

Afghanistan ES/NFI Cluster Meeting

Summary Notes of ES/NFI Meeting – Monday, 31 January 2022

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Venue: Online

PARTICIPANTS

Partners	Representative
International NGOs	AAD, AAH, ACTED, ADRA, BS, CARE, CRAITAS-G, CICA, CWSA, DACAAR, DAI, DRC, IRW, ME, NAC, NCA, NRC, PIN, REACH, RI, SI,
National NGOs	AABRAR, ADEO, CAHPO, HRDA, OCHR, OHW, ORCD
UN organizations	IOM, UNHCR,
National authority	
Donors	ECHO, USAID
Others	AWAAZ

AGENDA

1. Review of the last ES-NFI Cluster meeting action points
2. Updates from the Coordination Team
3. Updates on Winterization Response
4. Rapid assessment Mechanism
5. Update on technical guidance documents
6. AoBs

1 Review of the last ES-NFI Cluster meeting action points

- In Ghazni, an issue was raised during last meeting regarding the roll out of the RAM(Rapid assessment mechanism) pilot. The issue has been resolved thanks sub-national cluster for a discussion undertaken few days ago with DoRR.

2 Updates from the Coordination Team

- Update on winterization response: The NCCT has come up with clear standard on Winterization response. After a follow up with partners, it has been concluded that the key response for winterization should be heating materials, as this has been the case in many locations.
- Update on the ES-NFI technical working group:
- 2 groups have been established
 - Group 1: will focus on technical document
 - Group 2: will focus on Shelter solution
- 12 technical documents have been drafted by the technical group. The documents will be approved in the course of the month.
- Update on discussion regarding the current transfer values which have been fluctuating due to the national currency devaluation. NRC and IOM have come out with an update on the table price, and discussions on the details are planned for this week. The latest version of the table is expected to be released by mid-February.

- The NCCT has set a donors briefings session tentatively on 23 February 2022 to present the current situation on people in need as well as the HRP and the ES-NFI Strategy.
- ES-NFI Cluster monthly meeting has been scheduled on February 28 and National Cluster Coordination team will cover Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) during the meeting. CCPM survey link has been shared with partners and data analysis is being started. CCPM survey findings will be presented during the meeting.
- Regarding the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), the NCCT expect inputs from the partners. There is a possibility to reduce cash for rent from 75 USD to 30 USD. This reduction has been proposed by the Cash & Voucher Working Group. Two technical working groups have been created and they are working on the revision of cluster technical documents. Cash for rent amount will be adjusted as per the recommendations from the technical working group, considering evidence-based findings to reduce cash for rent amount. It also highlighted the amount that covers other needs such as customization, repairs to make the accommodation more adequate, and so forth. It is to ensure that the transfer value is in line with the market price. The NCCT has decided to keep this discussion on hold until TWiG comes up with their recommendations.
- ES-NFI Cluster has already been awarded \$7.5 million from the AHF Standard Allocation to focus on winterization assistance and considered for an additional \$4.5 million from AHF SA1 window as top up. ES-NFI Cluster considers this new funding for shelter response including shelter repair, upgrading and transitional shelter. Prioritization of shelter response was based on the RAM findings, which was launched in December 2021, in already covered areas and exceptionally Badghis as earthquake badly struck it in January, resulting more than 2,800 families affected. ES-NFI cluster has received 4.5 million to focus more on shelter solutions such as shelter repairs and upgrades as well as construction on transitional shelter. 4 agencies have already showed their interest (UNHCR, IOM, DRC, IRC).. Overall figures are as follows:
 - 920 families in need of transitional shelter
 - 2562 families in need of shelter repairs and upgrade for important damages
 - 2076 families in need of shelter repairs with minors' damages
- Second round of RAM has been planned in March and the NCCT has encouraged partners to get involved and contribute to it.
- REACH is conducting a rental market assessment in 8 regional capitals. 60% of the data collection has been achieved in 7 out of 8 capitals. There is an issue in Kabul where DoRR has halted most of the data collection activities. While it is expected to complete the data collection exercise by the current week in 7 regions, Kabul will have to go for another week. The outcomes of the survey will help determining the Cash for Rent and its appropriateness. It will help the ES-NFI Cluster, throughout the findings, designing Cash for rent Interventions and defining financial risks associated to providing Cash for rent to beneficiaries based on their economic, social and vulnerability status. The rental market assessment report is expected in late Q1.

3 Updates on Winterization Response

- As of January 15, ES-NFI Cluster partners were able to achieve 55% of its planned target, out of 725,000 planned to reach people for winterization assistance, 410,000 people received winterization assistance. The breakdown of the assistance can be detailed as below:
 - 401K individuals received standard winterization package
 - 224K individuals received winter clothing package
 - 161K individuals received blankets and quilts package
 - 1.4K individuals benefitted with cash for rent
- The Winterization joint plan has been translated into local languages. All the three versions are available on Shelter Cluster website.
- Regarding the AHF allocation for winterization, there are delays on the availability of fundings. The NCCT has advised partners to reach out and seek support if they face any issue in accessing funding.
- In the Eastern region, an assessment of 8000 IDP families is in ongoing to see whether eligible families could benefit from winterization assistance. However, the regional coordination has raised that the lists

of eligible families are not available in due course. This situation slows the response while we are heading towards the end of the winter season with the risk of questioning the relevance of this assistance.

4 Rapid Assessment Mechanism (RAM)

- REACH has updated the audience on the RAM. A presentation has been carried out by REACH on the pilot RAM exercise. The presentation was more focused on RAM scope and importance. During the presentation, the audience was able to understand the objectives (General and specific) of the RAM.ES-NFI. The overall objective is to guide the ES-NFI response, which is focused on shelter repair, upgrade, and transitional shelter, in 2022. Unlike the Whole of Afghanistan (WoA) assessment, it does not provide data only at provincial level rather it covers district and village level needs. It makes easier to quantify the actual needs of the beneficiaries for funding requirements.
- The presentation also covered the methodology, the roles of the different actors (partners), the sample for the pilot (settlements chosen in 6 districts and family's size), the SOP and the findings.
- The NCCT has emphasized that participation to the RAM assessment will support allocation of pooled funding to the partners.
- A copy of the presentation can be found at this link here : [RAM pilot findings](#)
- During the discussion, partners have raised a point related to the ownership and usage of data before waiting for the release of the final factsheet. As a response to that, the NCCT has mentioned that partners who have participated on the data collection can receive their data in a timely manner for their own needs and use.
- For the next round of RAM, 10 February 2022 is the deadline for the selection of locations. A focus should be made on location in need of shelter repairs and upgrade as well as transitional shelters.

Action points:

- REACH will share a revised material in a few weeks, before proceeding with the next round of RAM. Comments and inputs are expected from the partners.

5 Update on technical guidance documents

- The NCCT has thanked the audience for the inputs received on the documents: 12 drafted documents have been shared. The list is listed hereby:
 - Shelter Cluster Strategy
 - Cluster Participation and Membership
 - Cluster SAG ToR
 - Cluster Standards and Guidelines
 - Shelter Repair-Upgrade Guidelines
 - Cluster Product Catalogue
 - Cluster NFI Kits Contents with Prices
 - Cluster Vulnerability Criteria
 - Transitional Shelter Guidelines
 - Cash-for-Rent Guidelines
 - Guidelines for ES-NFI Cluster social media
 - Joint Winterization Strategy 2021/2022 (already published)
- The IM team is working on the Graphic design of the documents. the NCCT has proposed to review the documents at mid-year and has encouraged the partners to go through them once published and share their comments.

6 AOBs

- There is an issue that has been raised by the partners with the DoRR in Kabul for needs assessment. The Regional Focal point has been asked to support the partner on this matter.
- A training on Report-Hub will be conducted on the 3rd of February for ES-NFI partners to familiarize with the new reporting activities based on the HRP 2022. It is also a time to discuss issues faced by the partners to improve the reporting.

ES-NFI 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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