

## Summary Action Points NW Shelter Cluster Assessment Validation and Strategy Workshop

13-14<sup>th</sup> April Bamenda, Cameroon

1. Vulnerability Types and Targeting
  - a. Cluster partners reviewed the population types identified in the survey:
    1. **Internally Displaced**
    2. **Returnees**
    3. **Non-Displaced**
  - b. Cluster partners reviewed the different vulnerability types in the survey:
    1. **Persons with disabilities**
      - Partners mentioned that there are some informal settlements where persons with disabilities tend to collectively settle together
      - Due to lack of mobility, when damages occur persons with disabilities are usually falling in the category of non-displaced.
    2. **Children with vulnerabilities: Separated children and unaccompanied minors, child headed households**
    3. **Single female headed households**
    4. **Elderly headed households**
    5. **Single male headed households**
    6. **Victims of Protection Incidents**
  - c. Cluster partners listed that the following vulnerabilities could be added:
    - i. **Chronically ill**
    - ii. **Jobless because of the impact of crisis**
    - iii. **Pregnant/Lactating Women**
    - iv. **Albino**
    - v. People suffering from **trauma** (PTSD) amongst elderly, children, and adults
  - d. Cluster partners recommended better **protection mainstreaming** and liaison with relevant actors in the Protection Cluster to achieve this
    - i. Continued work with **GBV Sub Cluster on referrals but also on prevention**
      1. **Constant Companion with updated referrals**
    - ii. Emphasis on **inclusion** in all shelter interventions
    - iii. Prevention of **discrimination**
    - iv. **Child Protection**
    - v. **Psychosocial Support**
  - e. Shelter Cluster partners recommended to put in place a **score card approach** that all cluster partners would have to agree and use in the field. The work initiated **in 2018 on vulnerabilities** would be looked at including other best practices and then adapted to the context. Though partners acknowledged that within the context of the NW, there were always challenges within ensuring that targeting criteria were being fulfilled in communities. Therefore, there is a need to put emphasis on **post distribution monitoring** to measure the outcome of this assistance and ensure **corrective actions by the cluster as a collective**.
2. Shelter/Settlement Types- Partners agreed on the following actions to put in place
  - a. In the NW, the following settlement and typologies were identified qualitatively based on reviewing the different terms and discrepancies that arose from looking at the two assessments and their own agency assessments and observations in the field:

| Setting    | Settlement Scenario  | Shelter  | Structure                                      | Roofs        |
|------------|--|--|--|--------------|
| Urban      | Renting, Owner, Hosting, Squatting<br>Public/Private                                     | House<br>Apartment<br>Collective Shelter (rare)                        | Concrete, Cement, Sundried/Mudbrick            | CGI, Thatch  |
| Semi-Urban | Renting, Owner, Hosting, Informal Settlements <sup>1</sup> , Squatting<br>Public/Private | House, Apartment, Makeshift Shelter<br>Collective Shelter              | Concrete is less than urban, Sundried/Mudbrick | CGI, Thatch  |
| Rural      | Owner, Hosting, Informal Settlements, Squatting<br>Public/Private                        | House, Makeshift Shelter,<br>Farm/Agricultural house or infrastructure | Bamboo, Thatch, Wood                           | Zinc, Thatch |

- b. Partners reported that in terms of settlement scenario that as the MSNA reported, **being hosted is still one of the most common scenarios among internally displaced.**
  - c. Shelter Cluster needs to collectively document the different shelter types better and be able to document the sheltering strategies of the affected populations. **Shelter Cluster team to put in place Kobo form to help partners to upload photos of different shelters. Partners to share photos of different shelters with the Shelter Cluster team.**
  - d. The Cluster should develop a better way to **classify damages** especially when non-technical enumerators are collecting data. Photos could also help in this regard.
  - e. Given the size of homes in the NW and that **overcrowding** is still often a phenomenon that the affected population is observing in the field, indicators such as **estimated m2** and **how many people are sleeping in one space would be better metrics for future assessments.**
  - f. Given the limitation on distribution of items in the shelter kit in the NW, in addition to looking at voucher modalities where appropriate, the cluster should also look at using **information, communication, and education materials** along with **regular post distribution monitoring** (with photos) to ensure that shelters are built in a manner that meets standards of **habitability**. Currently, the Shelter Cluster in the Northwest has difficulty to report on whether any shelters are actually built with the kit being distributed. A more appropriate use of the shelter kit seems to be its use for repairing/**covering holes in damaged shelters** (particularly roofs).
3. Tenure Types and Rent:
- a. Need to work in closer collaboration with the Housing, Land, and Property Working Group to see how we could **better mainstream tenure into our shelter delivery.**
  - b. **Shelter Cluster to liaise with NRC ICLA to have a secondary data source on the phenomenon of eviction** in the Northwest. Partners could report on the incident happening often in Bamenda, but what about other cities in the Northwest?

<sup>1</sup> Partners mentioned informal settlements in Nkuh and Njanawa villages in Bui Division

- c. Partners spoke at length about **rental accommodation** as a strategy and activity for the NW. **3 partners (Shumas, Emmanuel Sisters, and NRC) have planned and ongoing activities** this year and **another partner has been engaged in this in the past and could be again this year**. It was agreed that this activity should be delivered **to the most vulnerable categories (coordinate closely with GBV sub cluster for victims of GBV and other vulnerable groups with Protection Cluster)**, because they require a lot of monitoring on the protection side. **Sustainability of the beneficiary to continue renting after the program ends** is also a common challenge encountered by the Shelter Cluster and its partners in this area. Any type of **programming needs to be combined with livelihoods and WASH programming**. **Mobile money** is the choice of modality of partners, but **cash is often the modality used by beneficiaries and preferred by landlords in the NW** because of concerns about taxation and extra fees required for the mobile money transaction.
4. Lighting and Energy:
    - a. Continue to consider solar lamps or torches as part of the standard NFI package for both in-kind or monetary distributions.
    - b. There is currently a gap in the coverage of cooking fuel from both Shelter/NFI and Food Security Cluster side. **Consider covering this as between 5000-7500 CFCA as a stand-alone activity** if partners have enough resources to address this need.
    - c. As part of the need to ensure do no harm approaches, the most common cooking **practices can also be environmentally harmful**. While it is out of the scope of the Shelter Cluster to promote any type of behavioural change as that is not lifesaving, we should also be careful that we are not encouraging cooking practices that could accelerate changes in the climate and cause further displacements or other harm.
    - d. With cooking fuel provision, it is also important to ensure that beneficiaries have a **dedicated space for cooking** within their shelters and that they have adequate **ventilation** in their shelters. While the majority of the affected population are living in homes and **have less concerns about proximity to makeshift shelters and proximity to flammable materials**, there is yet concern with the issue of overcrowding, that affected households have **dedicated spaces** for cooking, sleeping, recreation, etc.
    - e. Some partners also mentioned the need to ensure that the affected population has access to **fire extinguishers**.
  5. Non-Food Items
    - a. Partners agreed that given the cultural practices in the Northwest and preferences of beneficiaries from their PDMs that **mattresses should be included in the standard NFI package amount rather than sleeping mats**. In the NFI package, the mattress is usually one family size, but with vouchers there is more flexibility to purchase additional mattresses for larger family sizes.
    - b. Shelter Cluster partners to work with Cash Working Group to agree on **minimum expenditure basket portion focusing on NFIs**. This would also help partners to establish and measure whether minimum standards were being met in their assistance to beneficiaries.
    - c. Shelter Cluster partners **to strengthen PDM reporting and sharing** to ensure that for both in-kind and monetized forms of assistance to know usefulness of kit materials and items over time.
    - d. Check **with WASH Cluster if there are any duplications on distributions of hygiene kits**.

6. Feedback on Assistance:
  - a. **Shelter Cluster to set up complaints and feedback mechanism** to better track trends and issues and to respond collectively to those issues. **Partners to share anonymized data from their complaints and feedback mechanisms** to make this feasible.
  - b. Shelter Cluster team to review locations where villages reported that women and men were avoiding distribution points to find out more about these issues and see if there is something that can be addressed.
  - c. **Ensure that PDM findings from distributions and post distributions are shared with the Cluster** to more quickly follow up and address common issues that may impact the outcome of those distributions.
7. **Intentions on Returns and Integration**
  - a. Liaise with national level Humanitarian and Development Nexus Working Group in Yaounde on potential longer-term thinking for the Northwest and Southwest. Criteria of stability to be shared with the Shelter Cluster and also shared with other clusters.
  - b. Continue to collaborate and coordinate with UNDP on their projects in the Northwest and Southwest and the Early Recovery Cluster.
8. Assessments:
  - a. Review with Plan International some of the issues and questions on their assessment and finalize data cleaning.
  - b. Review with OCHA MSNA some of their questions for the next round of data collection.
  - c. Shelter Cluster to map out some more of the data points from the assessment to provide more insights.
  - d. Shelter Cluster team to finalize report and consider multiple sources of needs assessments.
  - e. Partners encouraged to do their own assessments prior to beneficiary registration and beginning their own programming. Share findings with the Cluster through the [assessment tracker](#)

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