

SNFI Cluster Coordination meeting | March 2023

Meeting Minutes	SNFI Cluster Coordination Meeting – In-person and on MS Teams		
Date and Time	30 March 2023 , From 10:00Hrs to 11:30Hrs		
Attendance:			
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27	Hawa Zakaria Yagoub Yagoub	UNHCR	yagoubh@unhcr.org
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Main Themes	Discussed Points	Action Points
Introduction:	<p>The Shelter & NFI Cluster Coordinator, Iva Vavic, opened the meeting by welcoming the Shelter/NFI members and presenting the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State Updates: the fire season ○ SHF Update • SAG Elections • Flood Response Plan announcement • PDM Guidance & Tools feedback reminder • Information Management Update • AOB <p>* Due to technical difficulties, the originally planned video from GAH will be presented in the next meeting, together with the presentation from UPO.</p>	
State Updates: The Fire Season	<p>Update on West and Central Darfur as presented by WD/CD Coordinator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In West and Central Darfur, several distribution activities in terms of both cash as well as in-kind shelter and NFI assistance have gone forward. • In West Darfur, cluster partners IOM and SORR/UNHCR supported 606 households affected by fire incidents with NFI kits across several localities (<i>see presentation for details</i>). • In Jabal Moon locality, West Darfur, 1,050 conflict-affected households were supported with NFI kits by IOM. • West Darfur shelter and NFI partners participated in an inter-cluster assessment at Krinding, Geneina locality, to assess the feasibility of potential return. The assessment report has been compiled. • The RfE Allocation from SHF has been secured successfully, whereby the national partner SORR will receive \$2M to support the rehabilitation and construction of mud-brick semi-permanent shelters with CGI sheet roofing for 1,300 households in response to the most vulnerable returnees in Krenick and Genina localities of West Darfur. In part the allocation will also be used to support IDPs in Genina town. 	

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<p>State Updates: The Fire Season</p>	<p>materials and providing soil and water for brickmaking to those willing to relocate, which should be examined from conflict sensitivity/HLP perspective as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Co-Chair informed the attendees that there has also been a recent conflict in Tandalti which has led to approximately 30,000 individuals fleeing the area, with some fleeing to Chad. An interagency assessment was planned for today but was postponed due to lack of escort and will now be conducted next week. Partners who have presence in the area are encouraged to participate. <p>Update on North Darfur as presented by the Co-Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Co-Chair presented updates on the recent fire incident in Saraf Umra locality in North Darfur. The fire was started by an unknown gunman driving a motorcycle on 2nd of March. A total of 727 households were affected, comprising around 4,000 individuals, 15% of them being children under five. The incident resulted in the complete destruction of 64 homes, with an additional 74 homes being looted. Gender-based violence cases were also reported. An interagency assessment was conducted, revealing the key needs for NFI, water supply, latrines, and health services. Some partners have responded, with Plan International providing NFI kits to 64 households, IOM providing 250 blankets, and UNHCR assisting 104 households with kitchen sets. <p>Update on South Darfur as presented by the Co-Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Darfur updates included information about two fire incidents in the area. The smaller incident occurred on March 14 in Gereida IDP camp, where 87 houses were completely burnt down. The major fire incident occurred on March 2, where an unattended fire in Donkey Dereis village caused an outbreak that resulted in the death of five children and injuries to four. 	

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<p>State Updates: The Fire Season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fire caused extensive damage to homes and property, including food stocks, crops, livestock, and commercial goods. Community leaders estimated that 9,369 people were affected, out of which 6,694 were children. • The affected population is currently living in 15 big shelters constructed from local materials, while others are staying in the open or under trees without proper safeguards for family members, which raises issues of GBV and protection, especially considering the majority of the affected are children. • Affected families lost household assets, including blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, and kitchen sets. It is important to note that displaced communities are returnees and were vulnerable to begin with. • The top priority is to address shelter and NFIs needs, as most people are currently sleeping outside without proper protection. The need for coordination between S/NFI and WASH was also highlighted, to ensure that communities receive latrines and water access alongside shelter. Replacement of water pump solar panels and construction of additional water points are also urgent. Additionally, there is a high need for agricultural inputs, education services, and women/dignity kits. Protection needs are high, and some psychosocial support is required for the affected population. • It was noted that the area is flood-prone, so flood mitigation and management is crucial. The community also expressed interest in training some of their women in disaster risk reduction and fire prevention. The Co-Chair emphasized that the shelter design needs to be re-thought in light of the increasing damage from fires. • OCHA National Field Coordinator raised concerns about the annual fire season and asked how can cluster partners improve preparedness. Suggestions included awareness raising campaigns, community-based protection measures, such as establishment and training of committees and first respondent volunteer groups, as well as implementing fire prevention measures at both settlement level as well as household/shelter level by respecting minimum standards. • NNGO Forum Coordinator/ UPO Country Director emphasized the importance of integrating new learning with the provision of shelter assistance, especially in terms of building back better and messaging related to fire and flood 	<p>→ UPO to share the fire prevention pictorial guide to complement the shelter response in fire affected areas.</p>

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<p>State Updates: The Fire Season</p>	<p>prevention/mitigation. UPO shared an example of a successful project in which mud partitions were used to isolate flammable materials in cooking areas, resulting in a significant reduction in fire incidents over the years. UPO has also developed a fire prevention pictorial guide, which has been printed out with support from IOM RRF and is available for partners with funds to respond to current fire incidents. The Cluster was encouraged to advocate for dedicated funds for disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities, including flood and fire prevention measures, alongside funds for shelter and NFI assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIF CD introduced her organization as an actor looking to get more involved in the S/NFI response, as well as emphasized the need for effective fire control techniques, and capacity building programs for communities on containing fire incidents and minimizing their impact. • The Cluster Coordinator mentioned that the importance of DRR mainstreaming will be highlighted during the technical review of the SHF RfE Allocation, whereby 50% of the overall 7M went to the S/NFI response for fire emergencies. Furthermore, the need for the standalone training activity emerged in last year's Strategic Planning Workshop, after which it was included in the 2023 results framework and highlighted in the HRP sectoral chapter. Partners are encouraged to use this opportunity to secure dedicated funding for training communities in building back better and implementing DRR measures at both household and settlement/ neighborhood levels. Medair's implementation of PASSA training for communities in the East is an excellent example of such an initiative. Partners are encouraged to follow this lead and leverage PASSA training to empower communities to conduct their own risk analysis and develop context-specific solutions for disaster risk reduction through a participatory approach. <p>Update on West Kordofan as presented by the Co-Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported that on March 23, a fire occurred in Al-Serdabeh village of Al Khiwai locality, West Kordofan, resulting in the destruction of 22 houses and partial damage to a school. The affected households lost all their personal belongings in the fire and are in need of NFI support. They have currently sought shelter with their relatives in the same village. The response should therefore be structured accordingly. 	<p>→ Cluster Coordinator to share the PASSA training guidance so that partners can refer to it.</p>

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<p>State Updates: The Fire Season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, on March 25, a fire broke out in Jalli village in An Nuhud locality, West Kordofan, resulting in the complete burning down of 60 houses and partial damage to 4 houses. An interagency assessment is planned to be conducted to determine the needs of the affected communities, and a meeting will be held by OCHA in the coming week to discuss the situation. • Kordofan Region Coordinator reported that HAC provided a cumulative figure of 1,200 individuals affected by fire across 60 villages in West Kordofan since January. The small contingency stock is available, and the focus will be on supporting those newly affected in March, due to limited capacity to both assess so many locations, as well as respond. The assessment is planned for next week and partners with presence in the area are encouraged to participate. Additionally, in South Kordofan around 80 households were affected by fire in Abu Jubayhah locality and supported by SCI and UNHCR, while in North Kordofan the fire was reported in Sheikan locality where UNHCR and SCI are planning to respond next week. • National Emergency Coordinator from CWW requested more information about a fire in Babanusa locality of West Kordofan, where reportedly up to 69 households were affected. Kordofan Region Coordinator responded that he currently has no information about this specific incident, but he will follow up on it, and provide more information when available. • Kassala Coordinator provided an update on the Cash for Shelter project for host community households affected by flooding. The distribution began on March 26, whereby 416 households out of the planned 550 received the first installment, while the reminding households are expected to receive it by the end of next week. • UNHCR Shelter Colleague from South Darfur presented sector achievements in the state. In response to the Beleil conflict, which affected 18 villages, UNHCR and SORR distributed 397 NFI kits and 750 family tents across 4 villages in the beginning of March. In mid-March, UNHCR completed identification and KoBo enrollment of 1,950 households in Kalma camp who are scheduled to receive Cash for Shelter assistance next week. Additionally, UNHCR, through SORR, will provide Cash for Shelter to 449 households in Jawa, East Jabal Marra in the second week of April. 	<p>→ To ensure accurate reporting, partners were kindly requested not to report MPC assistance under S/NFI cash indicators in ActivityInfo. Instead, partners should only report actual Cash for Shelter activities.</p>

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<p>State Updates: The Fire Season</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD Shelter Colleague from UNHCR also mentioned 100 individuals that received multi-purpose cash (MPC) in Gereda. In response, the National Shelter Officer from UNHCR stressed that MPC should not be mistaken for and/or reported as Cash for Shelter, as this was identified as an issue during ActivityInfo reporting in 2022. • The Cluster Coordinator emphasized the importance of distinguishing multi-purpose cash (MPC) from Cash for Shelter, considering MPC grants are typically much lower than Cash for Shelter grants (minimum of 300 USD). MPC is often insufficient to meet people's shelter needs, and it shouldn't exclude them from receiving shelter support alongside MPC. It's essential not to equate the two, as doing so may lead to false assumptions that shelter isn't a priority for people if they don't spend their MPC grants on it. The reality is that people may not have been able to afford shelter assistance with such a low amount at all. • Kordofan Region Coordinator explained that in situations where multiple emergencies are happening simultaneously across a vast geographical territory, cluster partners may be compelled to respond with MPC grants only in certain areas due to high needs and limited resources. This approach means that households in those areas will not receive direct shelter assistance, allowing the shelter assistance to be prioritized for other areas where people have not received MPC grants. However, the Cluster Coordinator expressed concern with this approach considering shelter is a core component of physical protection. Cluster prioritization strategy and targeting criteria are clear, whereby all areas must be equally assessed so that only the most vulnerable receive shelter assistance. If the most vulnerable groups are provided with MPC grants, which may not be enough to cover their shelter needs, and are subsequently excluded from direct shelter assistance, we risk perpetuating their vulnerability. Moreover, if MPC is reported as covering shelter needs, which is highly unlikely, then we are not reflecting the gaps accurately and sending the wrong signal to the donors. • GAH CD provided an update on the recent fire incident in Abyei, which occurred for the second time in Difra since the start of the year. The incident took place on February 22nd, and initially, 102 houses were reported to be destroyed. However, after verification, the number was reduced to 84 households, for which the distribution has been finalized. While the response was prompt given the availability of UNHCR kits, challenges arose with the beneficiaries from the 	

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<p>State Updates: The Fire Season</p>	<p>previous fire who had received IOM kits that did not adhere to the cluster standard. Tensions ran high and delayed the distribution as the previous caseload was demanding to receive the same items as the newly affected that were supported with UNHCR NFI kits. The local government also advocated for the inclusion of the old caseload which could have potentially resulted in a less efficient use of resources. Eventually, GAH resolved the issue and provided support only to the 84 newly affected households.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NNGO Forum Coordinator raised concerns expressed by national partners regarding difficulties in accessing the UNHCR Common Pipeline. It was noted that UNHCR prioritizes their implementing partners' access, which limits opportunities for operational partners. In response, the Cluster Coordinator explained that UNHCR prioritizes partners who are best suited to respond to a particular emergency, in order to ensure an effective response and efficient use of limited resources. Additionally, UNHCR covers project support costs directly when it comes to implementing partnerships, resulting in cost savings under the SHF ERRM, which enables more people to receive S/NFI assistance overall. The Cluster Coordinator offered to facilitate a dedicated meeting between UNHCR and concerned partners to foster open dialogue and address the issue. Additionally, a set of criteria to assess which partner is best placed to respond to a particular emergency may be developed at cluster level to avoid any confusion in the future. 	<p>→ Cluster Coordinator to organize a UNHCR Common Pipeline dedicated meeting for interested partners.</p>
<p>SHF:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cluster Coordinator provided an update on the discussions regarding the SHF Reserve for Emergency (RfE) Allocation and Standard Allocation (SA). The RfE Allocation was initially intended for post-conflict needs in South Darfur (Beleil), West Kordofan (Lagawa) and Blue Nile. However, there has been a recent shift towards addressing fire incidents in various locations. • The RfE Allocation has now been largely confirmed whereby SORR is expected to receive 2M for West Darfur, to support Krenick returnees with semi-permanent shelter (1,300hh) as well as address the needs of Genina IDPs in gathering sites, which were recently devastated by fires. Alight would receive 1M to respond to Donkey Dereis fire in South Darfur and Elneem camp fire in East Darfur, while COOPI would receive 0.5M to respond to Al Takamol fire with an urban cash for shelter/rent response in Khartoum. • The Cluster Coordinator expressed hope that this shift in focus towards fire incidents was an indication that conflict-affected areas such as Beleil, Lagawa, 	

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<p>SHF:</p>	<p>and areas in Blue Nile had been left for the Standard Allocation. However, since SHF is adamant about excluding localities covered by the KfW fund, Beileil being one of them, there is a risk that people may be wrongfully excluded from receiving the much-needed shelter support, considering that the KfW fund does not include support for adequate housing/settlements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is still debatable whether the S/NFI Cluster will be included in the Standard Allocation since it already received significant funds through other mechanisms. Half of the entire RfE allocation went directly to the S/NFI Cluster (3.5M out of the overall 7M), while the remaining half had to be split between several sectors such as WASH, Health, Education GBV & CP. Furthermore, UNHCR received 2M from SHF for the Prepositioning of the Stock, while IOM received 4.5M from CERF for the Prepositioning of the Stock. • Additionally, in 2021 due to a limited number of S/NFI partners that applied for the Standard Allocation (SA), the entire amount reserved for the sector could not be allocated. This resulted in delays since this remainder had to be reallocated to other sectors, whereby the strategic review committee had to be reconvened and project proposal review redone. For this reason, SHF prefers to prioritize the S/NFI Cluster under other mechanisms where this scenario can be avoided. However, considering the exclusion of some key conflict affected localities from the Reserve, where shelter and NFI needs remain high, the Cluster Coordinator expressed hope that this is a good indication the S/NFI Cluster may be included in this year's SA after all. • At the moment there are only broad strokes outlining how the SA might look like whereby significant changes to what will be presented can still be expected. This year the SA amounts to 20M and focuses on post-violence/ post-crisis needs as usual. Four components are being proposed at this stage, where the Conflict and Displacement component is the biggest one, with 40% of the 12 million going to Protection and Education, while the rest is yet to be allocated. So hopefully in those remaining 7.2M of the C&D component there will be scope for the inclusion of the S/NFI. The second component includes HRP priority one localities that are reserved for Health, WASH, Nutrition, and Education, while the third component focuses on flooding. The 3rd component will focus only on the two most flood-affected states, South Darfur and White Nile, where there are also high chances 	

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<p>SHF:</p>	<p>for the S/NFI to be included. Lastly, the fourth and smallest component is reserved for CBOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHF is looking for multi-sectoral proposals and consortiums between international and national NGOs to further the localization agenda, and such proposals are expected to be scored higher. • NNGO Forum Coordinator expressed gratitude to the Cluster for their advocacy efforts, which have resulted in significant funding for cluster partners, including national organizations. However, he emphasized the need to continue on this path and secure additional funding, as the KfW fund does not include housing support and is a longer-term project with benefits that will take time to materialize. He further highlighted that there are urgent and acute needs in locations such as Beileil, West Kordofan, and Blue Nile, where people have recently started returning as well as in fire emergencies which lack coverage, while the impending flood season creates additional pressures. Hence the inclusion in the Standard Allocation remains very important. 	
<p>SAG Elections:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cluster Coordinator announced SAG Call for Expression of Interest which will be launched mid-April. The composition of the S/NFI Cluster SAG is expected to be 2 UN Agencies, 2 INGOs, 2 NNGOs + observers such as INGO and NNGO coordinators, OCHA, Red Cross/ Red Crescent and Donor representatives as per their interest. • The Cluster Coordinator explained what the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) is and its role in setting the strategic direction of the Cluster. The group normally consists of no more than 10-15 people to facilitate agile decision making. • Some of SAG's responsibilities include drafting of the Cluster Strategy and other strategic documents such as the sector-specific chapter of the HRP or different ToRs. SAG is also heavily engaged in the HPC process, and it will make decisions around inclusion of sector-specific indicators in the MSNA/HNO, defining PiN and Severity calculation methodology, defining the results framework and the sector-specific funding requirement, and so on. • Furthermore, the SAG will review parameters and strategic allocation papers of pooled-funding mechanisms and serve as the Strategic Review Committee (SRC) for the review of cluster partner project proposals for the SHF Standard 	<p>→ Partners are encouraged to express interest in being part of the S/NFI Cluster SAG.</p>

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SAG Elections:	<p>Allocation, as well as participate in technical review of proposals for other SHF and CERF funding allocations. The SAG will also play a strong role in defining advocacy, communications, and resource mobilization strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cluster Coordinator or Co-Chair will call for meetings based on the need, with a minimum frequency of once per quarter. In addition, any SAG member can also call for a meeting when necessary. Meetings will take place in person in Khartoum, but to provide flexibility, virtual or email-based decision-making and endorsement are allowed. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the SAG will be shared along with a Call for Expression of Interest. The list of eligible partners will be predefined and limited to those who have a proven track record and operational relevance in the sector. The Call will be open for two weeks during which organizations will be required to fill a brief questionnaire and nominate one primary SAG member and one alternate. If more than two NGOs or INGOs apply, a vote will be conducted, similar to the process for electing the Co-Chair, with each organization having one vote. If the vote results in a tie, the Cluster Coordinator will cast the deciding vote. 	
Flood Response Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cluster Coordinator provided an update on the upcoming preparation of the flood response plan, which includes the stock mapping exercise. It was previously agreed that OCHA would lead the quarterly stock mapping exercise across clusters, but there hasn't been an update from OCHA on this matter. As a result, we might need to proceed with the exercise at the cluster level. During the first quarter, the stock mapping exercise will be centered around flood preparedness, hence partners are expected to provide a breakdown of their commitments for the flood response. This will involve partners outlining the stocks they currently have available as well as what they confirmed in the pipeline. OCHA is expected to provide a unified population planning figure across clusters, however we can also calculate the sector-specific estimate based on historic data on the number of houses that were destroyed or damaged by flooding in the last three years. 	<p>→ Partners are expected to participate in the stock mapping exercise where they will indicate their commitments for the flood response.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response plan will address potential challenges, constraints, and risks, with a focus on identifying how best to handle them. This will include defining key messages tailored specifically to the flood response, including issues related to accessibility and logistics, HLP, funding constraints and decreased self-reliance caused by the socioeconomic situation in the country. 	
IM Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cluster Coordinator reminded partners about the new PDM guidance/tool that was shared and reminded partners to review it. The guidance proposes a common approach where all partners use one PDM tool and all data goes to the same database that all partners can access. This will include the development of a PDM dashboard that will provide real-time analysis for all partners, while partners will also be able to download the raw dataset. Furthermore, the Stock Mapping dashboard and Operational Presence maps are also in the plan to be developed. Finally, with Quarter 1 coming to an end, all partners were reminded to record their January to March achievements in ActivityInfo. 	<p>→ Partners are kindly requested to provide feedback on the PDM tool/guidance as well as to enter all outstanding achievements for Q1 in ActivityInfo.</p>
	AOB	