no privacy for women and young girls.</b></li> <li>• One of the major challenges for the S/NFI response remains lack of resources. Sudan has been put on the list for the <b>CERF underfunded emergency</b> which has two parts one focusing on the food crisis where the</li> </ul>	

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	<p>priority will be mainly focused on Food Security and the second focusing on underfunded countries where Sudan is included. If this funding is received it will go a long way in supporting shelter response in Blue Nile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The situation in Blue Nile will require close monitoring to see how the current peace agreement plays out in addition to the prevailing security situation with a report of the death of an NGO staff member in the line of duty on January 27<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PDM KoBo tool presentation</b></p>	<p>Update on <b>Post Distribution Monitoring</b></p> <p>The S/NFI Cluster developed a Kobo PDM tool which was presented to partners to get their views.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The tool is aimed at having a more systematic approach whereby all partners use one tool. The whole idea behind this is to have one central database of PDM to facilitate joint data analysis by comparison between geographic regions and type of items distributed.</li> <li>The development of a Power BI dashboard will facilitate information sharing giving partners access to download raw data including other partners PDM's (anonymized). While some partners confirmed they would be comfortable with other partners viewing their information this will need to be confirmed by all.</li> <li>The proposed PDM timeline is between <b>6 to 8 weeks</b> after each distribution. This timeframe is intended to be large enough that beneficiaries will have experienced spending the assistance, but not too long that they would have trouble recalling the distribution process. <b>It should ideally be conducted through a commercial vendor (Third-Party Monitoring) however with limited resources available, partners who are different and independent from the distributing partner could act as an alternative.</b> The independence of these partners is critical to avoid any accusations of deliberate bias and conflict of interest.</li> <li>It was confirmed to WHH who enquired if they would have access to their own PDM data that a link would be shared on the dashboard to download raw data.</li> </ul>	<p>→ The PDM word form and link will be shared for the first round of review and feedback from partners, a training session will be conducted using the pre final PDM version and feedback from the training session will inform the finalization of the final PDM form</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COOPI confirmed that they have no concerns with all other partners accessing their PDM data as it is anonymized. They also requested to have the form translated in Arabic pointing out that they often work with enumerators who do not have a good command of English (which is the case for all other partners). It was confirmed that the translation is already work in progress. They also requested for the inclusion of a questions covering corruption to access if beneficiaries are required to pay any money during the registration process.</li> <li>• NRC highlighted issues of rats and snakes in Gedaref were they received 60 cases of destroyed tukuls that they had supported due to the rat infestation and enquired if any other partners had similar experiences. The colleagues in in the East confirmed the issues of snakes and rats in the camps and they mentioned how they provided sand to backfill the voids and all other spaces to avert further damage of the shelters by the rats. NRC also requested for COOPI 's presentation in ND and BOQs which will be shared.</li> <li>• A brief update was shared by the Kassala focal point on the refugee response confirming that new arrivals had been received. Due to overcrowding of the reception centre UNHCR decided provide new facilities. Construction is now underway for 2 new compounds and rehabilitation of 33 shelters. Once completed this will host 456 individuals. 74 transitional shelters (Kurnuks) were handed over to new arrivals in the Shagarab refugee camp.</li> </ul>	<p>→ Due to time constraints not, all colleagues were able to share updates from their respective states and time will be allocated to colleagues especially from the East to share updates during the S/NFI March cluster meeting.</p>