

Afghanistan ES/NFI Cluster Meeting

Summary Notes of ES/NFI Meeting – Monday, December 20, 2021

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Venue: Online

PARTICIPANTS

Partners	Representative
International NGOs	AAA, AAD, AAH, ACTED, ADRA, CARE, CARITAS, CORDAID, DAARTT, DRC, IMC, IRW, IRC, JUH, NACAF, NCA, NRC, PIN, QRCS, REACH, RI, SI, WHH
National NGOs	ADEO, CAHPO, NCRO, OCHR, ORD, SEARCHO
UN organizations	IOM, OCHA, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF
National authority	
Donors	
Others	AWAAZ, CCCM

AGENDA

1. Review of the last ESNFI Cluster meeting action points
2. Updates from the Coordination Team
3. Updates on Winterization Response
4. Updates from the Technical Working Group
5. AoBs

1 Review of the last ESNFI Cluster meeting action points

- The National Cluster Coordination Team (**NCCT**) updated the last monthly ESNFI Cluster meeting for the below action points from the last meeting

“Follow up by Coordination Team with stakeholders the beneficiary list requested in some locations”

The NCCT suggested to deal with the local level at first stage before it is escalated to the national level, also highlighted the issues of AABRAR/UNHCR in Bamyan, CHR; the Regional Coordinator managed to sort it out through the meeting with Provincial Governor. **NCCT** added to these issues as the national level/HCT level discussion was held with central government and then the provincial governor meeting was held separately at the province level with the issuance of the official letter not to interfere with winterization assistance at the local level.

Action Aid also highlighted one of the challenges to avoid interference of the local authorities in the implementation of the project as the suggestion to come up with a clear set of guidelines or agreements with the provincial governor not to interfere with project implementation in the future. **NCCT** highlighted the additional inputs as to follow the ESNFI cluster winterization prioritized provinces and districts along with the evidence-based needs assessment by all the partners could be helpful to sort out any project or activities with the provincial level governor support for advocacy and clearance.

2 Updates from the Coordination Team

- The **NCCT** briefly updated AHF 1 Standard Allocation (SA) Fund as the cluster received the early envelope of USD 7.4 million. So far 14 proposals were received for winterization assistance and unfortunately one proposal was submitted late and was not considered. The total 13 project proposals include USD 7.9 million. UpToDate, the cluster finalized 12 of the partners which have addressed SRC/TRC comments and proceeded to the next stages while 1 partner is still at project re-drafting. The organizations who submitted the project proposals for AHF 1 SA are AKAH, AFGHAN AID, AABRAR, OCHR, ACTION AID, PIN, NAC, CAHPO, DAARTT, IOM, ADEO, and ME. Regarding Rapid Assessment Mechanism (RAM), it is currently rolling out as a piloted assessment in most of the regions. So far, REACH has conducted training in 7 to 8 regions, and more than 30 partners have been trained so far on RAM.

The updates from the Regional Coordinators on RAM issues/challenges:

- **RC from North Region** updated as RAM was conducted as a pilot in Jawzjan Province; the data was collected by the partners and the challenges encountered as a shortage of tablets.
- **RC from Northeast Region** updated as RAM was discussed with the partners; the training was provided by REACH; 4 colleagues from different partners were deployed to Khanabad district/Kunduz province who interviewed with 115 people with Kobo tool.
- **RC from West Region** updated as RAM pilot assessment is still pending. So far RAM has been introduced with partners. Due to a lack of vehicles and other issues with banking and transfer, the RAM pilot assessment could not be conducted in Hirat province.
- **RC from South Region** updated as no major challenges encountered for RAM and the partners surveyed in two locations with 101 HHs were surveyed and 6 KII, took longer than the planned, WAW supported the RAM piloted assessment in Kandahar province
- **RC from Southeast Region** updated as RAM pilot assessment is planned to conduct in Ghazni province. The RAM pilot assessment has been delayed as DoRR focal persons could not participate and the clearance from DoRR as well.
- Ari/REACH updated on RAM pilot assessment as ongoing data collection in 6 provinces, slightly delay in CHR and data collection will start quite soon, overall representative samples covered from all sites and data quality check is ongoing, so far, the data provides indicatives for all the sites, and the data analyses will begin from the next week. Regarding Hirat province RAM, the REACH will provide only the technical capacity support not the operational capacity support
- The **NCCT** emphasize the needs and importance of RAM rolling out for ESNFI cluster responses and gaps and requested all cluster partners to strengthen the operational and technical capacity to roll out RAM at the district and settlement level for better advocacy in future
- The **NCCT** briefly updated on videography and documenting as ToR has been already provided to the respective company where 3 provinces (Kabul, Maidan Wardak, and Kunduz province) has been selected, the company has started working in Kabul since 12 December and shall be completed by 13 December, next will follow work in Maidan Wardak from 22 December to 04 January 2022 and finally Kunduz province will start from 05 to 18 January; also encouraged all the partners relevant to this work to be in touch with the company

Action Points

Follow up with DoRR Ghazni to qualify the RAM pilot assessment conduction

[Presentation on AHF 1 Standard Allocation](#)

3 Updates on Winterization Response

- The **NCCT** briefly updated the ESNFI Cluster-related winterization-related IM products (Winterization Response Dashboard; Winterization Capacity; and Winterization Gap Overview). These products are available on Global Shelter Cluster (<https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/afghanistan>) and HR Info Website (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/emergency-shelter-and-nfi>).
- **Winterization Response Dashboard** as of 30 November 2021 reflects more than 30,000 individuals received winterization assistance, still all the partners did not report their progress on ReportHub which could have crossed the assisted individuals by 100,000 individuals. The products were developed from ReportHub data reported by 5 partners only as well as inputs from the Regional Coordinators of the ESNFI cluster at the regional level.
- **The Gap Overview Dashboard** shows that the committed target of a total of 770,000 individuals reported by partners has surpassed the planned reach of 725,000 individuals. The total committed targets by partners do not include AHF 1 SA fund. The gaps overview dashboard will clearly show the provinces with total committed targets

have been surpassed (green color) and still the gaps existed (red color) with reference to HRP planned reached. The total planned reach of individuals was based on the planning for 2021 but the need is still very high i.e., 6.48 million people in need. The **NCCT** encouraged all the partners for advocating additional funding to those provinces where the capacity is low, or the gaps still existed (red color). Also added that the cluster covers all the 34 provinces with winterization assistance and will be updating the progress on a bi-weekly basis.

- **The Winterization Capacity Dashboard** shows the total targeted individuals of winterization assistance by partners and provinces. The data were collected by the Regional Coordinators from the respective partners. Also requested to reach out to National Cluster Coordination Team for any updates of the capacity from the respective partners.
- The winterization packages are well stated in the Joint Winterization Strategy 2021/2022 and encouraged all the cluster partners to follow the winterization packages as heating/fuel, blankets, and winter cloth where the key components is heating to be considered, and other blankets and winter clothing are complimenting to the winterization packages. Furthermore, requested all the partners who are implementing winterization assistance to review the Cluster Standards and Guidelines.

4 Updates from the Technical Working Group

- Maha/Chair of Group 2 of TWiG updated as the **NCCT** decided to create two groups (Shelter Solutions Group-1; and Strategy & Technical documents, ESNFI/WASH Collaboration, Winterization Group-2) in mid-2021 to revise and update the cluster related technical documents.
 - The Group 2 of TWiG has finalized draft of 12 documents (the list is attached to this minutes) through the desktop revision with a focus on relevancy and easier access of the information. The finalized draft of 12 documents will be further shared with the cluster members for final feedback and suggestions which will be incorporated by the **NCCT** and published on the ESNFI cluster websites.
 - The **NCCT** added that the finalized documents will be published on the cluster websites by the mid of January 2022, and the cluster will also organize the capacity-building session for the cluster members, especially new members.
 - The **NCCT** also requested partners to review and provide their feedback on the finalized technical documents based on their own organizations' objective, mandate, and practicality perspectives.
- Balaji/Chair of Group 1 of TWiG updated the transitional shelter guidelines as the group is responsible for updating the architectural drawings based on local construction techniques and typologies, improvement of transitional shelter model, and inputs on settlements and planning. The **NCCT** briefly summarized the studies undertaken by REACH entitled "Local Architecture Review" and "ESNFI Cluster Partner Catalogue" as:
 - The study shows various shelter types assessed as local tents, huts, caves, curved roof shelters, and flat roof shelters.; and 26 different variations with costs ranging from USD 200 to 4,000. The **NCCT** will come up with the final design to recommend for transitional shelter.
 - The study also shows the shelter preference among the households preferred for flat roof shelters and regional variations of flat roof and curved roof shelters in all the regions of Afghanistan. The study also shows the common materials applications in local architecture in terms of preferences and costs effectiveness.
 - The study also shows the 12 major ESNFI cluster partners perspectives in terms of use of common materials and costs effectiveness.
 - Finally, the evidence from the REACH studies, the cluster TWiG members proposed a common design for transitional shelter as a standard curved roof shelter and or flat roof shelter in terms of shape, floor plans, door locations, and window locations with the regional variation based on the availability of local common materials for the roof, walling, foundation, door/windows sizes.
 - Balaji/Chair of Group 1 of TWiG shows the drawings and options of the transitional shelter prototype options of three designs for all the regions; also highlighted the learnings of the past to design on community spaces/health services covering all the shelters under the planning and settlements point of view from 200 to 300 shelter designs.
- The **NCCT** highlighted the next steps as TWiG will complete its task by the end of December 2021; cluster members will review the technical documents and share their feedback in January 2022; cluster will invite the interested partners to construct prototypes of the designs; technical guidance documents are updated based on the feedback on the prototypes; and the implementation of the transitional shelter projects will begin in 2022.
- Regarding transitional shelter designs, the cluster partners (UNHCR, IOM, REACH, OCHR, ACTED, NCRO, ADRA) raised and highlights the feedback as to increase the height of the shelter; to create the privacy space; to change the name from transitional to permanent shelter in the plan; cost of the shelter; to create ramp for the disabled persons; to develop one bathroom/toilet with 2 rooms; to develop sheet metal roof to protect from rains, snow and other weather challenges; to develop shelter prototypes designs by regions; to adjust the windows to receive proper lighting and avoid the extra windows in 1 room; to come up with alternative shelter design based

on the aspects of the regions, weather, and culture; to come up with alternative three types of shelter sizes based on family sizes, optional windows, separate doors for each room, optional for the height of the shelter, considering cost of the shelter based on current foreign exchange rates, to develop new BoQs and plans when initiating the construction of transitional shelter; to add solar for the shelter design; . Balaji and the **NCCT** justified the feedbacks of the cluster partners and requested all partners to provide their additional feedback to the national coordination team.

[List of 12 Finalized Technical Documents](#)

[Presentation on Transitional Shelter Response](#)

5 AOBs

- “**The current market uncertainties that have caused the devaluation of a currency**”, the cluster partners (ADRA, OCHR, UNHCR) raised the suggestions as the quantity needs to be specified for all the materials to overcome of the fluctuation of prices in the market; to seek an opinion regarding market price hike in terms of winter cloth and blankets as compared with the cluster standard price for the items; to suggest all the implementing partners for the market price hike; to conduct overall market survey for the core items such as cash for rent, cash for winterization, cash for NFIs and so on to identify the situation with the current context in all the regions and also proposed to conduct this survey by one organization only. The **NCCT** clarified the cluster partners raised suggestions to AHF partners as to conduct a market survey and to provide the current market prices hike on the items as evidence for the price hike to amend any price hike for the items for endorsement as well as NRC and IOM are working on the Cluster Product Catalogue which will guide all the cluster partners to follow the standards and procedures.

ESNFI Cluster Coordination

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URL: [ES/NFI Cluster Afghanistan Website](#)



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