

MINUTES OF MEETING

9 July 2019

Venue KS2/KS3 Conference Room, UNHCR Damascus
Present Agencies GVC, ISRD, MedAir, NRC, Rescate, SIF, SSSD, Syria Trust, Triangle, UNHCR, UNICEF
Chaired by Marguerite Nowak, Senior Shelter/NFI Sector Coordinator

Action	Focal Point	Timeline
1. Re-circulate the NFI Catalogue – <i>pending from last meeting</i> https://legacy.unhcrsyria.org/nfi/	NFI Sector	With minutes
2. Sector members to provide feedback on NFI Catalogue – <i>pending from last meeting</i>	Sector Members	Before next mtg.
3. Partners to update the sector on expected winterization plans – <i>pending from last meeting</i>	Sector members	Next meeting
4. Share 4Ws with partners via google drive	NFI Sector	ASAP
5. Update NFI Sector Strategy based on inputs	NFI Sector	Next meeting
6. Provide operational guidance on returns	NFI Sector	Next meeting
7. Follow-up with OCHA on SHF allocation	NFI Sector	Before next mtg.
8. Clarify communication lines in regards to IA convoys and Access Working Group	NFI Sector	Next meeting

I. Review of Action Points

There were 3 action points from the following meeting including sharing the NFI catalogue, providing inputs and updating on winter plans. The points have been reflected above.

II. Agency Roundtable

Agencies were asked to provide a brief overview of current activities as well as challenges. Partners shared planned, ongoing and completed activities as well as challenges which included the need to diversify, difficulty in obtaining beneficiary lists, specifically when required by donors and keeping track of the numerous population movements. A summary of activities is as follows:

- GVC is new to the Sector and is in process or planning a response for Idlib.
- RSRP is providing NFI kits to Dar-e-Zour and will plan on providing assistance in Rural Dara'a and Rural Aleppo.
- MedAir is new to the Sector and is considering providing assistance.
- NRC does not currently have activities in Damascus but is considering providing assistance.
- RESCATE is also new to the sector and is considering providing NFI assistance clothes, gas and other items that have not previously been provided but are needed.
- SIF previously provided winter NFI in rural Aleppo and is considering providing assistance.
- SSSD has emergency stock of NFIs and can access hard-to-reach areas – ready to support.
- Syria Trust as an IP of UNHCR is providing NFIs in Damascus as shelter assistance.
- Triangle is providing hygiene kits in Hama and rural Damascus as well as shelter assistance.
- UNHCR covers the entire county (except Idlib) and is currently providing NFIs to 9,000 returnee HH in Sinjar.
- UNICEF is providing summer NFI kits to 45,000 HH in Al Hol as well as Sinjar and E. Ghouta

Action point 4: members requested the Sector to share the 4Ws once completed

III. Discussion on 2019 Priorities

There was extensive discussion on priorities and opportunities for the sector to focus on in the second half of 2019 as well as needed support. The 2018 NFI Sector Strategy will be updated to reflect the outcomes of the discussion which included:

- Providing operational guidance to partners on how best to address return while considering the context and not differentiating assistance based on status.
- Sharing data, information and numbers that may not be reflected in regular reporting templates especially as different partners may have access to certain areas.
- Encouraging partners to reach out to previously inaccessible areas.
- Advocating for NFIs to be pre-positioned and more robust emergency preparedness including reaching out to agencies to determine the support and access they can provide.
- Forming a working group to revisit the current NFI package to reflect the needs and changing context, for example including batteries, LED lights, fuel/energy solutions.
- More coordination with other sectors to identify gaps, needs and possible multi-sectoral responses

Action point 5 and 6: Sector to update NFI Strategy based on feedback including operational guidance on returns

IV. Update from Syria hub

- Syria hub, Turkey hub and Northeast hub recently met to discuss common assessments for the HNO, data collection methodologies and reporting.
- In addition, the mid-year review was submitted for the Whole of Syria. As of the end of May Objective 1 which focuses on providing emergency assistance was about 25% achieved. This comprises the responses from Gaziantep and cross-border while noting that summer distributions and upcoming winter distributions, which are expected in the last quarter. It is anticipated the targets will be met.
- Critical funding gaps were also submitted to OCHA which hopefully will help inform the allocation strategy of the first allocation of the Syrian Humanitarian Fund. The areas focus on: restocking emergency supplies and pre-positioning, winterization, assistance for newly accessible areas and shelter repair and rehabilitation.
- The Syrian Humanitarian Fund is expected to be USD 25 million in the first allocation for all sectors with a focus on reaching areas that were previously inaccessible or are expected to have high return. The geographic focus will include Rural Damascus, Qunetra and Dara'a.

Action point 7: The Sector to follow-up with OCHA to receive more information on the SHF.

V. IM Update

Reporting deadlines – agencies were encouraged to report in a timely manner on activities, in particular the 4Ws as it is the main tracking mechanism for the sector and enables us to measure progress, identify gaps, request resources and advocate with OCHA, donors and key stakeholders.

Advanced planning – agencies were encouraged to share NFI planned distributions for the next 2 months even if just indicative or unconfirmed as it helps inform programming decisions, ensure that support is coordinated, not duplicative and reaches those most in need.

New counting methodology was shared with sector partners in the last meeting. The sector is reporting three different figures:

- Core NFI Beneficiaries
- Supplementary NFI Beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries reached with any single NFI

Previously, the methodology used did not count individuals reached with less than 4 NFI items. As per the new methodology, individuals who receive 3 items are counted. In case of multiple distributions in a single community; every distribution should be reflected to more accurately capture the amount of NFIs individuals are receiving. If there are questions with reporting on the 4Ws, please contact Maha.

VI. AOB

It was noted that there is a lack of clarity on communication lines with OCHA regarding Inter-agency convoys and access.

Action Point: Sector requested to clarify reporting lines with OCHA regarding access.