

Afghanistan ES/NFI Cluster Meeting

Summary Notes of ES/NFI Meeting – Monday, October 25, 2021

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Venue: Online

PARTICIPANTS

Partners	Representative
International NGOs	ACTION AFGHANAID, ACF, ADRA, AKAH, CARE, CARITAS, CWW, DRC, GIZ, IFRC, IMC, IRC, NCA, OXFAM, PIN, QRCS, REACH, RI, SFL
National NGOs	ADEO, CAHPO CRSDA, ORCD, ORD
UN organizations	UNOPS, IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR
National authority	
Donors	ECHO, USAID
Others	

AGENDA

1. Updates on HNO/HRP progress
2. Winterization update and coordination issues
3. Partners' challenges
4. Key updates from the regions
5. AOBs

1 Updates on HNO/HRP progress

- The Cluster Coordinator briefed on 2022 HNO/HRP progress updates as the ESNFI Cluster almost completed HNO/HRP for 2022 working with all the clusters and OCHA. The needs are quite high based on the data analyzed from WoA and other assessment reports. The cluster foresees the people in need is almost double of people in need for 2021. The cluster is tentatively targeting 2.4 million people based on cluster capacity and potential to scale up as the funding availed. Based on the assessment reports, shelter is the second priority for IDPs after the food. There is an increased need for shelter repairs/upgrades and winterization more than 60% of those who have been interviewed either minor or severe damages of shelter from the WoA assessment report. The cluster has increased the targets as compared to the needs of 2021. The activities include the provision of emergency shelter support in the form of tents or cash for rent; provision of NFIs; repair/upgrade of existing shelters; transitional shelter support; and winterization assistance. The needs show more shifting to shelter repair/upgrade and winterization assistance. Regarding the target populations, the cluster analyzes the needs vs the cluster capacity in terms of operational presence as well as the funding is availed. There is also a potential for doubling cluster capacity through enhanced advocacy and funding. The feedback of the cluster capacity survey for HRP 2022 will assist the cluster to reach the tentative targeted beneficiaries of 2.4 million. The preliminary estimated financial requirement includes USD 395 million. The cluster coordinator also briefed on the anticipated planning scenario in terms of governance, geopolitical, economy, drought, security, and natural disasters (mainly flooding). The preliminary process of HNO/HRP will be completed in a week. USAID raised the concern about the increase of 140% of PiN compared to the last year PiN and the drivers of the increment. Cluster Coordinator justified as the number of vulnerable populations increased substantially, the shelter repair and winterization needs stand for more than 60% based on the WoA assessment report, and the clusters' targeted populations are based on the cluster capacity.

[Presentation on ES/NFI Cluster Meeting](#)

2 Winterization update and coordination issues

- The Cluster Coordinator updated on the winterization assistance funding which has reached 80% (22 million out of 27 million). The winterization operational partners' included UNHCR, IOM, IRW, WSTA, Afghanaid, CWW, AKAH, and DRC. The Cluster Coordinator also updated that the ESNFI cluster partners' are repositioning for the winterization assistance. UNHCR has received some items in Uzbekistan and planning to move into the country. Some of the items are already in the stock which includes blankets reached over 90,000; delivery of in-kind heating items is ongoing as well as the winter clothing; shelter repairs are ongoing; most of the activities are cash-based not limited to the logistics requirement. IOM also updated that assessments have been conducted in 22 provinces, the remaining provinces will be covered in the coming weeks. IOM has already initiated the procurement process of winter clothing and blankets, some of the winterization items are already in stock. IOM identified so far 5,000 families to be initiated for winterization assistance from the direct implementation approach. In addition, IOM reported the NFIs gaps in Hilmand province, Central Highland Region where IOM would respond simultaneously with winterization assistance.
- The Cluster Coordinator also requested all the partners to update if anyone organization has received winterization funding. CWW has received AHF 3 Reserve Allocation, started procurement already, currently coordinating with the regional level to initiate the identification of beneficiaries, distribution will be completed by December 2021. CWW also updated the funding transfer through the agency outside the country through Hawala to the in-country suppliers. IOM reported the CERF and BHA funding is confirmed targeting a total of 27,000 to 30,000 families.
- Southern Region Regional Coordinator updated as the capacity mapping of the partners has been completed; initially, 10 partners (UNHCR, IOM, DRC, NRC, IRC, ACTED, CARE, CORDAID, DHS, SCI) have confirmed winterization assistance. All the partners targeted a total of 14,750 families for winterization assistance including a total of 9,667 families for winter clothing; 12,767 families for blankets; 1,011 families for cash for rent; and 2,424 families for shelter repair/upgrade.
- The Cluster Coordinator requested all the partners to participate in the Report Hub training on Winterization Reporting facilitating by iMMAP. The training has been organized for all operational partners of all clusters.
- The Cluster Coordinator requested to update identified partners on AHA 3 RA response/gaps. CORDAID reported the AHF 3 RA contract has not been received; field activities started; working proposals on BHA and Government of Austria for winterization assistance; the fund is managed through Hawala. IRC has a plan on winterization assistance in Hilmand, Badghis, Hirat, Khost, Paktya, Logar, Nangarhar, Kabul, already started assessment in Hilmand and Paktya in coordination with other partners, facing challenges such as permission of working of female staffs, and using of HEAT forms. A total of 10,000 HHs will be covered by IRC for winterization assistance. DRC is still waiting for the approval of the grants from AHF HQ, and hope that the the funding will be received by the end of November. CARE updated that some of the internal funding for winterization is at the final stage of confirmation. ORD reported that the AHF funds have not been received yet. PIN also reported that a small amount of internal funding will be allocated for winterization support. The Cluster Co-Chair suggested to all the partners to operationalize the winterization assistance in line with the clusters' standards and the partners to support with resuming the assessment in Badghis and Herat provinces.

Action Points

- Follow up with AHF for funding agreements by ESNFI coordination team
- All partners to follow cluster standards for winterization packages distribution
- Follow up with partners in resuming the assessment of Badghis and Herat provinces

3 Partners challenges

- IRC highlighted the challenges of banking issues in most of the programme areas; female staff are not allowed to take part in assessments; and NGO commission did not agree to use HEAT forms in Logar, Badghis, and Khost provinces. Regional Co-Coordinator of CR and CHR added that the issues of Logar will going to be coordinated with DoRR and are planning to have joint meetings with participating agencies like IRC, ESNFI cluster and all the partners who are involved with winterization assistance with Provincial Governor and NGO commission (issues of HEAT form and female participation in assessment will be discussed). In addition, tmeetings were conducted in Parwan, and Kapisa with DoRR when participants advocated for female staff to participate in assessments. The HEAT forms were not allowed due to GPS tracking of HHs.

- ORD highlighted the challenges as cash liquidation with the bank, and female participation stopped in the North Eastern Region (Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, Samangan, Baghlan, Takhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan).
- CORDAID requested support from ICCT to request aid agencies to transfer the fund to Central Bank.
- ADRA highlighted the challenges of transfer of funding issues and planned to start the operation from 1 of November tentatively.
- The Cluster Coordinator updated that the meeting will be held soon with MoRR with all the issues stated above and other issues.

3 Key updates from the regions

- **Regional Co-Coordinator from Eastern Region** updated that only two organizations (UNHCR and IOM) does have standard winterization packages; coordination team allocated the geographical locations to UNHCR and IOM; winterization assessments will be started soon in Kunar, Laghman, and Nangarhar and will continue in Nuristan as well. As decided in the meeting with UNOCHA and other partners, the total of 12,000 families recommended for winterization assistance whereas UNHCR and IOM will cover 8,000 families and 4,000 families remains a gap. IRC also reported that received the winterization assistance fund, the coordination team is working to allocate the geographical areas to IRC as well.
- **Regional Co-Coordinator from Western Region** updated that all the assessments were rejected by the new officials since the name lists of the conflict-affected populations where petitions received from the previous government; DoRR received a total of 150,000 petitions; out of the total petitions a total of 15,000 requires immediate assistance; the meeting between OCHA with DoRR did not conclude on this issues since they need to be highlighted with HCT/MoRR to have free and mutual information sharing; the total of 43,000 winterization packages are available from all the agencies, a total of 11,570 families are in need of winterization assistance, however, the name list have not been received from the partners, there is also a risk of duplication of the targets.
- **Regional Coordinator from Northern Region** updated that the meeting with all partners focused on winterization was held; IOM targeted a total of 2,900 families targeted; NRC targeted 900 families; UNHCR targeted 5,000 families. IOM conducted the assessment in Faryab and Samangan province
- **Regional Coordinator from Central Highland Region** updated that the joint assessment was conducted in Gizab district (Daykundi province) by the partners and identified a total of 418 HHs for humanitarian assistance; the government has solved the logistics issues of the IDPs who wanted to return at the place of origin; the assessment started by the partners in CHR; UNHCR, IOM, ADRA, IR already shared their plan for winterization with regional coordination; partners were requested to share the targeted beneficiaries to avoid duplication; UNHCR will start winterization packages distribution from this week with a total of 6,012 cash for heating materials; 8,292 families winter clothing and blankets; challenges such as female participation in assessments, cash-based interventions is an issue due to bank transactions; OCHA highlighted that the partner intervention at remote areas is limited in Bamyán and Daykundi provinces as access issues have been solved.

4 AOBs

- The Cluster Coordinator introduced the new Regional Coordinators, Modase Akif working as a Regional Coordinator of Northern Region; Jahadullah Hamdard working as a Regional Coordinator of Central Highland Region; Bilal Zadrán working as a Regional Coordinator of Southern Region; and Abdul Ghafar Sadiqi as a Regional Coordinator of Western Region.

ESNFI Cluster Coordination

ES/NFI Cluster Coordination Team	afghanistan@sheltercluster.org
Coordinator	coord.afghanistan@sheltercluster.org
Deputy Coordinator	depcoord.afghanistan@sheltercluster.org
IM Officer	im.afghanistan@sheltercluster.org

URL: [ES/NFI Cluster Afghanistan Website](#)



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