

**NFI Working Group**

**Asia-Pacific Best Practices Workshop**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

**15-16<sup>th</sup> May 2018**



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## Executive Summary

According to Global Shelter Cluster statistics, the majority of people with shelter needs are assisted with Non-Food Items (NFIs). To give this important element of response due attention, the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) created the NFI practices working group in 2016 with the main objectives:

- **Better capture, review and share** existing tools and implementation practices.
- Identify what guidance/resources/tools country-level clusters and practitioners might need to be **better equipped** in dealing with NFIs and meeting household needs of affected populations.

To start collecting best practices a workshop was held in Nairobi in December 2016. The workshop also served to identify needs for resources, brought up recommendations for support from global level and prioritized a number of topics to be explored further. Given the location (Nairobi), the workshop had a very strong focus on the African region and conflict related responses thereby eliciting the recommendation to collect inputs from the Asia-Pacific context, where the focus is much more on natural disaster response. The topics of interest and recommendations of the Nairobi workshop were used to inform the agenda of the Workshop in Bangkok. The main conclusions and **recommendations** from the Bangkok workshop were:

- Maintain and scale up dedicated capacity to **continue collecting, reviewing and disseminating NFI resources**
- Invest more in **dissemination of existing guidance and good practices** rather than producing new guidelines
- Explore effective ways to disseminate good practices, through workshops, practical trainings, webinars and e-learning
- Support and promote development of **context specific NFI guidance at country cluster level**
- Harmonisation and tools, formats, guidance etc. as well as advocate towards partner agencies and donors for **better understanding of technical assistance**
- Focus on **developing and promoting socio-technical assistance (STA) capacities**, guidelines, and best practices
- Identify Cluster partners to champion such issues as **NFI score cards, post distribution monitoring**, and **socio-technical assistance**

The main topics of interest which would need further piloting, research, and exploration are:

- Socio-technical assistance
- Needs assessment and targeting/Score cards
- Cash as modality for NFIs
- Contextualisation
- Longer term impact, environmental considerations

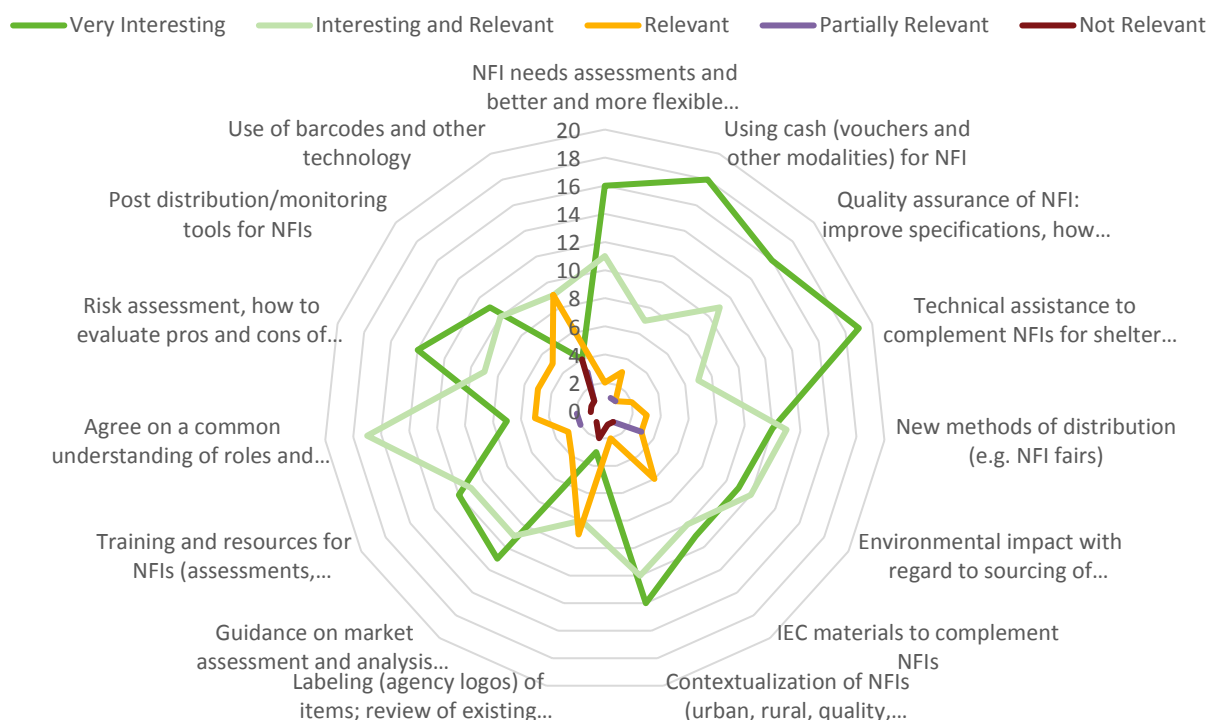
Following the publication of this report, the NFI Working Group will analyze the results of the workshops held in Nairobi in 2016 together with the findings of the workshop in Bangkok 2018. This analysis will inform the revision of the working group's deliverables and work plan to ensure that NFIs practices receive adequate attention.

## Workshop Proceedings

### Methodology for Selection of themes for Pre-Registration Survey

Before setting the dates for the workshop, an online survey was launched to confirm commitment to participate in such a workshop and identify priority topics of interest to be discussed. Forty-five (45) participants replied to express their interest in the Asia-Pacific based workshop, and highlight the topics that they considered most interesting and relevant. The results of the survey are displayed below:

### Relevance of Topics by Number of Votes



As a result, the workshop was designed around the following main themes:

- Needs Assessment and Targeting
- Contextualization of NFIs
- Modalities for NFI Distribution
- Technical Assistance
- Introduction to Procurement, Quality Control, and Environmental Impact

Finally, twenty-three (23) participants confirmed their participation. The fact that all participants had their own agencies' funding support shows a high level of commitment and interest to the topic.

### Methodology for Facilitation: Use of Poll Everywhere

With twenty-three (23) participants in the workshop and two (2) facilitators, the organizers of the workshop used the computer program called [Poll Everywhere](#). This interactive polling software encouraged all participants to voice their views on the discussions held throughout the workshop. Throughout this report, the results of the major polls will be used as illustrations to summarize the major conclusions of the workshop. Nevertheless, they **should not be considered to be statistically representative of the entire Global Shelter Cluster Non-Food Items Best Practices Working Group**.

The polls enabled the workshop participants to individually express their opinion and to better discuss and come to consensus on recommendations for the NFI Working Group.

### Introduction

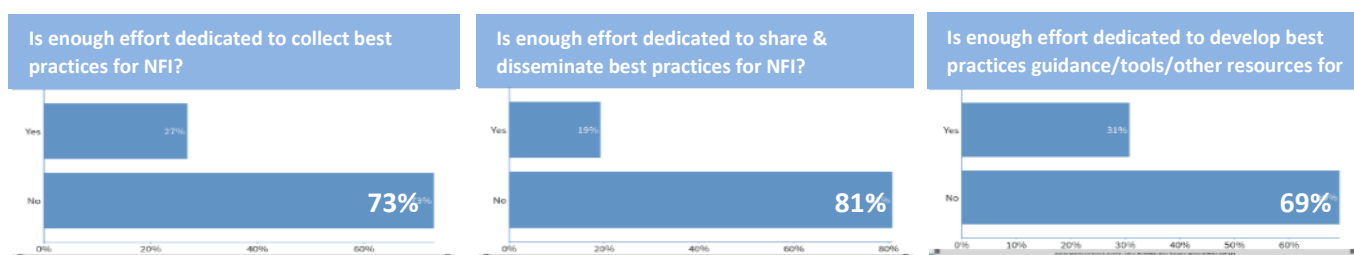
Introduction to the workshop began with reflecting on the different definitions agencies have for NFIs and further how they are defined in guidance such as the SPHERE standards and the manual “Selecting NFIs for Shelter”.<sup>1</sup> Most definitions for NFIs emphasize the **priority to first focus on life-saving items** and then look at providing materials and items that help sustain human dignity, family and community life, as well as enable affected populations to recover from the impact of disaster.

The significance of NFIs for most humanitarian interventions was emphasized, highlighting the key objectives to achieve through NFI:

- **Adequacy** of NFIs as well as the distribution modalities to meet the needs of the beneficiaries (what type of items, when, for whom and how to best to reach the beneficiaries).
- **Equity** of assistance to beneficiaries receiving shelter and household NFIs (quantity, type and quality of items, targeting).
- **Quality** of NFI to meet the requirements (specifications, quality control, monitoring and evaluation) so that funds invested serve the purpose to adequately address beneficiaries’ needs.

Participants reviewed the recommendations and topics of interest identified in the Nairobi workshop and replied to several preliminary questions to measure their views on the status of collection of best practices and NFI-related guidelines and resources.

The **need to continue efforts to collect and disseminate best practices** as well as to develop best practices resources was clearly confirmed.



Interestingly, the lack of investment for dissemination was reflected as a primary shortcoming, while collecting best practices and producing guidance seem to receive a bit more attention, though these efforts were far from satisfactory.

Action Point	Follow up
Dedicate more efforts to collect, share and disseminate best practices as well as develop resources to NFI practices	NFI WG leads with support from Cluster partners

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/Selecting%20NFIs%20for%20Shelter%202009.pdf>



### NFI distribution simulation exercise

To warm up to the realities and challenges of NFI practices, participants simulated an NFI distribution. Participants were divided into two teams: those distributing NFIs and beneficiaries.



The simulation provided a good interactive activity to reflect on the realities one encounters when implementing non-food items distributions and what can go wrong if there is not a good understanding of the needs and situation of beneficiaries. Following this simulation exercise, participants came to several main conclusions:

- **Prioritization of beneficiaries**
- The importance of **complaints and feedback mechanisms** and whether we are in reality doing a good job of referring other needs we may notice in distributions
- The importance of doing a **pre-distribution needs assessment** to be aware of specific needs, vulnerabilities, and to **inform a better design of the distribution site**.
- **Cash and Voucher distributions require additional supervision and technical assistance**
- The need to be able to **adjust to reality and unforeseen scenarios** once the distribution starts
- **Risk** of duplication and verification not only at the entrance of the distribution site but also at the exit
- **Communication with beneficiaries**: if things were not explained, beneficiaries would become anxious due to the circumstances of their crisis and other needs they may be encountering
- The importance of **monitoring during and after the distribution**.

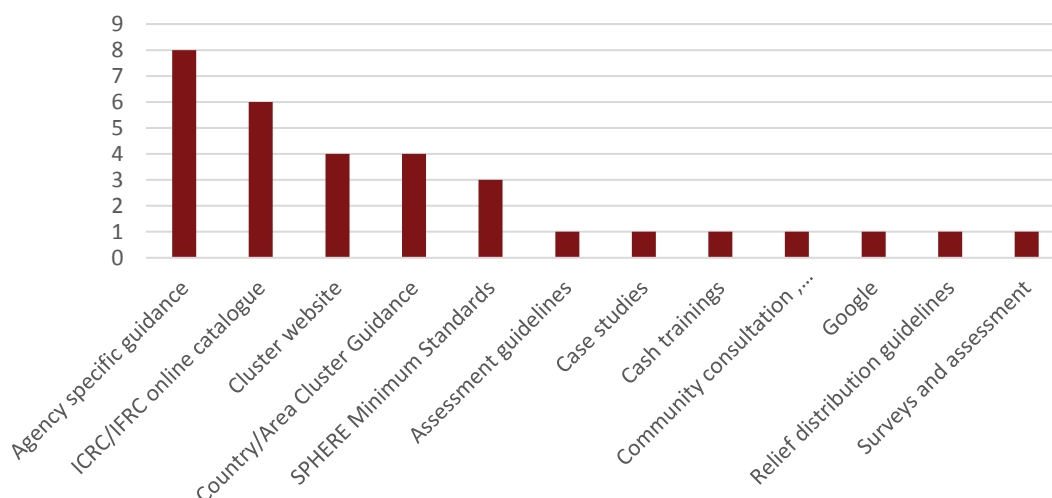
After this discussion, there was a presentation on the new draft guidelines *Guidance to Reduce the Risk of Gender-Based Violence: Distribution of NFI, Shelter Materials and Cash*. In addition to covering best practices for NFI distribution, it will include a fold-out to orient actors of the dos and don'ts when coming across cases of gender-based violence in their distributions. The video presented related with this guidance is available here: <https://www.sheltercluster.org/gbv-shelter-programming-working-group/documents/video-nfi-distributions-shelter>

### Overview of Existing Guidance for NFIs

Participants reflected on existing guidance for NFI differentiating Global Shelter Cluster general guidance (Selecting NFIs for Shelter), agency specific guidance (UNHCR, MSF, OXFAM, and IOM), item specific guidance (shelter kit) and context specific guidance produced by country clusters.

Interestingly, the manual "Selecting NFIs for Shelter" was not well known and used amongst participants. Participants preferred to consult their agencies' guidelines, the ICRC/IFRC online catalogue, the Cluster website, or to refer to their respective Country Cluster.

### What other guidance, tools, resources have you used to learn more about NFI practices?



Participants were asked to reflect on what kind of support would be most useful for them to improve their knowledge of NFI programming. Participants suggested complementing these resources with **online/practical training**, advocacy and awareness, case studies, and other ideas such as remote tech support, peer exchange, and monitoring in order to improve learning, planning, and implementing NFI distributions. Further, there was also a request to improve the focus on NFIs at global level.

### What other kind of support would be useful to help improve how we learn about/plan/implement NFI interventions?

Improved focus at global level  
 Communicating-with-communities  
 In-country-reviews  
**Advocacy and Awareness**  
**Online/Practical-training**  
 Real time review by involving beneficiary  
**Community-of-practice** **Case studies**  
 Do's and Donts during distribution-checklist  
 Effective Monitoring    Peer exchange    Remote tech support

Action Point	Follow up
Explore what type of country level guidance can usefully be produced in advance. Connect with Promoting Safer Building Practices WG which is working on country profiles for local building cultures relevant for shelter.	NFI WG leads and NFI WG participants

Explore how to support Country Clusters in the process of producing contextual guidance for NFIs, including specifications for local procurement.	NFI WG leads and NFI WG participants;
Liaise with procurement departments of the larger agencies to get input on how to draft good specifications for local procurement.	NFI WG leads and heads of procurement units
Produce a “catalogue” or collection of good IEC materials in editable format to facilitate the production of new materials in other contexts	NFI WG leads with Global IM focal points and further expertise (e.g. graphic designer) as required

### Needs Assessment and Targeting

Score cards were presented at the last NFI Working Group in Nairobi as one methodology for assessing NFI needs. The Shelter Cluster has so far collected score card practices from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Nepal, and now Afghanistan. Across all these contexts, there has not yet been a standardization of the score card methodology and approach. Several observations and recommendations for NFI Score Cards are:

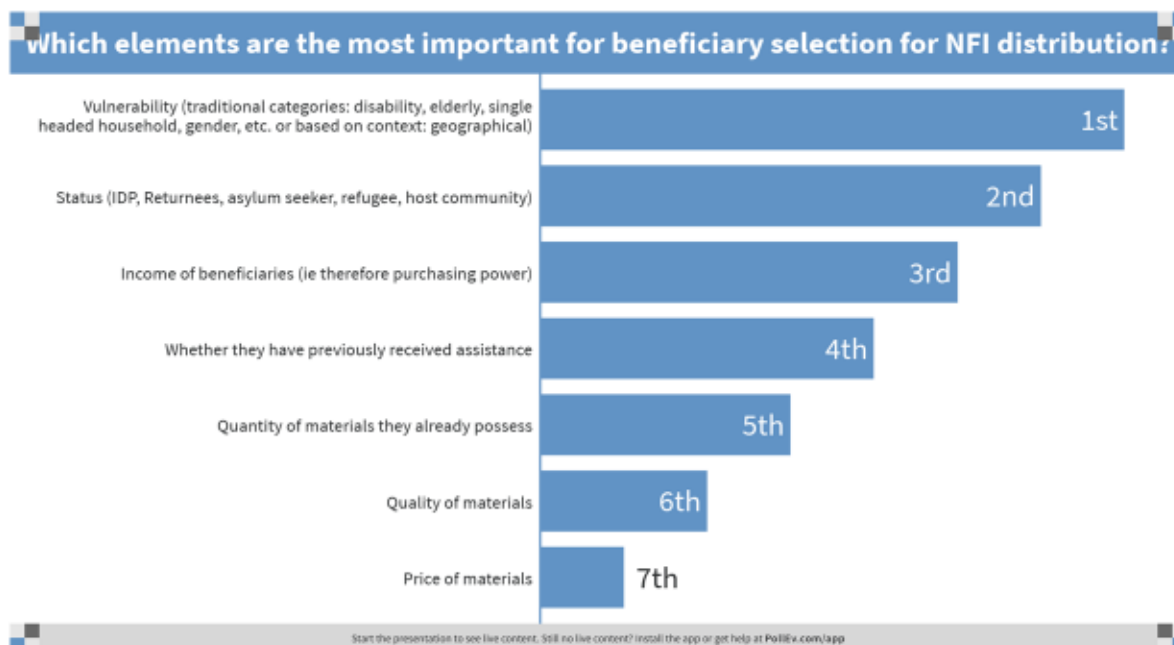
- **Clarification on sampling strategies** for different sub-groups of the population (returnees, host, internally displaced)
- Ensuring **accountability to affected population** and that there is time for community consultations in the design of the score card
- How to **reduce subjectivity error** when assigning a score for NFIs.
- Understanding **vulnerability according to the context**.

Participants to the workshop mentioned that they had made use of score cards in the Philippines, Sudan, Nepal, and in the Turkey-Syria Cross Border Operations. To further follow up on the main findings from the score card approach, the working group leads will follow up with those Cluster operations and those practitioners who mentioned they had used the tool. On the issue of whether the NFI Working Group should create updated standards on NFI Score Cards and Needs Assessments, seventy-seven per cent (77%) of the participants agreed that there should be such standards. Those who didn't agree were in favor of more contextualized guidance.

The facilitator updated participants about the launch of a new Global Shelter Cluster working group, aiming to create a standardized Shelter and NFI vulnerability score similar to that used by the Food Security Cluster's Integrated Phase Classification and FEWSNET. More information on this new working group is available here: <https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group-shelter-vulnerability-classification/documents/gsc-activity-proposal-shelter>

Throughout the presentations the common theme of **how best to identify vulnerability and need** came up several times. For example, it was mentioned that prior to conducting a winterization assessment in Nepal, the assumption was that those living at higher altitudes would be most vulnerable. Nevertheless, the assessment revealed that those living in higher altitude had the resilience of migrating to lower altitudes as a preparedness strategy, therefore those at mid-altitudes were more vulnerable. In Afghanistan, the traditional vulnerability category of elderly person was in reality less vulnerable due to the social protection system which supported elderly head of households. Partners reflected on the different aspects of beneficiary selection that were mentioned and ranked them in order of importance and order of consideration for selection of beneficiaries:





It was maintained that **vulnerability and displacement status** according to the context should be the more important factors for beneficiary selection. Some participants expressed their surprise that quality materials should have had a higher ranking, as there needs to be more emphasis on providing inputs that improve the situation of target beneficiaries.

Discussion was held on how Score Cards could improve preparedness in the response. Respondents mentioned:

- **Understanding vulnerabilities in the context** in which you are conducting preparedness and to pre-identify possible target groups
- Identification of **trends**
- **Prediction of contextually appropriate and quality items** to be delivered in emergency
- **Inform stockpiling**
- Preparing **framework contracts** for suppliers
- Informing **longer-term solutions** for reoccurring or chronic situations
- Serve as **baseline data for disaster risk management**

The presentations shared for the workshop are the following:

[Introduction Presentation](#)

[Afghanistan Vulnerability Score Card for Winterization](#)

[Afghanistan Vulnerability Score Card Guidance](#)

[Nepal Winterization Survey](#)

Action Point	Follow up
Follow up on best practices identified in the Philippines, Sudan, Nepal, Turkey Cross Border	NFI WG leads to publish here: <a href="https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group-nfi-practices/library/needs-assessment-and-targeting">https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group-nfi-practices/library/needs-assessment-and-targeting</a>

Encourage Synergies with newly created Vulnerability Determination WG	NFI WG Leads with Vulnerability Determination WG Leads: <a href="https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group-shelter-vulnerability-classification/documents/gsc-activity-proposal-shelter">https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group-shelter-vulnerability-classification/documents/gsc-activity-proposal-shelter</a>
Explore possibility of piloting score cards in preparedness	NFI WG leads with Country Clusters during winterization or other relevant contingency planning

### Contextualization of NFIs

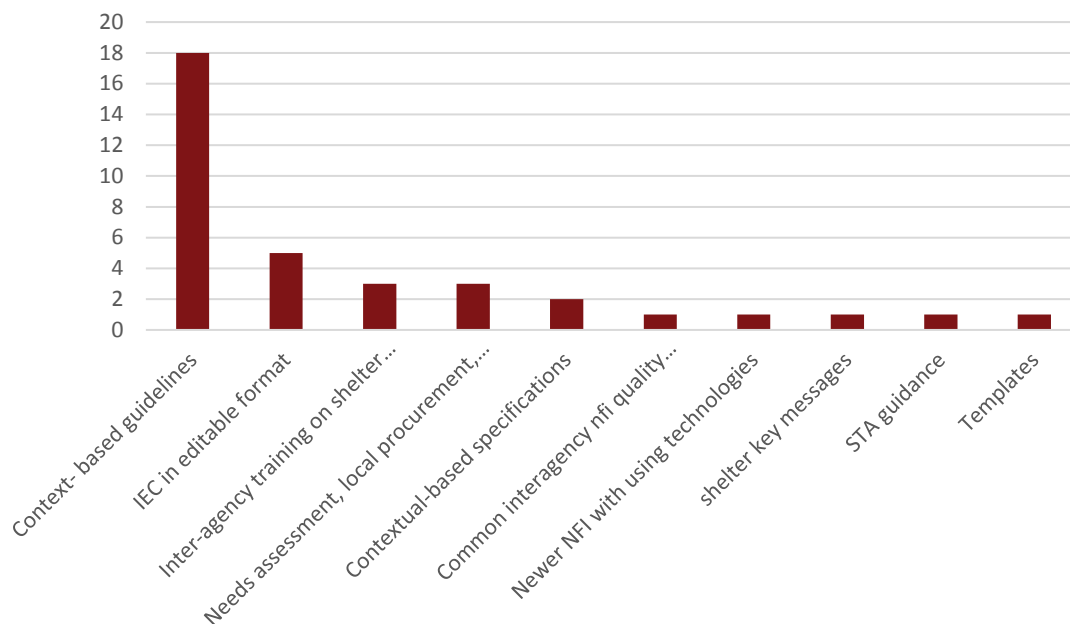
The introduction summarized the main definitions for NFIs to recall the priority to focus **on life saving items first** and then look at providing materials and items that help sustain human dignity, family and community life, as well as enable affected populations to recover from the impact of disasters. **Protection from climate and weather conditions**, particularly cold (winterization) was clearly identified as a top priority for contextualization of NFIs. Furthermore, contextualization by **adopting local shelter typologies**, materials and techniques with some refinements and improvements was demonstrated by an example of a context specific shelter kit. It was understood that context specific NFI should be preferred, if feasible. The main deciding factors to discern feasibility would be:

- **Market assessment** to confirm availability of materials in local markets and vendor capacity, to promote local procurement
- **Cost efficiency and speed of procurement** (compare speed, quality and cost of sourcing stockpiled items, local procurement and international procurement )
- Different needs in **urban or rural environments**
- **Environmental impact** of items (especially when considering local materials, not to contribute to depletion of natural resources)

Although participants demonstrated awareness and experience in developing contextualized kits, there seemed to be some doubt, whether the choices made were based on best knowledge and assessment findings or rather directed by the constraints of the context.

When asked what kind of resources would be required to address questions on NFI practices, a large majority mentioned **context-based guidelines**, as most useful to address their questions on NFI practices. Generally, there was a high appreciation of Country Clusters' efforts to develop common NFI packages and related specifications. Content of NFI kits and specifications of items was also recommended. It was recommended that these kits and specifications should be developed in a **participatory process** (Shelter Cluster partners) and approved by government in advance for countries with frequent recurrence of disasters. Other feedback included -specific best practices/experiences for assessment/targeting, more adequate distribution modalities, appropriate IEC materials, and socio-technical-assistance. Further suggestions to improve NFI practices were to have common quick education trainings on NFI distributions and related issues, as well as context specific guidelines for needs assessments, local procurement (how to develop good specifications), and design of appropriate shelter solutions and support packages.

### What kind of resource would you wish exists to address your questions about NFI practices ?



The presentations on Contextualization can be found here:

[Introduction to Contextualization](#)

[Contextualization of NFIs in Bangladesh](#)

[Habitat for Humanity's Guidelines on Pathways to Permanence](#)

[Challenges for NFIs and Shelter in Bangladesh](#)

Action Point	Follow up
Compile or develop existing context specific guidance on common items and kits (content and specifications) as well as context-specific best practices/experiences for assessment/targeting, distribution modalities	NFI WG leads to link with Promoting Safer Building practices WG regarding country profiles
Explore what type of country level guidance can usefully be produced in advance and how to support Country Clusters in the process of producing better contextual guidance for NFIs, including specifications for local procurement	NFI WG leads to liaise with Country Clusters
Compile a "catalogue" or collection of appropriate IEC materials in editable format to facilitate the production of new materials in other contexts	NFI WG leads, technical focal points, IMs, partner agencies
Develop context specific training modules for NFI	NFI WG leads to liaise with interested partners
Liaise with procurement departments of the larger agencies to get input on how to draft good specifications for local procurement.	NFI WG leads and heads of procurement units

### Modalities for NFI Distribution

The session began with a recap of the different modalities to use for Shelter and NFI programming as summarized in the ECHO Shelter and Settlements Guidelines overview:



- **Technical Support:** Expertise, Guidance and Standards, Capacity building and training
- **Financial Support:** Multipurpose Cash Transfers, Unrestricted and conditional Cash for Work, Vouchers, Restricted and Conditional Cash for Rent, Cash for hosting community/housing, Cash for materials/labour/support, and market interventions
- **Material Support:** General Support Items, Shelter NFIs, and Construction Materials
- **Contracted Works:** Community Works, Contractors, Direct Labour, Self-help

Following the presentations, participants discussed as to whether there were NFIs which should by default be delivered through the same modality. There was consensus that emergency items such as tarpaulin and ropes should be distributed **in-kind**, given that markets would not yet be functional and setting up cash distribution mechanisms is often not feasible during emergency. Other essential household items such as fuel, blankets, and hygiene kits are also considered as items for emergency distributions.

In light of the recent Shelter and WASH Cluster position paper on cash and markets and their implications on the sector, participants also weighed in on the topic of **which specific NFI markets may need additional exploration in the future**. The majority of participants requested more elaborated market assessment tools for construction materials.<sup>2</sup>

**Which elements of NFI markets require more up-to-date market assessment tools?**

Natural-resources  
Labour Quality-assessment All None  
Timber/framing-materials Utilities Framing-materials  
Clothes Quantity-and-lead-time-by-using-EMMA-tools  
**Construction-materials**  
Technical-capacity-for-vendors-to-be-agents-of-TA  
Tarpaulin Environmental-impacts  
Capacity-to supply Tents  
Urban response Tools

As a lot of emergency shelter materials are distributed in-kind, participants thought there should be more tools to understand what kind of impact such influx of materials has on local markets. Labour and environmental impacts were also among the top priorities as needing market tools to complement NFI distributions. An interesting discussion evolved around the idea as to whether vendors could become providers of technical advice to beneficiaries who are using cash or vouchers at their stores. Several participants expressed that all shelter-related NFI items would require assessment tools, while some thought that there was no need for up-to-date market tools.

<sup>2</sup> (including deeper analysis of production and supply chains, especially with an eye to environmental impact)

The presentations on modalities are available here:

[Introduction to Modalities](#)

[Using Cash and Vouchers and other Modalities in Nepal](#)

[Nepal Markets and Modalities](#)

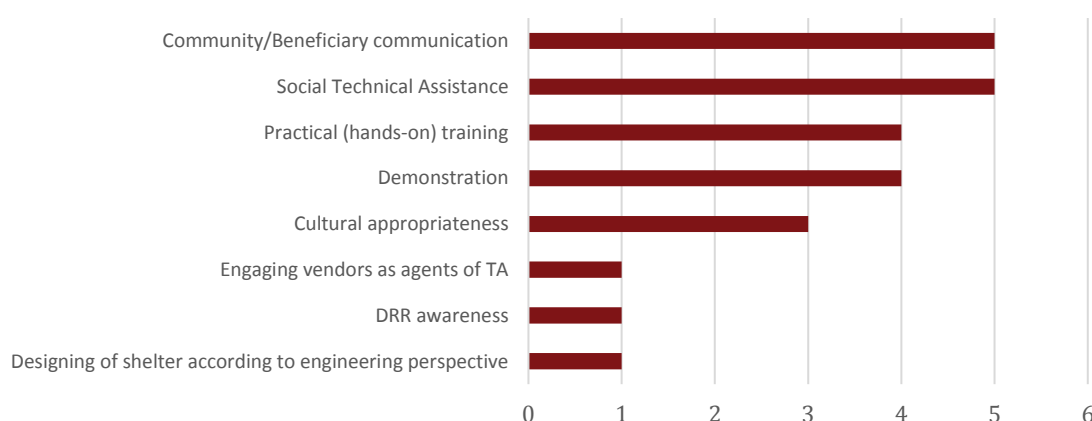
[NFI and Cash for Returnees from Pakistan in Afghanistan](#)

Action Point	Follow up
Centralize Shelter Cluster best practices on modalities for NFI on the Shelter Cluster NFI Working Group webpage.	NFI WG leads to publish here: <a href="https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group-nfi-practices/library/modalities-nfi-distribution">https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group-nfi-practices/library/modalities-nfi-distribution</a>
Share the discussion on recommendations for market assessment tools with Global Shelter Cluster Cash Working Group	NFI WG leads with GSC WG lead: Tool development and discussions on going with GSC CWG

### Technical Assistance

Technical assistance focused on the importance of providing guidance for items distributed to cover shelter needs. While the use of household items<sup>3</sup> is mostly self-explanatory,<sup>4</sup> this is not generally true for shelter items and construction materials. Lack of technical support for the use of these materials can result in inadequate or even hazardous shelters. It was emphasized that technical assistance needs to be delivered with **appropriate means of communications** in order to reach the targeted beneficiaries. Such means include for example community orientation and training sessions<sup>5</sup> with community mobilizers, house to house visits, and regular support to site supervision. Participants came to consensus on what they considered to be the most important elements of technical assistance:

#### Which element of technical assistance is most important?



Despite this perspective, these areas seemed to be also the ones where the workshop participants had the most limited experience:

- **Community/beneficiary communication**
- **Socio-Technical-Assistance (which emphasizes a strong communication component).**

<sup>3</sup> such as blankets or kitchen sets

<sup>4</sup> not for all items though, for example stoves, solar lamps, or water purification systems might need extra explanation

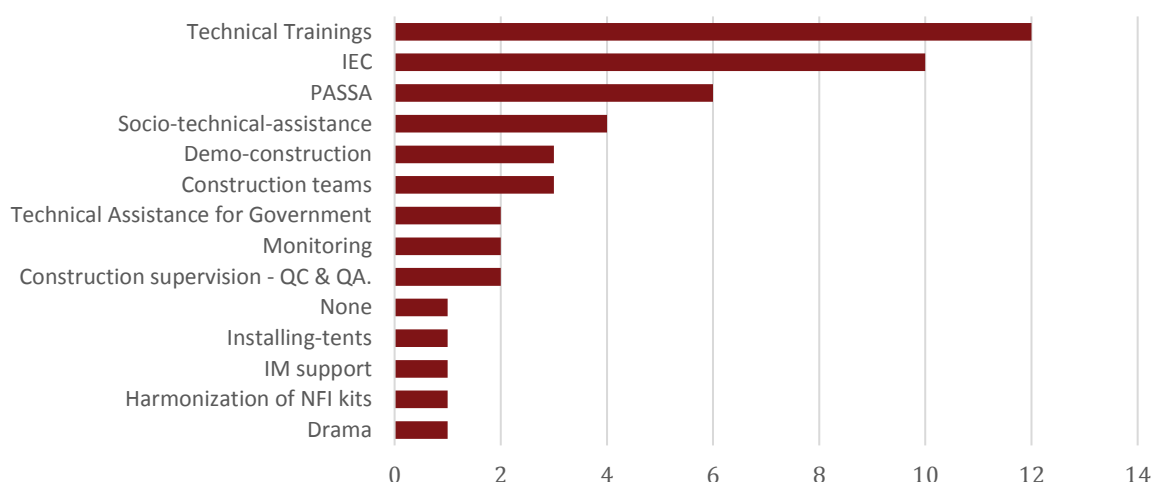
<sup>5</sup> not only for the skilled labourers



When participants reflected on their experience with technical assistance, technical trainings and IEC materials ranked highest followed by PASSA (Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness) and socio-technical assistance.

Experience with practical hands on training seems to match the importance it is given, whereas construction of demonstration/model shelters seems to be less practiced despite the fact that its importance is ranked highly. Considerations of cultural appropriateness did not rank as highly as would be expected due to the perspectives collected in previous polls about the need for contextualization.

#### What kind of technical assistance have you had experience with?



Given socio-technical-assistance was a new concept for most participants, they were asked to brainstorm about the difference between sociotechnical assistance and technical assistance.

#### What is Technical Assistance for you?



#### What is Socio-Technical Assistance for you?



General consensus confirmed the need to focus more attention on development of “Socio-Technical-Assistance” which includes a strong and longer term communication and community involvement.

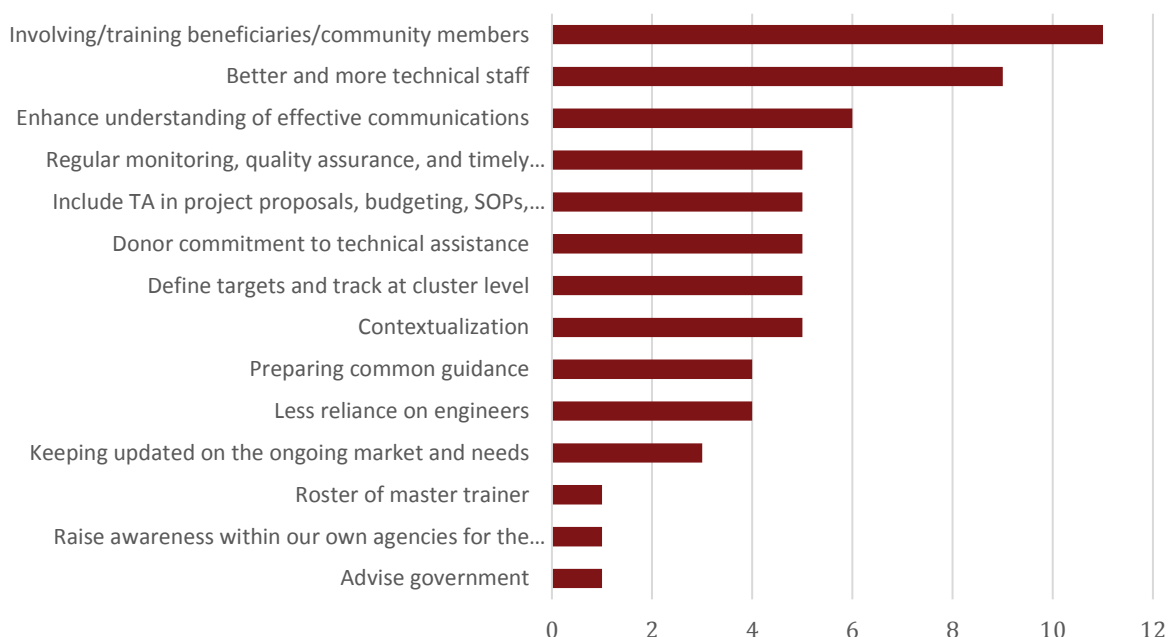
When participants reflected on the main challenges for providing technical assistance, restrictive government policies and/or lack of clear guidance were mentioned as the main factor hindering delivery of appropriate technical assistance. Other equally important factors were accessibility to remote areas as well as time constraints. **Lack of technical expertise and awareness** of the importance of technical assistance on decision level within agencies was also mentioned.

### What are the main challenges that prevent us from providing technical assistance for Shelter NFIs?



To address these challenges, participants reflected on recommendations for how to improve the delivery of technical assistance:

### How can we improve the delivery of technical assistance for Shelter NFIs?



The proposals for improving the delivery of TA do not directly target the most challenging factors (like government policies) but rather address the elements considered most important. The strongest emphasis is on enhanced **beneficiary involvement** as well as **effective communications**.

**Capacity building of shelter experts and staff** should focus on community/beneficiary communication and STA. Practical trainings and demo-construction should be further promoted with emphasis on cultural appropriateness and DRR. Defining **clear targets** and approaches for delivery of TA/STA appropriate to the context on country cluster level, **regular monitoring to provide quality assurance**, understanding of longer term impact, advocacy towards agencies to consistently include STA, regular monitoring, and advocacy towards donors to include STA as a mandatory aspect of NFI proposals were also recommendations.

The presentations on Technical Assistance can be found here:

## [Introduction to Technical Assistance](#)

## [Technical Assistance to Complement NFIs for Shelter](#)

## [Measuring Socio-Technical Assistance in Nepal](#)

Action Point	Follow up
Work to improve beneficiary involvement and communications with regard to technical assistance	Cluster partners to investigate and pilot socio-technical-assistance (STA) approaches
Develop trainings on TA/STA	NFI WG leads to liaise with cluster partner's and identify resources for development of trainings
Invest in recruiting and training experts as well as field staff on TA/STA	Cluster partners
Define context specific targets and approaches for STA on Country Cluster level	Country Cluster Technical Coordinators with support from GSC
Include STA in project proposals and budgeting, including the monitoring	Cluster partners
Advocacy to donors and agencies to commit to STA	GSC team

## Procurement, Quality Control, and Environmental Impact

Discussion reflected that different types of specifications are needed for local or international procurement. For international procurement of such as plastic sheeting, detailed and technical specifications are needed that require a high level of expertise to develop. This is particularly true for construction materials<sup>6</sup> where minimal differences can have high impact on quality (performance, durability). ICRC and UNHCR regularly provide quality control trainings at their testing facilities in order to enhance the development of specifications. More information on possibilities for other agencies to use those facilities or to attend **quality control trainings** was requested.

For local procurement, a **good market assessment** is key. An overview of existing market assessment resources was provided in the presentation. Though as pointed out in the discussions about assessments, there are still **quite a few NFIs that require the development of market assessment tools to really understand the features of the related markets**.

Regarding specifications, the best option for local procurement generally is to identify a sample that meets the requirements and asked vendors to comply with the sample. However, the quality control in this case will be rather limited to visual inspection and measurements. Any further testing of performance, durability or other quality criteria, may be limited in field locations due to lack of resources and access to testing centres.

IOM presented their common pipeline for upgrade shelter kits and household tool kits that have been developed by the Shelter Sector in response to the Rohingya operations in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

The presentation on the "Green Response" consortium led by Australian Red Cross highlighted the importance of considering the environmental impact of responses, especially in relation with shelter materials and their sourcing. Emphasis was on **disaster risk reduction and preparedness** to reduce negative environmental impact as well as more focus on local procurement of local construction materials. Although there was broad consensus that more efforts need to be made to streamline considerations of environmental impact into humanitarian operations, there was also a strong

<sup>6</sup> e.g. CGI sheets, cement, timber, etc

notion, that such considerations should not override the humanitarian imperative to save lives and reduce suffering.

The presentations on procurement, quality control, and environment are found here:

[Introduction](#)

[Common Pipeline](#)

[Greening the Supply Chain](#)

Action Point	Follow up
Explore possibilities for agencies to benefit from ICRC/IFRC quality control facilities and trainings and share information	NFI WG leads
Share more information how to streamline environmental impact considerations in humanitarian responses	"Green response" consortium, NFI WG leads

### Conclusions and Ways Forward

The group emphasized that there was **not a pressing need to develop new guidance** on NFI, but rather that there needed to be **more effort to identify and share best practices, existing guidelines, and lessons learned** from how NFIs were implemented in different contexts. This echoed **the high interest in contextualized NFI guidance** rather than having global guidance. **Sharing good practices for cash and NFIs** was the second most priority when averaging out the prioritization of various participants. E-learning on socio-technical assistance and NFIs were proposed in addition to practical trainings on NFI.

Knowledge management, already highlighted in the Nairobi Workshop as a priority, was also discussed. Proposals were to use the NFI Working Group page and to make individual pages for each topic as well as to improve the archiving of the website, so that people could use this as a reference for better finding NFI practices.

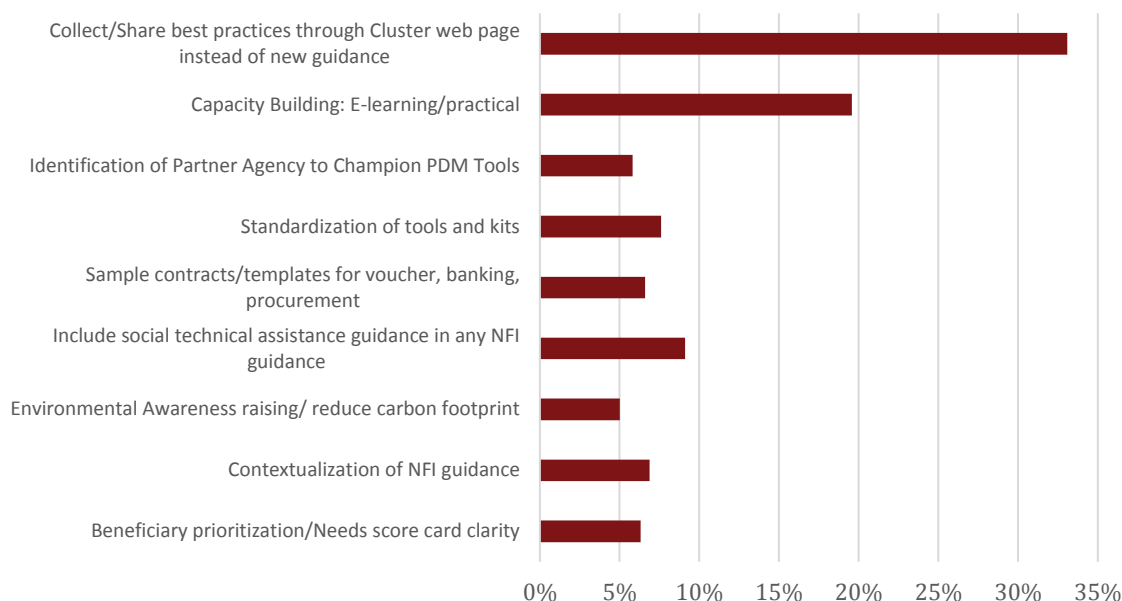
The participants reflected their feedback on a flip board, which is visualized in Annex 1.

The **main three recommendations** coming from the prioritization were:

- ➔ **Emphasis** should be placed on **collecting and sharing best practices**
- ➔ **Invest in capacity building for NFI practices** including all aspects of response (beneficiary consultation, assessment, targeting, STA, procurement and QC, monitoring, environmental impact)etc.
- ➔ **Explore and develop best practices for socio-technical assistance.** Include STA in any NFI guidance.

The other priorities are visualized below:

### Priority next steps for the NFI Working Group



The request to **standardize and harmonize is almost a cross-cutting issue**, pointed out for tools and templates especially with regard to cash transfer programming (CTP), as well as for specifications of most common shelter and household relief items, kits and standards packages, both for international and for local procurement. It was also discussed that members of the NFI Working Group could become champions of several of these topics:

### Which NFI topic can agencies champion?





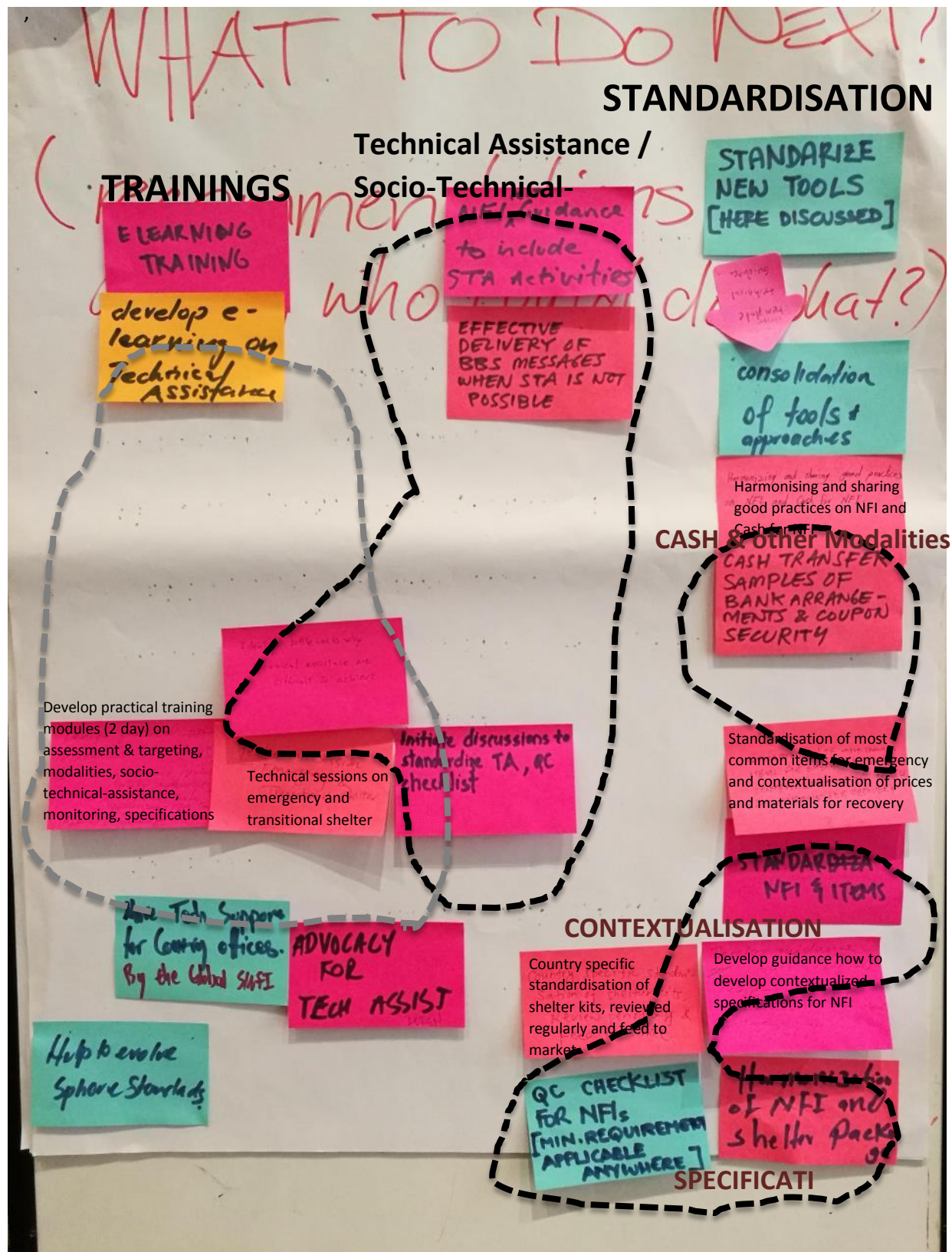


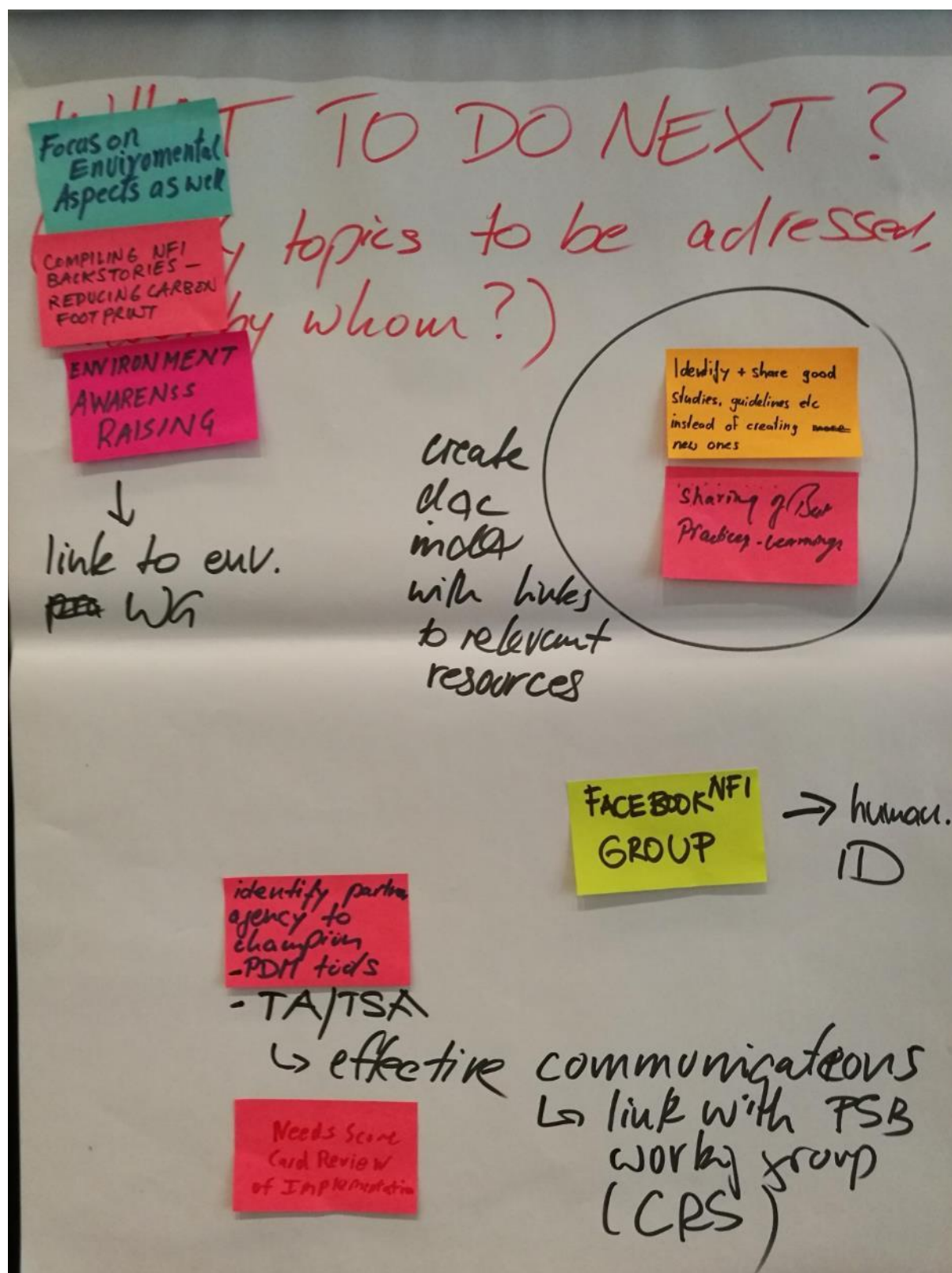
Action Point	Follow up
<b>Compile relevant resources</b> and share document index with links	NFI WG leads
Look to compile <b>environmental awareness guidance</b> relevant for NFI	NFI WG leads, environment WG (greening the supply chain )
Identify partner <b>agencies to “champion” following topics of interest/need:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Needs assessment and targeting (score cards)</li> <li>- PDM and impact assessment</li> <li>- Socio-technical assistance (STA)</li> </ul>	NFI WG leads to liaise with SAG and Cluster partners
Prospect to <b>develop practical training modules</b> on following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment and targeting</li> <li>- Emergency and transitional shelter</li> <li>- Socio-technical assistance (STA)</li> <li>- Needs assessment and targeting (score cards)</li> <li>- Development of contextualized shelter kits including drafting specifications of items for local procurement</li> <li>- Modalities (including cash)</li> <li>- Monitoring and impact assessment</li> </ul>	NFI WG leads with interested partner agencies
Develop e-learning modules on selected topics	NFI WG leads with interested partner agencies
<b>Standardize most common emergency related shelter and household items</b> and packages/kits with specifications to reach minimum standard (including necessary QC checklist)	NFI WG leads to liaise with procurement
<b>Context specific guidance and standardization of kits and items</b> (including specifications)	NFI WG leads to link with PSB WG regarding country profiles
<b>Develop guidance for STA</b>	NFI WG leads with interested partner agencies
<b>Advocacy on global level for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Including Socio-technical-assistance by default in NFI operation projects</li> <li>- Donors to commit to fund STA</li> <li>- Including environmental impact considerations</li> <li>- Agree on common standards for most common shelter and household items and packages/kits</li> </ul>	NFI WG leads and GSC leads



### Annex 1 workshop conclusions:

To conclude the workshop, participants were asked to flag the topics and actions that they feel are most important and useful to improve NFI practices in general and their work in NFI operations with in particular.





## Annex 2 Attendance List

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