

Strategy Status	Version	Status	Effective date	Next revision
	JUNE 2015	Final Draft	JUNE 2015	JULY 2015 (as part of the midterm term review of the Afghanistan SRP 2015)
Shelter Cluster Structure				
Response name	Afghanistan Shelter and NFIs Strategy 2015			
Cluster Lead Agency	<u>UNHCR</u>			
Cluster Coordinator Contact	Name: Walter Bruzzoni Email: bruzzoni@unhcr.org Mobile: +93(0)791991100			
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Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) - Agencies	<u>MoRRD, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNHABITAT, UNOPS, IOM, DRC, PIN, ACTED, ACBAR</u>			
Endorsing Cluster partner Members	SAG and TWG Members			
Relevant Technical Working Groups:	Responsibilities TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key objective of the TWG is to develop and produce the Cluster Technical Standards for NFIs and Shelter assistance in Afghanistan. This will include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Composition and designation of NFIs packages ✓ Composition of emergency shelter packages and modalities of assistance. ✓ Modalities and best practices on cash for shelter and voucher assistance ✓ Recommend and codename designs for transitional and durable shelter solutions ✓ Review building materials specification, use, availability, quality and affordability 			

- ✓ Ensure that Age, Gender and Diversity aspects are contemplated in shelter designs and NFI packages
- ✓ Agree and recommend incorporation of Local cultural preferences
- ✓ Foresee standards that promote opportunities for local capacity building
- ✓ Promote the use of alternative energy solutions and ensure Environmental sustainability
- ✓ Ensure that humanitarian principles and standards are included in the CTS
- ✓ Develop and recommend technical standards for earthquake prone areas.

- The TWG should provide technical support to agencies involved in shelter assistance, with the aim to increase the quality of emergency & transitional shelters designs, NFIs kits composition and items specifications.
- It also acts as a platform for discussion and peer review of shelter design models, technical details, including but not limited to engineering designs, BoQs, training and materials, and shelter models.
- The TWG should lead lessons learned exercises, development of shelter and NFIs intervention case studies and ensure constant incorporation of best practices to CTS.
- The TWG provides technical advice to the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster on possible shelter and NFIs interventions in particular situations, including but not limited to the framework of the CHF Afghanistan and partners projects to respond to SRPs/HRPs/CERF.
- The TWG should ensure (through the Cluster Lead) that CTS, shelter designs and NFIs approved packages of CPOs are available online in the cluster dedicated webpage. The TWG should continue encourage CPOs the use of the available reference library, lessons learned and best practices while planning new shelter and/or NFIs interventions.

The TWG should decide (vote) on the allocation of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson positions. These positions should rotate every 6 months. As this will be decided by vote, it's possible that CPOs would continue chair responsibilities through consecutive periods.

Shelter Cluster Strategy

Current Situation

Beneficiaries:

The cluster will target three categories of beneficiaries: people identified with "Unmet Needs" following the 2014 floods; anticipated displaced populations in 2015 owing to conflict and natural disasters; as well as communities likely to be affected by natural disasters. The inclusion of the 2014 "Unmet Needs" was essential due to a high number of families without shelter since the 2014 flooding. Funding shortages and delays in construction due to limited capacity of the local construction industry have meant less than 50 per cent of families identified (as having their homes completely destroyed and who fall into additional vulnerability criteria) have secured construction of new shelters. The cluster has adopted seven specific vulnerability criteria for identifying the extremely vulnerable among the affected population: Female headed household; Child headed household; Disabled headed household; Elderly headed household; Very large family

(8 members or more); Very poor families; Families with chronically ill members or having other pressing vulnerability. Considering the extreme vulnerability of these people, many of whom reside at high altitude, and do not have the means to construct shelters for themselves, durable solutions are essential. Provision of tents is inadequate leaving families exposed to extreme climatic conditions and other protection related threats. In the case of displaced and natural disaster affected populations, the cluster will prioritize families whose shelter has been either completely destroyed or severely damaged requiring reconstruction or major repair. Both groups will be assisted with tents and family NFI kits. Beneficiary identification was standardized through IOM's Rapid Assessment Form data compilation in conjunction with UNHCR and IDP Taskforce based on assessment data provided from ES&NFI Cluster members.

Coordination & DRR:

The ESNFI cluster focuses on engaging with other clusters to identify areas of collaboration which might facilitate the transition from emergency assistance to a more durable solution. The Cluster will seek greater engagement of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, UNDAF partners, UN-HABITAT, and Government Ministries for early recovery and DRR activities. Further avenues for rural housing through MRRD and its flagship programs such as NSP will be explored along with resilience building program of various donors funded under Hyogo Framework for Action and others. Many ESNFI Cluster members already incorporate such measures in their shelter responses and work will be done to elaborate and share such programming ideas. Concrete efforts will be made to identify areas of response where ES/NFI cluster members can integrate Disaster Risk Reduction concerns in their emergency response.

The Cluster will seek to strengthen coordination among members, avoiding duplication, addressing coordination, and timely response challenges by establishing clear consensus around agreed standards minimizing differences between assistance packages and programs. It will mean that more people can be assisted from the same funding level, support streamlined procurement and improve cost effectiveness without compromising the quality of shelter and NFIs provided.

SAG and TWG will be reactivated and operational, providing guidance and recommendations as well as being the knowledge reference in their respective areas. The Cluster will strongly interact with fellow clusters and with OCHA in assuring coordinated response, timely reporting & information sharing and coherent humanitarian planning.

Technical Standards:

The cluster has developed its Technical Standards (available on <https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/afghanistan>). The cluster strategy focused on ensuring standardized technical specifications for emergency, transitional and durable shelter solutions as well as NFI standards, implementation modalities, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and inclusion of cross-cutting issues. Ensuring the provision of adequate shelter and NFI relief assistance in the Afghanistan context is central to the Cluster's strategy.

Operational Approach:

- *While addressing emergency needs will remain a priority, the Cluster will seek to address needs through **prudent approaches that enable***

“transition” towards a “more durable” and “sustainable” shelter solution whenever funds would be available.

- *The Cluster will **encourage the development of Cash and Voucher options** for shelter programming where organizations have access and it is possible for beneficiaries to purchase shelter and NFI materials at competitive process. This modality (already in pilot phase with some Cluster Partners) has the potential to accelerate the emergency shelter response by agencies and could be an effective approach in the Afghanistan context.*
- *The Cluster will look to **improve rapid assessment processes** and continue with prepositioning of NFI stocks whenever feasible and operationally applicable.*
- *The **shift of operational leadership** should be considered in areas where cluster leads are not present and/or for a limited period until the leading capacity is restored.*
- ***NFIs assistance should be provided in the first two weeks of registered displacement** and proper biodata should be collected to avoid assistance duplication.*
- *In case of assisting population affected by armed conflict, it should be **avoided to participate in joint assessment or assistance with any party engaged in combats.***
- ***All cluster interventions should adhere to the ESNFIs Cluster Standards** and humanitarian principles, in particular the principle of not harm and the accountability framework for humanitarian assistance.*
- *Cluster Partners should accept peer monitoring, should participate in joint lessons learned exercises and apply best practices and technical recommendations.*
- *Whenever possible **joint fundraising should be encouraged** as well as to **support implementing partnership agreements** to strengthen cluster partners coordination and operational capabilities. It is imperative the adherence to common standards, codes of conduct, administrative and logistic procedures to facilitate interaction.*

SRP 2015 Objectives

Cluster Objective 1: Affected people living in damaged or destroyed houses are provided with appropriate short-term shelter solutions.

Activity 1: Complete Construction of houses destroyed in the Northern Region for people affected by 2014’s floods and landslides

Objective 2: Ensure that natural disaster displaced persons have adequate protection from the weather as well as privacy for family life though the provision of emergency shelter and NFIs.

Activity 1: Rapid assessment to establish provision of tents and family NFIs for natural disaster displaced persons

Activity 2: Set up of cash grants system in areas where organizations have worked previously

Activity 3: Prepositioning basic Shelter, NFIs and winterization kits

Activity 4: Rapid assessment to establish provision of emergency shelter and family NFIs for natural disaster affected families

	<p>Objective 3: Ensure that conflict displaced persons have adequate protection from the weather and privacy for family life through the provision of emergency shelter and NFIs</p> <p>Activity 1: Rapid assessment to establish provision of tents and family NFIs</p> <p>Activity 2: Set up of Cash Grants system in areas where organizations have worked previously</p> <p>Activity 3: Prepositioning of basic Shelter, NFIs and winterization kits</p>
<p>Cluster Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform rapid assessments in cases of emergencies produced by natural disasters and sudden armed conflicts and maintain databases of assessed and assisted affected populations. Develop and maintain a national assessment plan for protracted displacement cases. • Timely Provide emergency shelter kits, tools and materials to protect most vulnerable displaced families from adverse weather and climate conditions. • Assist the most vulnerable IDPs families with basic NFIs kits, winterization packages, basic sleeping items, cooking items, clothes and elements to preserve drinking water and food. • To provide transitional shelter assistance and/or materials for repairing damaged houses and technical expertise to the most vulnerable POCs. • To assist within the construction of shelters for the most vulnerable and poor affected IDPs when no other solution is available.
<p>Key Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and property rights: Most IDPs families have no access to land rights (poverty and displacement factors) and in some cases land disputes increase the tensions with hosting communities. There is no National or Provincial plan for land allocation in case of emergencies and solutions are often short term oriented. • Substantial reduction of donor funds to attend shelter and NFIs needs affects the provision of adequate solutions. • Security constraints affect directly humanitarian access to people in need hampering proper assessments, implementation and monitoring & evaluation tasks. • Disconnection (in the absence of) with durable shelter and settlement solution places additional burden to Cluster Partner’s relief agencies as the emergency assistance has transformed in durable solutions interventions. • Limited National early recovery plans and Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives to sufficient scale has transformed cyclical natural events in chronic hazards (i.e. floods, landslides & avalanches). It’s imperative to develop a coordinated National DRR plan and to assess the risks (exposition to natural hazards) of population in chronically affected areas. • Needs to improve the coordination and interaction with National emergency response mechanisms and coordination framework.
<p>Assessments</p>	<p>The cluster acknowledge the need to re-assess the caseload of population affected by 2014’s floods and to understand the potential needs, developed coping mechanisms and the ratio of return. On this context Cluster partners are developing proposals for joint</p>

	<p>assessments and for a dedicate project to map, register and plan the assistance to remaining caseload. Besides, the SAG is coordinating the assessment needs ahead of the revision of the current SRP 2015 through the regional sub-clusters.</p>
Monitoring and Evaluation	<p>Cluster should prepare and maintain updated its Working Plan and Assessment Plan. Evaluations should be jointly carried out. Cluster Peer interaction in M&E activities should be encouraged as a best practice. Cluster Information Management Officer should keep records of M&E activities and update website</p>

Response Plan

Target Groups	Estimated Caseload	Emergency Activities (up to 6 weeks – if applicable)		Recovery Activities (up to 9 months – if applicable)		Targets/ Assumptions/Notes
		Target #HH	Planned Interventions	Target #HH	Planned Interventions	
Displaced Population	141,500	-----	-----	5,000	Complete Construction of houses destroyed in the Northern Region for people affected by 2014's floods and landslides	House completion + 90% of agreed beneficiary list
		2,000	Rapid assessment to establish provision of tents and family NFIs for natural disaster displaced persons			Result Indicator: Number and % of people in need assisted with emergency shelters/ NFIs / Cash Grants
		1,071	Set up of cash grants system in areas where organizations have worked previously			
		2,143	Prepositioning basic Shelter, NFIs and winterization kits			
		15,000	Rapid assessment to establish provision of emergency shelter and family NFIs for natural disaster affected families			
Conflict Affected Populations	42,000	2,000	Rapid assessment to establish provision of tents and family NFIs			Result Indicator: Number and % of people in need assisted with emergency shelters/ NFIs / Cash Grants
		2,000	Set up of Cash Grants system in areas where organizations have worked previously			
		2,000	Prepositioning of basic Shelter, NFIs and winterization kits			
SUB TOTAL	183,500	People		35,000	People	
TOTAL CASELOAD	218,500	People				

Technical Standards and Intervention Types (Merged from current NFIs stocks and Cluster's Technical Standards)

INT#	Intervention Name	Description/Specification	Notes
1	Provision of Tent	Included in Emergency Shelter Kit. See Cluster Technical Standards C.2 – Table 2 on Page 5	
2	Provision of Emergency Shelter Kit	See Cluster Technical Standards C.2 Page 5	
3	Provision of NFI basic kit	Based on well recorded experience, UNHCR defined the reference list of the Core Relief Items Catalogue that should be the basis for technical reference on items description and standards. See Cluster Technical Standards C.1 – Table 1 on Page 5	
4	Provision of cooking/kitchen kits	See Cluster Technical Standards C.4 Page 6 and C.5 Page 7	
5	Provision of Blankets	See Cluster Technical Standards C.5 Page 7	
6	Provision of clothes/shoes	See Cluster Technical Standards C.1 - Table 1 on Page 5	
7	Provision of winter clothes		
8	Provision of cooking fuel/charcoal	See Cluster Technical Standards C.4 Split Table Page 6 and C.5 Page 7	
9	Provision of construction tools	See Cluster Technical Standards C.3 Page 6	
10	Construction of Shelters	See Cluster Technical Standards D.3 Durable Solutions Shelters on Pages 11-14	
11	Repair of Shelters	See Cluster Technical Standards E- Transitional Shelters on Pages 9-10 and D- Shelter Assistance – Table 9 on Page 8.	
12	Provision of Cash for Shelter	See Cluster Technical Standards E- Cash Assistance Modalities on page 15	
13	Capacity Building	Trainings, Workshop, On The Job trainings, and ToTs	
14	Assessments	<u>MIRA</u> , RAF & Joint Assessments. See Cluster Technical Standards B.2 on Page 3	
15	Prepositioning of NFIs	IOM coordinating for response to natural disasters. UNHCR through own stock for conflict.	
16	Training on construction techniques	Included in Shelter Projects (whenever possible accompanied by distribution of Shelter Construction Tools)	
17	Lessons Learned compilation	At Cluster and sub-Cluster levels upon completion of major projects/programs Every Cluster Partner should compile a lessons learned summary after completion of a shelter or NFI assistance project. See Cluster Technical Standards I- Simplified Lessons Learned reporting format	
18	Monitoring and Reporting	Reporting: Monthly through SRF; Quarterly by Standard QR Forms Evaluation:	
19	Post Distribution/assistance Surveys	Using Post Distribution Form (ECHO/ ERM). See Cluster Technical Standards H- on Page 16.	

Inter-cluster issues

Cluster	Lead-Agency	Comments
Coordination	OCHA	Inter-cluster coordination, shelter advocacy, CHF, SRP, advocacy with Government
Nutrition	WFP/FAO
Food security	WFP/FAO	Distribution points of food relevant for shelter NFIs? Information on beneficiary groups and vulnerabilities, food for shelter works Food for work schemes that can be integrated to Shelter programs
Health	WHO	Incidence of disease that can be avoided by provision of appropriate shelter and NFI, HIV/AIDS and shelter guidance
Nutrition	UNICEF	Information on vulnerable groups through therapeutic feeding data
Protection	UNHCR	Land Property Rights, Loss of documentation, HLP, GBV, Landmines, Female and Child headed households, elderly and disabled, vulnerability data, relocations and evictions, POCs security, Streamlining Protection issues,
WASH	UNICEF	Ensure shelter sites have WASH facilities and coordinate Sanitary/hygiene Kits

References (Click on the title and follow the hyperlinks):

1. [ESNFI Cluster Technical Guidelines 2015](#)
2. [Global Shelter Cluster Strategy](#)
3. Guiding Principles and Policies (See <https://www.sheltercluster.org/global>)
4. [Gender, Gender and Shelter; Disabilities; Age, Gender & Diversity; SGBV, HIV/AIDS Guidelines](#)
5. [Environmental Guidance](#)
6. [Landmines](#)
7. [HLP updates Afghanistan](#)