

Afghanistan ES/NFI Cluster Meeting

Summary Notes of ES/NFI Meeting – Monday, September 27, 2021

Time: 09:30 – 11:00 AM

Venue: Online

PARTICIPANTS

| Partners | Representative |
|--------------------|----------------|
| International NGOs | |
| National NGOs | |
| UN organizations | |
| National authority | |
| Donors | |
| Others | |

AGENDA

1. Coordination team update and resumption of response
2. CVWG brief/presentation and Q&A
3. Regional cluster brief updates (challenges)
4. AOBs
 - Logistics working group
 - RAM presentation

1 Coordination team update and resumption of response

ES-NFI cluster has shared updates on the below funding's:

- **AHF 3rd Reserve Allocation:** 11 Projects are under strategic and technical review process. The Cluster has received an additional envelope of 2.67 Million USD for which partners were requested to submit their concept notes considering the current IDP gaps
- **Flash Appeal:** The total 0.35 Million USD has been proposed for the flash appeal to respond to the emerging needs considering the duration from September to December 2021/2022, however the duration is flexible. Proposed intervention types are the provision of emergency and transitional shelter, shelter repairs and upgrades, household items, rental subsidies, and winter assistance.
- **CERF Rapid Response:** Considering the upcoming harsh winter season, UNHCR and IOM proposed the winterization assistance for utilizing the CERF rapid response fund.
- ES-NFI Cluster shared a weekly snapshot with the partners for possible response capacity. ES-NFI Cluster facing an overall gap of 17,570 families and requested the partners to mobilize their resources to respond to the gap.

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

2 CVWG brief/presentation

- Considering the recent situation, and as a type of intervention, ES-NFI Cluster requested CVWG to present the challenges and issues of cash-based intervention in Afghanistan
- Mr. Mulugeta Handino/WFP, kindly agreed and presented Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) issues and challenges. The main points were as below
 - Challenges for CVA in the current political and economic landscape of Afghanistan
 - Withdrawal of international aid by major donors
 - Suspension of international funds by IFIs (World Bank and International Monitoring Fund)
 - Increase in commodity prices (Inflation)
 - Local currency devaluation
 - Addressing evolving challenges- Most likely scenarios of CVA for short and medium-term as:
 - Scenario 1: CVA partners can fully resume their cash-based intervention if the financial sector stabilizes with acceptable liquidity and markets continue to function in the coming weeks at an acceptable level. However, it is advised to follow real-time monitoring of market prices
 - Scenario 2: Consider switching response modality to commodity vouchers, preferably in urban and peri-urban areas while moving to in-kind assistance in remote or hard-to-reach areas if financial instability persists while market functionality stays stable. It is advised to closely watch devaluation rates and possible inflation which could directly affect the prices of food and essential commodities.
 - Scenario 3: Cash-based intervention becomes an inappropriate response modality and switches to in-kind if financial instability persists with the severe shortage of cash liquidity, the market functionality deteriorates with prices skyrocketing and supply chains disrupted. It is advised to closely watch and monitor market dynamics and the cash liquidity through ongoing joint assessment
 - Assessments to make informed programmatic decisions
 - The whole of Afghanistan assessment (WoA)
 - WFP regular price monitoring report
 - IRC banking options analysis
 - FS Cluster EFS assessment
 - For queries related to CVA, please feel free to contact Mr. Mulugeta Handino at: mulugeta.handino@wfp.org , george.bete@wfp.org .

Presentation on CVA

3 Regional cluster brief updates/challenges

ES-NFI Cluster Regional Coordinators from the below regions shared their updates on main challenges and issues:

- **Central Region**
 - IOM filled up the gap of NFI and responded to 535 families referred by cluster.
 - UNHCR filled up the gap of NFI and responded to 180 families in Kabul.
 - UNHCR conducted an assessment of cash for rent and selected 534 families in Kabul and Logar provinces and the assessment is ongoing.
 - Union-Aid organization conducted an assessment of Shahre-Naw park IDPs, who are living in an open area. 1,005 families are agreed to return to their place of origin. Union-Aid is providing transportation cost and 10,000 AFN per family, the returning process has been started and 134 families are returned.
 - IOM re-verified caseload of 89 families of Kapisa province where total of 31 families are still displaced and the remaining families are returned to their place of origin. IOM distributed NFI to 31 families.
- **Central Highland Region**
 - A report of forced displacement was received from the Gizab district of Daykundi province, Cluster is following up the displaced families with OCHA and the local government authority to identify the villages/current location of displaced people.
 - WSTA is conducting an assessment of IDPs in Bamyan province for NFI and shelter upgrading in coordination with DoRR.
 - IOM filled up the gap of NFI for the caseload of Lal Wa Sargangal district. The caseload was re-verified, out of which the total of 87 families are still displaced, and other families returned to their place of origin. NFI was distributed to 87 families.
- **Northeast Region**
 - Re-verification has been initiated for identifying eligible IDPs for assistance in Kunduz and Takhar

- Female participation is still an issue in the Northeast region and some partners haven't yet resumed their activities
- **North Region Challenges**
 - There was no assessment conducted in Faryab during September 2021 because the assessment in Faryab was suspended on 31 August 2021 as new government authorities did not allow humanitarian organizations to take NID, and phone numbers of IDPs during the assessment. UNOCHA is following up with local authorities to address the issue.
 - Pending caseloads in Faryab province: 267 Conflict IDPs
 - Pending caseloads in Balkh province: Two caseloads (400 Conflict IDPs; 272 Conflict IDPs)
 - Pending Caseload in Jawzjan province: 649 Conflict IDPs
 - Assessments: Inter-agency assessments are ongoing in Balkh, Jawzjan, Saripul.
- **South Region**

IOM as ESNFI cluster co-chair joined the IDP returnees' assessment survey team in Helmand province and may also join the assessment team in other provinces and in case of ESNFI cluster gaps they will cover the gaps according to possibility.

Advocacy message: The past conflict in the southern region destroyed or damaged many houses. The affected population needs humanitarian assistance in repairing houses that were destroyed or damaged in the conflict as many of these people cannot afford to rebuild or repair their houses on their own.

Female Staff issue: OCT raised concern about female participation in humanitarian activities. OCT briefed DoRR about the importance of female staff engagement in humanitarian activities, particularly in emergency assessment where religious and cultural barriers could unable male staff to interview female beneficiaries. Similarly, female interviewees are more comfortable and open to female staff in sharing their needs. DoRR director acknowledged the importance of participation in emergency assessment. Despite, PG previously advised NGOs to hold attendance of female staff until IEA guidelines are coming from the senior level, DoRR director agreed to discuss this in the next administrative meeting with Kandahar Provincial Governor with further advice will be shared accordingly.

Gaps: So far there are not any NFIs and ES gaps in the southern region, but will face the shelter repair kits/cash and transitional shelter gaps.

Challenges: The main challenge of NGOs facing in the southern region is the collaboration with NGO Commission. OCT raised concern over the role of NGO commissions and structured departments of Government in OCT meetings in Kandahar. OCT/partner's activities might be affected if there is not a clear guidance. Concerning confusion in ToR/AoR of NGO Commissions and Government departments; DoRR and ANDMA identified this as an intra-government issue that needs to be addressed in the future to revive their roles. ANDMA informed that they are working with Provincial Governor to tackle the issue.
- **Southeast Region**
 - Partners' started responding to the NFI gap flagged by the ESNFI cluster/IOM. So far, partners have distributed NFI and Emergency Shelter to the total of 734 IDPs in Maqur district, Ghazni.
 - Partners are planning to distribute to the total of 864 IDP families in the Qarabagh district on 5-Oct-21.
 - Based on partner's/WFP reports; IDPs in Gilan district have returned to their place of origin thus there are no need for NFIs assistance.
 - IRC committed to respond to pending caseloads in Gardiz and Khost by the coming week once the cash shortage problem is solved.

4 AOBs

- **Logistics Working group**
 - Mr. Brain Young/LWG provided the brief updates on current logistics issues and challenges
 - Border closure and flight resumption is still an issue that causes logistical issues
- **RAM Presentation**
 - Mr. Ari/REACH briefed the participants on the upcoming rapid needs assessment and answered the participants' questions.
 - REACH requested the list of the participants for training which has been scheduled for October 6 and 7.

ESNFI Cluster Coordination

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



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