

As of 1 March 2016 overall coordination responsibilities on conflict-induced IDPs in Afghanistan will transition from UNHCR to OCHA.

## 1. UNHCR coordination of IDP Task Force transition to existing OCHA led coordination forums

- a) The 'IDP Task Force' will cease to exist and coordination of response to IDPs will be undertaken at the relevant OCT (for coordination at provincial level) and HRT forums (for coordination at broader regional level);
- b) While the IDP Task Force will no longer exist in name, the established processes and broad participation will be maintained through the OCHA led OCT and HRT coordination forums, with additional ad-hoc meetings convened as required;
- c) Petitions will be passed to the above mentioned coordination forums and OCHA will convene relevant partners to undertake the screening processes in accordance with current practice;
- d) UNHCR will not coordinate assessments or distributions, and will no longer compile the assistance lists resulting from the joint assessments and used in the joint distributions.

## UNHCR in their role as lead for the protection and shelter clusters will continue to:

- Participate in joint emergency assessments coordinated by OCHA;
- Enhance their function in protection monitoring and interventions, and continue to invest in protection monitoring partners<sup>1</sup>;
- Task its partners<sup>2</sup> participating in the joint assessments to also conduct distribution of UNHCR NFIs when UNHCR was the agreed partner to provide NFIs (complementary with other Shelter Cluster members including ERM partners).

## 2. Process agreed for release of WFP food assistance

At the end of February 2016, the current LoU between WFP and UNHCR will be terminated. Some UNHCR resources as previously specifically invested in supporting food distribution through the same implementing partners will discontinue. The possible implications of this will be:

- a) Some partners previously provided support costs by UNHCR to distribute and/or store food will no longer have the financial support necessary to enable their participation in food distributions;
- b) UNHCR will no longer provide warehousing for food;
- c) UNHCR will not take responsibility to prepare master-lists for joint distributions (the transmission of these lists from UNHCR to WFP has until now formed the basis upon which WFP has released assistance).

## The alternative modalities agreed with WFP to ensure continued food distribution to IDPs are as follows:

- a) In its humanitarian coordination role, OCHA will convene the initial meeting of partners to review / screen petition lists received from DoRR or occasionally from other authorities. These meetings should include broad participation of relevant clusters and partners;
- b) OCHA will coordinate planning of joint assessment teams to undertake assessment / verification of screened petition lists. The joint assessments will continue to use the IDP Task Force household level modalities with the participation of several actors, including WFP and UNHCR partners;
- c) Following completion of assessments, the joint teams will submit verified beneficiary lists to OCHA indicating identified needs (NFI, food, shelter, WASH items);
- d) Based on the identified needs, all partners will participate in a coordination meeting (OCT or ad hoc meeting) to determine the appropriate response and best placed partners (based on partner coverage, access, relief item availability and complementary);
- e) Where food assistance is identified as the most appropriate and required response, OCHA will communicate this result of the joint assessment team along with the compiled assistance lists to WFP (the list will be accompanied by a covering letter from OCHA to WFP, *see format attached*);
- f) Where present, WFP will release the required food assistance to one of its existing partners in the area, contracted for IDP response, to undertake the distribution;
- g) As a preparedness measure and to ensure maximum coverage, WFP can sign zero-cost standby Field Level Agreements (FLA) with additional partners willing and able to support the food distributions;
- h) Where there is no existing WFP partner available to respond, WFP field offices will release food commodities to an alternative NGO, designated by WFP, who has operational capacity to undertake the food distribution with their own resources. A zero-cost FLA will be signed between the NGO and WFP.

## 3. Mapping and enhancing capacity

The above detailed process is an interim measure to ensure a minimum mechanism for response in the immediate term. A concurrent process is ongoing to map existing WFP partners and NGOs with capacity and resources to undertake food distributions. Where gaps are identified, WFP will look to establish new partnerships and / or provide additional financial grants to support partners to cover associated logistical costs of food storage and distribution. The mapping is being undertaken considering the data of IDP movements in 2015. Where it is apparent that insufficient partners and capacities exist to ensure coverage of response to IDP priority needs, OCHA and WFP will advocate for new resources and highlight the capacity and/or funding gaps.

## 4. Clarity on roles

OCHA's role is to bring together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. The relevant clusters, cluster lead agencies and NGO partners have a shared responsibility to: ensure participation in assessments; ensure solutions are found to cover gaps; avoid duplication; and monitor quality of the response provided. Whilst OCHA will report and update on IDP numbers in need and assisted, the responsibility of maintaining a database of assisted families lies with the relevant partners and clusters. Adequate pre-positioning of food will be the responsibility of WFP based on population projections elaborated on by the food security cluster and the joint HRT/OCT regional Emergency Response Preparedness exercises.

<sup>1</sup> WSTA in Central Region; WAW and NPO (Kunduz Only) in North and North-East Regions; APA in the East Region; APA in Southern Region; ARAA in Western Region (Herat and Ghor), CRDSA in Western Region (Farah and Baghdis)

<sup>2</sup> As above