

4.0 Cluster Harmonised Packages

4.1 Emergency Assistance Package

In early 2009, consultations started with cluster members regarding the composition of the minimum package. In late 2010, an agreement was reached and the final list was submitted to members for endorsement.

At the Nairobi Cluster meeting in January 2011, the subject was tabled with the hope of endorsement. However, there was a move by members to include women's clothing to the minimum package. It was subsequently agreed that the SCC would solicit input by members and present a conclusion to the members. At the February 2011 meeting, the following conclusion was presented to members:


"The response to the request for input can be interpreted as an indicator that for the 13 agencies that did not respond, clothing is not a vital component of an NFI minimum package. However, those who did respond are committed to including cloth into a package. The use of cloth (rather than actual clothes) reduces the logistical and cultural issues around supplying actual clothes and could prompt livelihood opportunities.



The package is a minimum and will be endorsed by the Cluster. However, this does not prohibit members adding other items in response to the circumstances.

Recommendations

Based on the information supplied, the Cluster Coordinator recommends that cloth is not added to minimum package but is a supplementary item at the discretion of the agency."

Therefore, the minimum package was endorsed and is as follows:

Item category	Description	Unit of measure	QTY	Specification
1. Plastic sheet	Reinforced plastic Tarpaulins	4m x 5m	1	Core material is woven fabric - high density polyethylene (HDPE) laminated in white with LDPE. Provided with reinforced eyelets on edges
				
2. Blanket	Woven dry raised blanket	150 x 200 cm	3	<p>Woven, low thermal resistance blanket, dry raised. Min 30% wool virgin or reconditioned – 1.5 Kg / blanket</p> <p>Note that UNHCR procure fleece blankets as part of their global framework agreement – see their catalogue for spec.</p>
3. Sleeping mat	Synthetic sleeping mats	0.9m x 1.8m	3	Waterproof, tear proof and material trim-finished - 0.500 Kg / SQM Minimum which means that at this size, total weight is 2.43 Kg
				

4. Kitchen sets	Type B	Each	1	2 aluminium cooking pots with lids (7 & 5 litre); 5 deep SS plates, diameter 25 cm or 5 bowls, diameter 18 cm; 5 SS cups, volume 0.3 L; 5 SS table-spoons; 1 SS kitchen knife; 15 cm SS blade; serving spoon
				
5. Jerry cans	10 litres 20 litres	Each Each	2 2	<p>Manufactured from food grade LDPE. Suitable for drinking water with built-in handle.</p> <p>Note that UNHCR supply semi-collapsible jerry cans. However, these are unpopular in Somalia (from PDM feedback) and so the non-collapsible ones are recommended</p>
6. Sanitary Items	Sanitary cloth Underwear Soap	Each		<p>Sanitary material for use by females (Cloth). 100 % cotton flannel highly absorbent from bleached or unbleached material.</p> <p>Toilet soap - , 70% fatty acids, 20% moisture, 0.2% NaOH, 0.5% NaCl – no mercury</p>
7. Bar soap		750 gr.	1	Laundry soap, for hand washing clothes, 70% fatty acids, 23% moisture, 0.1% NaOH, 0.6% NaCl – no mercury
8. Wash Basin	Round Plastic		2	Durable polypropylene, easy to clean Diameter: 13 1/8". Height 6"
				

Cluster members are strongly encouraged to include these items as a minimum and add any additional items based on the results of their needs assessments.

The quality of items distributed in Somalia varies significantly between agency. The specifications used above are general and can be verified at the market. For more general reference, see IASC's Selecting NFIs for Shelter. More detailed specification can be found from UNHCR's catalogue (www.unhcr.org/supply/nfi). Additional good references are Oxfam's extensive catalogue and Emergency Relief Items, Compendium of Generic Specifications, May 2000, UNDP.

- 4.1.1 The cost of these items depends on the quantity procured, location of procurement and exact specification. Therefore, indicative pricing cannot be given in this document, however, Cluster members or the SCC can provide indicative costs. Further information guidance is available at FSNAU <http://www.fsnau.org/ids/dashboard.php>. Every month they collect market prices for a range of commodities in various regions of Somalia. These costs are the actual costs for local procurement in Somalia.
- 4.1.2 Some agencies procure their NFIs internationally while the others procure locally and place the responsibility for transportation on the seller. In 2010, cluster members met with a major to discuss this issue. It was concluded that no uniformity could be achieved in dictating local or international procurement as specifics of the agencies differ too much. The cluster therefore does not offer guidelines or standards on this issue and respects individual decisions.

However, meetings can be arranged to table procurement as an agenda item in order to share information so that procurement can be faster, more economical and so that members can take advantage of experience of other members.

The following are issues to consider in deciding whether local or international procurement should be pursued:

- In Somalia there is little or no actual manufacturing, therefore procurement is going through traders and middle men. There is less economic value in local procurement than in more mature economies such as Kenya,
- The agency's policy and tolerance to variation on quality, quantity and pricing should be considered. Generally, better quality and lower costs will come from international procurement when the quantity is sufficient,
- Urgency of the procurement – international procurement takes time,
- Staffing levels on the ground to undertake local procurement. Continuous market research and local procurement takes time and skill,

- Flexibility of internal financial rules and regulations. Local companies may not be fully registered or have the correct internal procedures to satisfy audits,
 - Risk mitigation – local procurement can be unpredictable,
 - Security – local procurement can put local staff into difficult position especially with such a small market.
 - Local procurement can stimulate local demand which may encourage re-sell.
- 4.1.3 Cash based programming as an alternative or a supplement to NFI distribution is currently under debate for Somalia. The Cash Based Response Working Group (CBRWG), under the umbrella of the Food Security and Rural Development Sector Committee, is a forum of technical professionals dedicated to cash programming in Somalia. Established in April 2008, CBRWG developed out of an informal working group that was striving to coordinate and harmonise their responses in Somalia. For more information and to join the debate contact Horn Relief or COOPI.
- 4.1.4 Applications for NFIs through the Cluster need to address the 3As. These are Access, Assessment and Accountability.

Access

Good access to the beneficiary population prior and during a distribution is a prerequisite for a successful distribution. It is the over-riding factor in determining the viability of a project. Without safe and free access, assessments and accountability cannot follow.

Assessment

A good needs assessment is the foundation of any distribution. Being able to demonstrate to the donor that there is a need and the proposed intervention will address it is essential. Even before looking at the proposal, many donors will read the needs assessment and judge its quality; only then will they look at the proposal. The more detailed, accurate and reliable the assessment, the more likely funding will be secured. It should be noted that the Minimum NFI package is not mandatory but a guide. If the needs assessment reveals that another NFI is applicable then this should be added to the package.

Accountability

Section 8 sets out the Post Distribution Monitoring methodology currently adopted by UNHCR and its partners. Driving this process has been the need to demonstrate to donors the relevance of NFI distributions. Accountability does not

stop at PDM, but includes distribution reports, photos, interim, financial and final reports. Proposals should address this issue.