

# Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) Session Report

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## Session Report:

**Date:** October 17, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 AM

**Venue:** Online

### Attendees:

From the partners:

Al-Twasul for Human Development, Rofqa for Humanitarian Development, Neda'a Foundation for Development, SFHRP, SDF, HFD, ACTED, QRCS, RADF, Safe Road (SRPD), GWQ, ABAC Taiz West Coast, YARD, YFCA and OCHA.

From the Shelter cluster team:

Shelter cluster coordinator, Shelter cluster Information Manager, Technical Support Specialist, Taiz Hub-shelter cluster coordinator, Ibb Hub-shelter cluster coordinator, Shelter cluster coordinator- Hodaida Hub.

### Agenda:

- Introduction and opening up the discussion
- Introduction about AAP and its pillars
- Discuss the challenges
- Explain accountability pillars
- Preview accountability tools and reports
- Preview YFCA's accountability experience
- Discuss how to establish AAP
- Discussion, questions, and closing

### Introduction

As part of the capacity strengthening plan for shelter cluster partners, a gap has been identified in the area of mainstreaming accountability throughout the project life cycle. In response to this, YFCA, acting as the Accountability to Affected Persons (AAP) focal point for the shelter cluster, has taken the initiative to coordinate an AAP session. The objective of this session is to raise awareness among partners regarding the importance of integrating accountability principles and practices throughout the entire project life cycle.

### Overview

The session aimed to give the participants knowledge about accountability and accountability to affected population. Number of trainees were approximately 36 persons.

During the training, participants have gained a comprehensive understanding of accountability and AAP

pillars and their significance in humanitarian projects. They were introduced to the concept of accountability, accountability to affected population, AAP pillars and AAP application in different stages of project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Through interactive discussions, participants learned how to identify accountability gaps, develop appropriate mechanisms for feedback and complaints, establish accountability systems and ensure the participation and inclusion of affected persons throughout the project.

By the end of the session, participants had strengthened their capacity to integrate accountability principles into their daily work and project management practices. They should be better prepared to address the specific challenges and opportunities related to accountability throughout the project life cycle, ultimately ensuring the empowerment and meaningful participation of affected persons.

The AAP session is an important step towards enhancing the overall accountability framework within the shelter cluster, and it reflects our commitment to delivering quality and accountable humanitarian assistance.

After completing the session, a kobo link was shared with participants so they can share their inputs about the session.

## **Discussions & Key Highlights:**

- Partners emphasized that a lack of awareness about accountability is a significant potential challenge.
- One partner expressed the difficulty of addressing all accountability measures within emergency interventions.
- Safe Road org. inquired about the feasibility of utilizing digital cash methods in shelter interventions. It was mentioned that one partner had successfully implemented digital methods in their interventions in the southern region. CEAAP Focal Point requested Safe Road to share their experience in detail with the shelter cluster or with the CEAAP FP.
- While discussing the information sharing pillar, partners expressed common concerns regarding the potential negative impact of openly sharing information about the selection/ targeting criteria with project stakeholders, especially beneficiaries. They highlighted that beneficiaries sometimes provide manipulated or inaccurate information during the needs assessment and registration phases to meet the selection criteria. Therefore, it was agreed that a careful assessment should be conducted to determine whether the benefits of increasing awareness about the selection mechanism outweigh the potential negative consequences. It was acknowledged that awareness should be controlled and maintained within certain limits to ensure the successful achievement of the project objectives.

- Partners urged the cluster to consider the shelter needs locations shared by the partners. They noted that certain priority locations, as perceived by the partners, were not included or targeted in some of the launched allocations. In response, OCHA explained the systematic approach taken in the selection process of targeted locations, which involved collaboration with multiple entities.
- The Focal Point of the CEAAP cluster emphasized the importance of partners sharing feedback with the cluster and properly handing over project resources as part of the project closure strategy.

## **Feedback**

The AAP session on mainstreaming accountability during the project life cycle conducted by YFCA for shelter cluster partners received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the participants during and after the session. Participants expressed appreciation for the comprehensive and practical approach taken during the session, which enabled them to grasp the importance of accountability and its integration into their projects.

Participants found the interactive discussions to be highly engaging and beneficial. They particularly valued the opportunity to exchange experiences and insights with fellow participants, which enriched their understanding of various accountability challenges and solutions.