

Afghanistan ES/NFI Cluster Meeting

Summary Notes of ES/NFI Meeting – Monday, November 29, 2021

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Venue: Online

PARTICIPANTS

Partners	Representative
International NGOs	AAH, ACTED, BS, CARE, CWW, DRC, IMC, IRW, JUH, NCA, NRC, OXFAM, PIN, QRCS, REACH, SCI, SI, WCUK
National NGOs	ADEO, CAHPO, CRDSA, HRDA, NACAF, OCHR, OHW, ORCD, ORD
UN organizations	IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP
National authority	
Donors	USAID
Others	ACBAR, CVWG, AWAAZ

AGENDA

1. Review of the last ESNFI Cluster meeting action points
2. Updates from the Coordination Team
3. Updates on Winterization Response
4. Presentation by Better Shelter
5. AoBs

1 Review of the last ESNFI Cluster meeting action points

- The Cluster Coordinator updated the last monthly ESNFI Cluster meeting for below action points from the last meeting,
- **“Follow up with AHF for funding agreements by ESNFI coordination team”** Follow up has been done with AHF for funding agreements of the respective partners, requested to reach out to coordination team if any other partners are still facing the challenges with AHF funding agreements.
- **“All partners to follow cluster standards for winterization packages distribution”** Requested all the partners to reach out to coordination team if any partners are facing the challenges with cluster standards for winterization packages distribution.
- **“Follow up with partners in resuming the assessment of Badghis and Herat provinces”**
The coordination team at regional level conducted the meetings with local authorities in Badghis and Herat provinces so that the assessment can be resumed; and requested to all partners reach out to the coordination team if any kind of assessment challenges existed in any of the regions/provinces of Afghanistan

2 Updates from the Coordination Team

- The National Cluster Coordination Team updated as cluster technical working group (TWiGs) is divided into two groups 1) Shelter Solutions group, and 2) Update of technical guidance document group. After the change in government, the frequency of the TWiGs meeting was not continued as it was planned. With the situation improved, the TWiGs meeting has been resumed and requested to come up with shelter solutions and updating of technical guidance documents by 31 December 2021.

- The Deputy Cluster Coordinator updated on last week's meeting with MoRR (attended by two senior staff: head of MoRR and IDP response) as the meeting was held on 23 November 2021 with the participation of OCHA and other cluster members (ESNFI, FSAC, WASH, Nutrition, Child Protection).
 - The discussion was focused on the humanitarian plan for the next year and collaboration with the agencies and the clusters. The plan included IDPs assessment in 34 provinces and seeking assistance and support from humanitarian agencies, update on information sharing from the partners, update on recent conflict IDPs returnees settled in Kabul, prioritizing with the winterization assistance, livelihood assistance for IDPs who lost their assets, and property due to conflict-affected displacement, providing safety and security without interference from the local authorities during the humanitarian assistance procedure.
 - OCHA highlighted the issue as the interference from the local authorities with the humanitarian assistance process, especially for winterization assistance. The MoRR assured to follow up with the relevant authorities and stakeholders to support the humanitarian assistance. The MoRR also requested the humanitarian team to report their issues and concerns daily regarding the collaboration and issues with the authorities at the local level. The female staff inclusion was raised by cluster where MoRR replied that the ministry received the joint approach and advice from the higher authorities that female staff has to accompany Maharam and the agencies have to pay. This issue was discussed two weeks ago at the HCT level, where HCT will not accept the female staff inclusion approach and shall be discussed further to solve the issues. Regarding assessments, the ministry updated it will be planned for the next year, where the humanitarian teams are ready to contribute their participation through technical assistance like tools and analyzing data.
 - Regarding returnees IDPs, the government started negotiations on settlement and voluntary return to the place of origin, the government will inform the humanitarian team if required to forcibly return to the place of origin in any specific cases. The cluster was suggesting the ministry not to force the IDPs to return to the place of origin, otherwise, the return should be dignified and voluntarily.
 - Regarding winterization assistance, the ministry welcomed this opportunity to work with returned IDPs where the humanitarian team updated on Joint Winterization Strategy 2021/2022 multi-sectoral support included comprehensive and inclusive based on the needs for displaced and non-displaced populations.
 - There are also noted issues of returned conflict IDPs to their place of origin with the damaged and destroyed shelters as well as the damaged health facilities/clinics, schools in need of humanitarian assistance. From the ESNFI Cluster perspective to the noted issues for returned conflict IDPs, shelter repair is one of the main components for the HRP for 2022 activities that have been prioritized.

PIN raised the request from the Kabul DoRR authorities for the beneficiaries list that is a concern.

Action Points

Follow up by Coordination Team with stakeholders the beneficiary list requested in some locations.

[Presentation on ES/NFI monthly meeting](#)

3 Updates on Winterization Response

- The National Cluster Coordination Team updated as the cluster received a total of 14 projects submission for AHF 1 Standard Allocation. Out of 14 projects, 13 projects were received on the due date and will proceed to Strategic Review Committee (SRC) and Technical Review Committee (TRC) for further review. A total of 4 projects were submitted by NNGO, 8 projects submitted by INGO, and 1 project submitted by UN. There was one late submission by one agency that will not proceed to SRC and TRC stage and one draft project submission on GMS by one agency. All the project submission was received by 24 November 2021. The agencies who submitted are AA, AKAH, Afghanaid, AABRAR, OCHR, PIN, NAC, IRW, CAHPO, DAARTT, IOM, ADEO, and ME. The total amount of all the proposals is USD 7.9 million and the allocation envelope is USD 7.4 million. The review stage jointly (SRC & TRC) will proceed from tomorrow and end up by the next week.
- The National Cluster Coordination Team encouraged all the partners to collaborate for winterization assistance reporting. It will have a specific point on SRC and TRC review process. The reporting needs by all clusters are very important for the prioritization of the funding allocation and targeting of the beneficiaries to avoid duplication and identify the gaps and highlight the progress.
- The National Cluster Coordination Team updated the last Winterization Response Dashboard as of 31 October 2021.
 - The total 725,000 individuals targeted; and the total 602,400 individuals (80% of the targeted) committed assistance (including funding) by 15 agencies (CWW, HRDA, IRC, IRW, IOM, UNHCR, AABRAR, ADRA, Afghanaid, WAW, WSTA, NRC, CORDAID, CARE, AAH) in different provinces.

- The Cluster could not publish the winterization dashboard of mid-November as many partners did not report winterization progress in ReportHub There are only 8 partners who have created an activity plan and only 4 partners submitted their bi-weekly progress.
- The National Cluster Coordination Team encouraged all the partners to register their winterization projects to the ReportHub and do the bi-weekly reporting. The deadline is 16 to 19 days for Period 1 and 1 to 4 days for Period 2 reporting.
- The National Cluster Coordination Team also appealed all partners on-behalf of the Cluster IM Team to reach out for any technical difficulties for reporting to ReportHub.
- Regarding challenges and questions/comments on winterization assistance, CAHPO/cluster partner raised as the submitted proposals' comments were not feedback by specialized working groups for at least one week for the AHF 1 SA that delay timely submission of the proposals as per the deadline set by the Cluster;
- The Cluster Coordinator also updated that the cluster is going to conduct videography in the next month to capture the ESNFI cluster activities for Kabul, Maidan Wardak, and Kunduz provinces; and also requested that the Cluster will reach out to active partners to document their best practices for future advocacy and highlighting the challenges currently the cluster partners are facing.

4 Presentation by Better Shelter

- David K. Thalen/Better Shelter presented the Better Shelters' mission, geographic coverage, and progress so far of the organization. He highlighted the Relief Housing Unit (RHU) and structure which are modular shelters that last throughout the duration of displacement; specifications of both structure and RHU; key features and performance of RHU. He also highlighted the scope of RHU in terms of cost/weight/volume less than a tent; can be upgraded locally overtime to extend the life span and cultural fit; enables incremental approach through upgrades with local materials to provide lifespan up to 10 years; additional benefits in the program with community involvement; and the prolonged lifespan of the shelter decreases the carbon footprint of the shelter approach. He highlighted the process of RHU and stressed it can be used as a shelter, health facilities, schools, and other communal infrastructure. The organization will provide technical support from start to completion and also provides beyond the technical support as technical workshops on different thematic areas. The organization also claimed its work in terms of predictable performance and efficient implementation, local integration, and adaptability to various applications and climates. He also highlighted some of the selected projects in Afghanistan with UNICEF, UNHCR, AKAH, and AKDN/AKAH/AKHS/AKF.
- The National Cluster Coordination Team requested to all partners reach out to the coordination team who would like to highlight or present the shelter activities related to best practices

[Presentation of Better Shelter](#)

5 AOBs

- The frequency of the ESNFI Cluster meeting was raised by partners, where the National Cluster Coordination Team and partners decided to continue on a monthly basis and also to continue the ad-hoc meeting too.
- The Regional Coordinator/CHR raised two issues viz. 1) the local authorities are requesting the operational partners to share the detailed list of beneficiaries (metadata) and 2) local authorities are requesting IR to change the heating assistance modality from LPG to local available heating materials. The Cluster Coordinator suggested dealing at the local level about sharing the list of beneficiaries, and meeting with the partner at the regional level to find a way forward.
- Ari/REACH updated the Rapid Assessment Mechanism (RAM) as the ongoing first round of rapid assessment mechanism, refresher training for partners has been completed in 7 regions out of 8 regions; and the data collection will be held this week.
- Abdul Wasay Hewadmal/AWAAZ highlighted the benefits of feedback mechanism regarding humanitarian support and assistance; requesting all the ESNFI cluster partners to share their project details related to the winterization assistance that info will be helpful to guide the vulnerable populations in need.
- ADEO raised the AHF 1 SA proposal submission deadline. The Cluster Coordinator mentioned that the Cluster has set the deadline based on the activity type and urgency of the winterization needs across the country to be covered during the cold.
- The National Cluster Coordination Team updated that the next cluster meeting will be held on before 23 December 2021 as some of the colleagues might be on leave or out of the country.

ESNFI Cluster Coordination

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