



# IRAQ IDP WINTERIZATION PLAN 2015 / 2016

August 17, 2015

Winter in Iraq is harsh, especially in the north where temperatures often drop below zero at the higher altitudes. 30% of the IDPs live in KR-I. Although with milder winters, the country's Center and South can often have harsh winter weeks and harsher nights, where temperatures can drop to zero, even in Basra. 70% of the IDPs live in the Center and South, many of whom live in accommodations that are not insulated from the elements within informal settlements, and unfinished or abandoned buildings.

Of the entire 3.1 million IDPs in the country, only 8% live in camps<sup>1</sup>, whereas 92% are in out-of-camp shelter solutions. The non-camp population includes 20 % living in 'critical shelters', which are informal settlements, schools, religious and unfinished/abandoned buildings of a temporary nature or with unresolved tenure rights, whereas the rest live in 'private settings' including rented accommodations, hotels and or with host families..

The activities of the Shelter and NFI Cluster are ongoing all year, including distributions of regular NFI kits to IDPs, and including shelter assistance in the form of sealing off kits, rehabilitations and camp construction. In the build-up to the winter season, however, there will be an additional need for winterization activities not only to address newly-displaced households but also to ensure, to the extent possible, that IDPs in critical shelter conditions remain safe and warm, with their basic NFIs needs met. Thus above ongoing S-NFI regular activities, winterization is focused on targeting of most vulnerable households with rapidly distributed items such as shelter sealing off kits, winterized NFIs, cash assistance and, and tent insulation kits. .

## A. Types of Winterization Assistance

### **Shelter Assistance**

Shelter support will include: Sealing-off kits for critical shelters and private settings, comprising materials such as plastic sheetings, timber, ironmongery and tools at the average cost of \$250; the reinforcement of the tents, by providing insulation kits and insulating XPS boards (total cost is \$500); as well as relevant support to those in 'caravans', or pre-fabricated containers, including closed-cell foam insulation and other items consistent with other distributions. These will be distributed to targeted IDP households in need in order to improve their shelters immediately before and during the winter months, October 2015 to February 2016. With the expectation that some informal settlements and camps might suffer flooding, Cluster partners will work on drainage channels of solid waste and establishing localized flood mitigation measures, such as ditches and the protection of individual shelters at risk, assisted either through in-kind distributions or vouchers.

### **Non Food Items Assistance**

NFIs are provided to targeted needy IDPs in the form of family winterization kits, including six insulating blankets/quilts, 6 mattresses, a stove, a water jerry can and a tarpaulin to the UNHCR standard. The contents of each kit will be based upon partners' assessments of needs, to the standards of the Winterization Technical Guidance Note currently being finalized with Cluster partners, with an average procurement value of \$240 per kit to which the distribution cost is to be added. While some kits will be provided in kind, the general trend is to monetize the NFI winter kits given the market availability and the need to provide more procurement flexibility to IDP households.

### **Cash Assistance for the Most Vulnerable**

Post Distribution Monitoring of the last winterization process has shown that cash support was one of the most appreciated types of assistance. Analysis of the PDM indicated that families who received cash assistance during last winter in the Center and South spent the money on food items and health predominantly, whereas in Northern Iraq, the funds were spent predominantly in response to shelter and health needs.

<sup>1</sup> Camps in this context indicate those that are constructed to standards, protected and managed.

Taking into consideration that markets are well developed and function in almost all areas of Iraq, including those under ISIS control, it is recommended to monetize assistance where it is possible and appropriate. The total cash amount of the cash support is to be equal to the total material cost of NFI/shelter kit. Please refer to the Technical Guidance Note, where the items to be distributed and their cash equivalents are listed. In this case, consideration is given to factors including socio-economical vulnerability and the protection of vulnerable households.

### **Shelter and NFI Cluster Advocacy on Fuel**

Historically, Iraqi authorities provided subsidized kerosene fuel to its most vulnerable populations, including displaced families. During last winter, the KR-I and Central Government authorities faced extreme budgetary pressure, due to oil prices increasing locally as a result of the ongoing internal conflict, and therefore could not initiate kerosene distribution. Nevertheless, as a result of the international community's strong advocacy, the Iraqi Central and KR-I Governments provided 100,246 IDP families with 12,152,160 liters of kerosene across 14 Governorates.

According to needs assessments, the average consumption of the kerosene in the north reaches 800 liters per family over each Winter season. The Iraqi Government allocated 100 liters per family over the same period.

The Shelter/NFI Cluster will continue its active advocacy campaign to encourage Iraqi Government to subsidize prices for the displaced and vulnerable families.

### **B. The Needs**

**As per the HNO/HRP (May-June 2015) the most vulnerable IDP households are 282,000 HHs as follows:**

- 137,000 IDP Households are in critical shelter arrangements, such as informal settlements, unfinished/abandoned buildings, public/school buildings and religious buildings often with recurrent eviction threats.
- 68,000 IDP Households are with host families and are likely to need shelter support in the near future as their resources and those of their host families are overstretched.
- 77,000 IDP Households are in rented accommodations, exhausting their resources and often forcing them into critical shelter conditions

### **C. Targeting**

Taking into consideration limited funding of particular winterization programs, the Cluster recommends applying a targeting approach based on vulnerability criteria. Experience of the last two years indicated that 15 to 30% is the percentage of most vulnerable families in need of winterization kits (NFIs). Given the limited resources, the cluster will target addressing the needs of 25% of the entire IDP population which amounts to 130,000 IDP Households with NFI winter kits. This will form 46 % of the entire identified needs.

Beside targeting specific protection cases, the framework for prioritization and targeting of most vulnerable IDPs will be associated with the types and conditions of shelters, as well as the socio economic conditions. For planning purposes the following categories are suggested to be taken into consideration:

1. IDPs living in critical shelter accommodations with critical climatic conditions due to altitude and expected weather conditions.
  - IDPs living in the open - alternative solution is to move to camps or managed collective centers;
  - IDPs living in unfinished or abandoned buildings and informal settlements;
2. Vulnerable IDPs in camps in areas with severe winter conditions, this includes all three governorates of KRI, Anbar, Kirkuk, and Diyala (Khanuqin) (need for tent insulation kits)
3. Vulnerable groups, such as female headed households, households with unaccompanied or separated children, elderly head of households, persons with disabilities, very large families with few minor children, and other groups with specific needs identified in consultation with Protection Cluster.
4. Host communities, as their personal savings have been assessed as depleted as a result of the lengthy time of their displacement.

Prior to direct implementation, it is conceived that agencies will undertake quick assessments in their respective areas of operations to ensure outreach to the most vulnerable IDP households.

#### D. Technical Guidance

A technical Winterization Guidance Note is being finalized by the Shelter and NFI Cluster, in collaboration with the WASH and CCCM clusters, offering contents lists, specifications and average item costs for kits of:

- Winterization shelter and household Non-food Items
- Sealing-off and shelter support, including of unfinished buildings and caravans.

The Guidance Note will offer kits contents, and associated prices for the Shelter and NFI items. Work is in progress.

#### E. Table of Needs:

Assistance Type	HHs in need	Priority HHs For targeting	\$ Average cost for targeting including procurement and delivery	Estimated Cost
Shelter sealing-off kit	103,000 (20% in critical shelters)	50,000	300	15 million
NFI winter kit	257,000	130,000	300	39 million
Tent Insulation kit	13,000	13,000	525	6.8 million
ESTIMATED TOTAL				60.8 million