

*Cumulative reporting of cluster achievements January – June 2015*

**1. Situation Overview:**

Overall, the increased number of conflict affected populations have exceeded the original planning figures and projections may need to be adjusted to reflect the current humanitarian situation. Most of the natural affected vulnerable people has been assisted during the period with emergency shelters and NFIs. Unfortunately no funds were available to provide more sustainable/durable shelter solutions to various cases where people completely lost their houses. Besides, funds are also scarce for development partners (including MoRRD) which impede their complementarity to shelter relief interventions. Access to assess and assist affected population is the major concern in cases of conflict induced displacement and verification of reported caseloads remains a major concern for most Cluster's partners. This include the pending estimated caseload of population affected by 2014's floods in the Northern Region. There have been lot of progress in standardization of assessment tools and sharing information across databases. Still, the development of adequate tools to access information in real-time for planning, monitoring and evaluation interventions is a pursued target that may need additional funding support. Following the information provided by the emergency working group, it's estimated that the severity of seasonal natural disasters in the incoming spring and next winter will be lesser of previous years. In any case, the most vulnerable displaced population will require timely winterization support that should be properly addressed as from now. Although having three main active subclusters (NR, WR and ER), the response capacities are not sufficient vis-à-vis the current situation. The focus for the second half of 2015 is to build the capacities of the regional ESNFIs sub-clusters, to encourage decentralized responses and to fine tune coordination mechanisms. This will be facilitated by the already developed cluster Technical Standards and the active participation of the TWG and SAG.

**2. Strategic Planning and Budget Revisions:**

The Cluster developed its Strategy in March-April 2015 to align its objectives with the SRP 2015. As a part of this process, the cluster partners collaborate to develop a menu of priority activities that were later analyzed and assigned an average cost to facilitate standardization and planning. Besides, the ESNFI cluster has been very active to update the stocks of NFIs and providing updated information on contingency planning figures. The support of OCHA field offices in this regard has been fundamental. Additionally, the Cluster partners provided their inputs in a consolidated matrix that will be the base for the transitional process to develop the SRP 2016. Because of the non projectized nature of the SRP 2015, there has been difficulties from various partners to determine the exact amount of funds received to assist people of concern from larger projects. This is why, the Cluster recommendation is to maintain the original budget as the most accurate estimation based on the HNO supporting process.

**3. Summarize achievements and progress towards meeting planned results against cluster indicators:**

The SRP 2015 displacement planning figures have been exceeded by a huge increase o conflict affected populations. Overall, the ESNFI Cluster partners have been struggling to respond to the caseload increase with limited resources. As the Cluster's Technical Standard was developed in March-April 2015, the reporting of population assisted figures has been plagued by a non-harmonized approach that included HH that has been assisted various times by incomplete NFIs kits or being double counted as receiving both NFIs and Emergency Shelter assistance. These issues are to be clarified to understand that the reporting figures under the current scheme would seems to have exceeded the planned caseload while in fact, nearly 90% of the natural disaster caseload received ES and NFIs but assistance has been provided to less than 40% of the IDPs from conflict caseload. Overall, 44,434 beneficiaries received shelter assistance, 161,154 people were provided with various types of NFI support (incomplete packages) and 48,571 beneficiaries were included in cash assistance programs in the reporting period.

**4. Explain any delays and describe any particular programming constraints and challenges:**

In general, the challenges and constraints from Q1 period remain valid:

- Serious challenges in identifying vulnerable families as a result of influence of the government/ local authorities in beneficiary selection process. More than 50% of petitions for emergency assistance have been rejected by the joint assessment team of IDP taskforce as the petitions were found either repetitions or fake cases. Some IDP families present their petition a couple of month after their displacement, since they didn't know the emergency relief delivery system in place
- Difficulties in accessing to conflict induced IDPs in remote locations due to security constraints and its subsequent impact on relief assistance delivery. Similar restrictions apply to movements of beneficiaries from the centers of the

districts to their places of origin. Insecurity caused delays in assessments and distributions of relief items to the families affected or displaced by natural disaster events, even several flood caseloads are remained unverified due to inaccessibility of the affected locations in Faryab province. In addition insecurity has been an obstacle for implementation of shelters as well. Engineers and technical staff couldn't be able to provide support to beneficiaries and monitor and evaluate shelter plans. This affected the quality of construction and ultimately ended in some of the shelters being damaged due to poor technical construction skills.

- Road closures due to natural disasters (i.e. the road closed in Panjsher and Badakhshan provinces resulted in delayed assessments and response).
- Government couldn't provide on time air facilities (helicopter) to deliver the relief items from center of Badakhshan to the affected districts.
- Warehousing of NFIs has been problematic in some provinces as the government can't provide the facility free of charge and there are many problems with securing warehouses and items.
- Variety of local approaches in distribution modalities.
- Blanket distribution to different categories of people in the KIS sites (Kabul Informal Settlements) due to complex community composition. Subsequently, this caseload is being included in this reporting template as assistance to conflict induced IDPs.
- ARCS and ICRC assistance mainly focused in conflict induced IDPs and secondly dealing with natural disaster IDPs.

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#### 5. Provide comment on funding received versus requirements and note any particular resource mobilization challenges:

The conflict induced displacement trend has surpassed the SRP 2015 planned figures and thus, requesting immediate response of overstretched partners. Funds were in most of cases reduced due to internal funding shortages (i.e. UNHCR) and this affected mostly the shelter component of the Cluster's plan. There is a clear disconnection between FTS and the funds received by cluster partners. Most of them are not reporting or have difficulties to disaggregate the portion allocated to ESNFI of larger programs. The current funds reported by four partners totalized less than 10% of the planned Cluster budget. Thus, there is still a big gap of fund and a more focused advocacy is needed to address the situation.

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#### 6. Highlight any assessments undertaken during the reporting period - what were the top line key findings and what implications do they have if any (also please indicate assessments planned for the next quarter):

In general, the RAF platform has been widely used for natural disaster caseload and is providing a timely reference on assistance provided vs assisted populations. On this regard, RAF has been fine-tuned and a training for users and relevant stakeholders is on the way. There is still pending to assess the 2014's flood affected population in NR due to accessibility and lack of resources. Access is being the major constraint in conflict induced displacement as well as in natural disaster affected areas. This has hampered the possibility of having independent verification and determining vulnerabilities. In most of the cases, IDPs in Government controlled areas cannot be assisted without being perceived as associated with GIROA, therefore, cluster partners are maintaining operational distance to ensure Staff safety and neutrality. Generally, CPs already working in conflict contaminated areas, are using their own operational networks and standing partnerships with CBOs and Local society groups. The main findings are related to the magnitude of conflict induced displacement. The present figures of 21,500 newly displaced families (139,000 people) in the first six months of 2015 already represents an increase of more than 40% on the same period in 2014. If the trend would maintain, UNHCR estimates that by the end of the year the newly conflict displaced population may exceed 324,000 (48,500 families). This represents a serious challenge in terms of operational response as funds have been not available to respond to the planned SRP 2015 caseload. The immediate needs of conflict IDPs are of emergency shelter (including tents) and family NFIs packages. As the nature of the displacement is in most cases short, it's necessary to ensure quick relief response by repositioning of ESNFI stocks or ensuring the immediate provision of the equivalent cash assistance. The latter being the most efficient approach to help families in distress.

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#### 7. Protection mainstreaming update:

In coordination with the Protection Cluster, sessions on mainstreaming protection issues were held and guidelines were attached to current Cluster's Technical Standards (and loaded in the Cluster's dedicated website). Besides, the national cluster ensured the regional dissemination of protection and AGE guidelines. Cluster Partners were encouraged to include protection indicators and start reporting against them. It's expected that results will be noticed by Q3 period.