



Strategic Advisory Group Meeting

30 January 2017

14:00-15:30

UNHCR Office (16, Lavrska St., Kyiv)

Present: DRC, IOM, PIN, UNHCR, USAID, USAID/OFDA

Agenda of the meeting

1. Round of Introductions
2. Presentation of Cluster annual report, achievements, changes and main trends in assistance in the Shelter/NFI response
3. Specific Coordination Challenges
 - a. Architecture and resources
 - b. Approaches to NGCA
4. Transition Plan Updates

Agenda item 1. Round of Introductions

Shelter Cluster thanked participants for attending the meeting. Caritas, NRC ECHO, and DFID sent their apologies for missing the meetings, as they have had prior competing commitments.

5 out of 9 SAG members were counted as present, reaching the **quorum** required for final validation of items discussed during the SAG and for decision making .

Please see detailed attendance list on p. 8

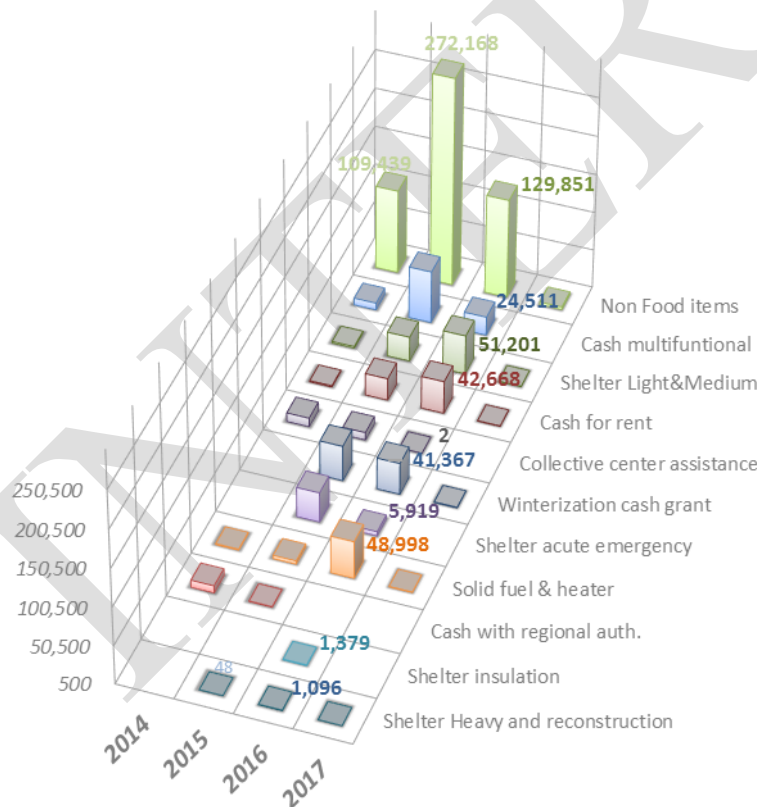
*For reference to the presentations given during the meeting, please see **Annex 1 SAG meeting presentation.***

Agenda item 2. Presentation of Cluster annual report, achievements, changes and main trends in assistance in the Shelter/NFI response

The Cluster presented its annual report to review progress and the humanitarian situation as of the end of 2016. The annual review was prepared in order to look at accomplishment of activities and objectives while also reviewing it within the context of the second year of the Cluster’s response in Ukraine. During 2016, the Cluster delivered three main strategic objectives for 2016: 1) Emergency and live-saving assistance; 2) Transitional solutions; 3) Permanent Shelter Solutions

In 2016 partners reported about various forms of assistance to 175.933 households (460.325 persons). Repairs were provided to 11.741 households (According to Cluster’s information about 10% of these cases are repeated assistance related to such cases as medium repairs after provision of acute emergency materials.

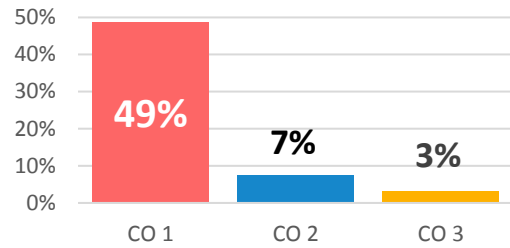
The graph depicts changes of activities already reported by partners for 2017. Non-food items are recorded as the largest in terms of beneficiaries in the number of households. The chart also illustrates a growing trend of monetization such as cash for rent or cash for winterization, and so on.



In addition, cluster coordinator emphasized, that the annual report includes activities, which began in 2015 and completed in 2016- known as “carry over.”. Carry-over is the largest for life-saving activities under cluster objective one. This is heavily linked with the implementation of winterization activities which may begin in September or October and may continue well into February or April depending on the severity of the winter.

The other two cluster objectives concerning transitional and permanent solutions do not have a significant amount of carry-over. Nevertheless, more activities implemented under cluster objective 3 have a longer life span and their carry-over may be noticeable in the 2016-2017 implementation period.

% of Carry Over per Cluster Objectives



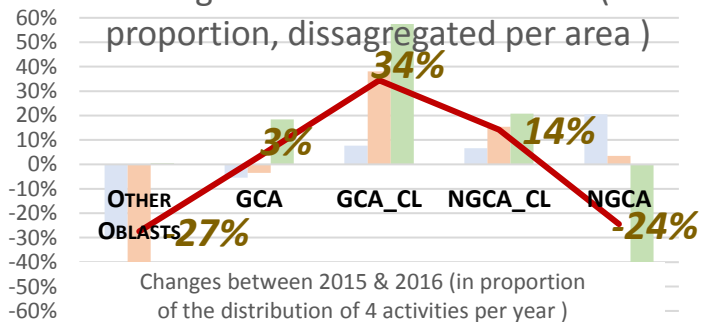
IOM queried about the definition for cash for rent and whether it was in line with the Shelter Cluster 2015 cash for rent guidelines and noted that in their experience beneficiaries were using the cash to move to a better accommodation and to make repairs in agreement with the landlord. National Cluster Coordinator recommended that more and more the cluster has information available about which donors are funding these types of activities and can analyze this more deeply. **Subnational coordinator** clarified that Cash for rent per the global activity and other monetized assistance including cash for repairs are sometimes marked in that category especially prior to July 2016, when the cluster introduced the modality column per the recommendations of the Global Shelter Cluster. **People in Need** replied that they too had used the column for various shelter components including repairs, utilities, and heating and not only rent.

The Cluster coordinator continued with the presentation of the annual report analyzing the cluster objectives according to the the volume and trends of assistance according to 5 geographical zones: Other, GCA, GCA contact line (GCA_CL), NGCA_CL, and NGCA. The majority of activities were conducted along the contact line. It is also worth noting that even construction works such as structural repairs, are already being implemented in the areas along the contact line. This can be explained by the fact that certain populated areas which continue to be impacted by shelling are quite specifically divided and thus other areas are considered relatively safe for heavier repair interventions.

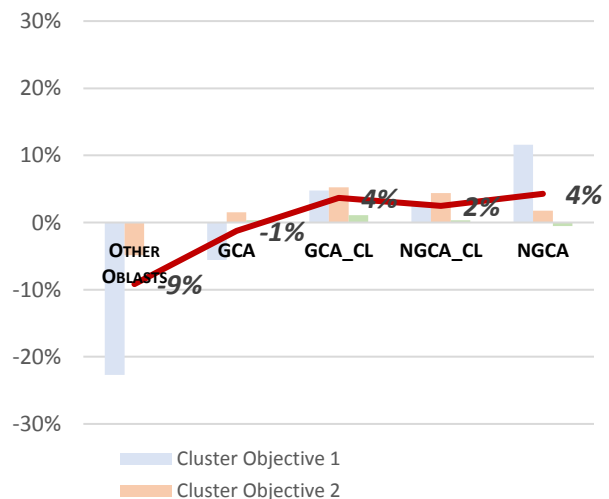
DRC offered that a likely explanation is that humanitarian access is quite limited in NGCA, so humanitarian agencies have prioritized their assistance in GCA.

The **Cluster Coordinator** agreed that this observation was true on the amount of

Changes between 2015 & 2016 (in proportion, disaggregated per area)



Changes between 2015 & 2016 (in proportion of the distribution of 4 activities per year)



interventions conducted, but if you analyzed the real dynamic in terms of total households assisted and average change in time, you would in fact noticed that assistance increased in NGCA compared to GCA. Another important indicator is that both sides of the contact line received 50% of all Shelter and NFI assistance, which was consistent with the previous SAG’s recommendation to “*focus the main assistance to the area along the contact line.*”

Ways forward

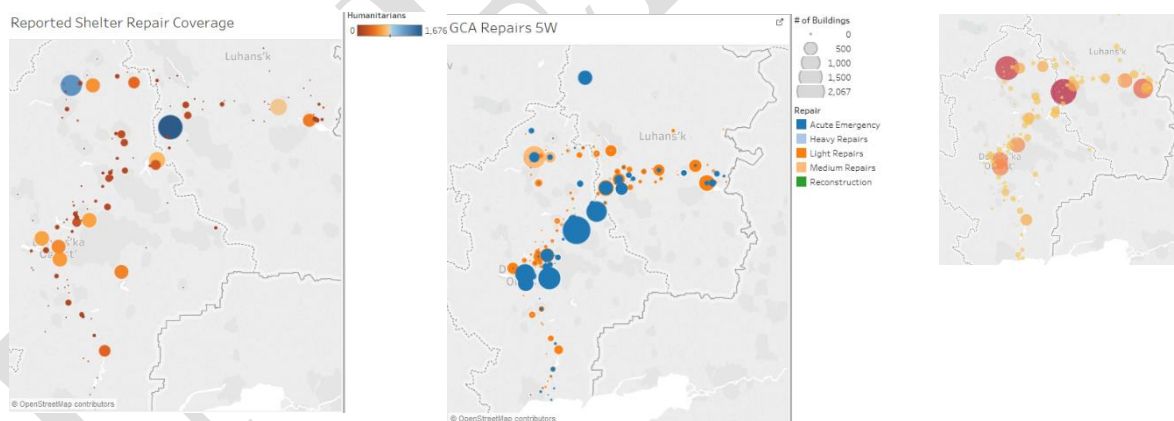
What	Status	Ways Forward
Shelter Cluster to publish the 2016 Annual Report	Done	Now available on the Shelter Cluster website: https://www.sheltercluster.org/ukraine/documents/annual-report-2016-shelter-cluster-ukraine

Agenda item 3. Specific Coordination Challenges

Agenda item 3.a Architecture and resources

- Damage Database

This tool was introduced at the beginning of March 2016 and explained to SAG members at the last meeting in 2016. Over the last year, Shelter Cluster partners and the authorities have started to reconcile their repair works with the information originally reported by the Oblast authorities. The map clearly shows the amounts of destruction and the volume of assistance provided in the same places.



At this time, partners utilize the tool both to assess damages and to coordinate information on repairs on their field visits.

Not all categories for one address are always completed, depending on the granularity of information available, especially for repairs conducted in 2015. Though now a majority of partners have added the indicators to their damage assessments. There is not yet a great deal of self repairs. When comparing information to the SW, there is a greater quantity of information available about acute emergency repairs. In addition, it should be mentioned that more information should be devoted to documents on the household and acts of destruction, since this entails the grounds for further compensation of damages caused.



The Cluster Coordinator mentioned that there was a meeting with Min TOT that was held in the last month with the support of the World Bank. They are planning on creating one database for all levels of aid and collaboration. It is a great news for cluster, because in fact it is the beginning point of the transfer of existing information from the cluster to the government of Ukraine, which is one of the key indicators for the cluster at the end of the response in the country

IOM expressed concern that it probably was not the appropriate mechanism to transfer information about Non-Government Controlled Areas.

Subnational coordinator clarified that the damage database covers only GCA area.

OFDA regional representative mentioned that there were many agencies interested in supporting the MinToT, but as of this time with their limited amount of staff and lack of familiarity with humanitarian standards they were receiving so much information that it may be bordering on information overload and it is difficult for them to cope with all the funding provided to them. OFDA recommended that the Cluster use every opportunity to make the Ministry more operational or to take on a mentoring program in order to make sure that someone in the Ministry becomes familiar with how the cluster tools are operating.

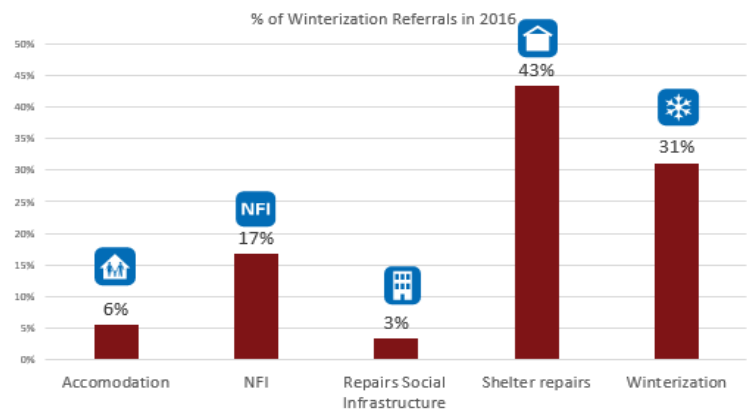
Subnational Coordinator replied that the focus at subnational level will be to continue to transfer information and capacities so that the tools that the cluster has used can be made useful to the government in informing their recovery programming. One idea is to involve local authorities in co-chairing regional cluster meetings together with local authorities and to further involve them in coordination as the cluster will be ending its activities. Cluster Coordinator reminded participants the 3 levels of the cluster that are handover: National: Ministry: Ministry of Regional Development etc.), Subnational Level which is strongly linked with the Oblast authorities, and the Ministry itself which is more general and information sharing. So we are in fact discussing 3 levels of coordination with 3 very different outputs, but in order to have transition one could not go without the other.

- **Winterization Referrals**

Initially in 2015, this tool was created as a referral for winterization.

In 2016, it was also extensively used for housing repairs. This is a good coordination tool due to the large number of parties contributing information. Over 60% of referrals were closed within 1 week.

Part of the referrals was also transferred to other clusters.



- **With Protection Cluster: Collective Center Database**

We gathered and analyzed

information about existing collective centres. In May 2016 the spreadsheet was released. Together with specialized working group we made a profiling of IDPs. Our aim is to update information every 3-4 months. Therefore, we are doing our best to create a structure with the involvement of protection partners (the network of these partners in the central and western regions is much wider).

- **With Protection Cluster: HLP Technical Working group**

With NRC as the co-chair of the working group - we have enough of presence of both shelter cluster's and protection cluster's partners. The main areas of work are: increasing the skills of field engineers in the context of documentary support of HLP issues, documenting the destruction and response (act of

destruction), standardization of actions in case of military occupation, legal aspects of social housing, and compensation.

- **TWIG on Social Housing (previously labeled permanent housing)**

Due to the increasing discussions in the area of social housing and the pending mobilization of developments donors in order to help resolve this issue, it was decided to reactivate the working group. At the request of some partners, an analysis of the experience of other countries was conducted, and contacts with the MinTOT were established. Cluster held its first working group discussion regarding this issue in September. The problem is that Ukraine has no overarching framework for housing for more than 25 years. From Shelter Cluster side, there is confidence that we have submitted a number of very clear signals about the fact that it needs to be created, taking into account the concept of Social housing.

Agenda item 3.b. Approaches to NGCA

IOM – if the situation does not change, than it will be needed to collect an information on NGCA and conduct meetings with partners in order to determine the steps forward and coordination.

UNHCR - we have to work with assumptions. Even if the cluster closes and transfers to the intercluster coordination format, it still will be necessary to keep in line the sector coordination in NGCA. It is possible to develop simple tools for this purpose. If, in the final analysis, the authorities want to attract assistance to these territories, the only way out is to share information on this issue and to open access.

The Cluster Coordinator replied that for a cluster or sector, 80% -90% of all assistance - is construction which presupposes a geographic linkage. This becomes difficult due to a problem of connection between NGCA and GCA authorities.

PIN recommended that the cluster focuses on capacity building in NGCA. In addition to this, we need to have a focal point for this question from the side of cluster and sector. This will allow you to have a better picture of what is happening there now. This discussion should continue.

OFDA replied that at this moment, the most important issue is not the transfer of tools to the authorities in the framework of the transition plan, but the establishment of a good transfer of information between partners working in the NGCA. Other important issues are the reliability of both the partners and the coordination mechanisms, and the creation of monitoring mechanisms.

Ways forward

What	Status	Ways Forward
Shelter Cluster Damage Database Verification	Planned	Before the next SAG and working closely with local authorities
Shelter Cluster to continue capacity building such as mentoring or taking on functions side by side with relevant counterparts	Ongoing	Damage Database, Collective Centres

Agenda item 4. Transition Plan Updates

In August last year, after a special assessment mission, a transition plan was developed. Currently the implementation of this transition plan has encountered quite a few obstacles.

Due to reduced human resources, several activities took longer for the team to advance on. However the main delay was the absence of counter partners for the transfer of Cluster tools to the authorities, particular to the MinTOT and authorities at the regional level. The Ministry represents one opportunity alongside the Department of Housing and Utilities, but specific individuals who can be actively furthering the decentralization would be of value added to ensuring that the tools' are well understood:

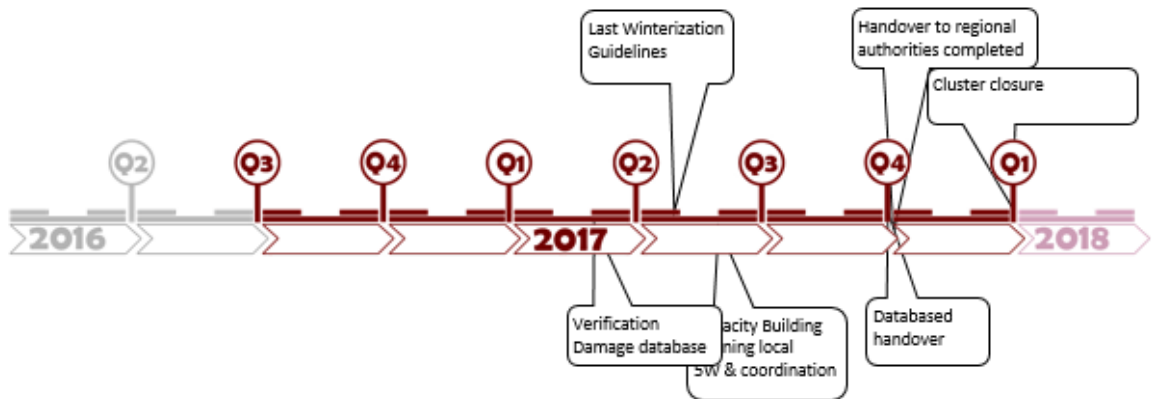


. Tasks for year 2017 – verification of damage database involving local mayors, Winterization, recommendations, coordination, tools and capacity building of local authorities.

Ways to improve

- more carefully collect information about non-stable returns, and insufficient repairs.
- Continue to collect information about the needs, and transfer to donors, with analysis in the context of the emergence/need to cover the needs.
- Continuation of work with long-term solutions and social housing.
- Revise the policy of providing non-food assistance (e.g. furniture or refrigerator) in case of repairs.

Timelines



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