Venezuela January 2020

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Through January 2020, the Cluster has been working on finalising the calculation of the sectoral People in Need (PiN) based on the available data disaggregated by admin level 1 (estado). The cluster has estimated that 1 million people will be in need of shelter, energy and/or NFI assistance for 2020. The cluster has also been working on the narrative for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), together with the sectoral logical framework. The logframe has been already discussed and shared with the partners. Following the official calendar, the organisations that expressed interest on participating in the HRP 2020 are invited to submit a concept note before 10 February 2020.

On the other hand, the cluster is in process of strengthening its strategy for 2020. Part of the efforts are being channelled through the creation of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), which is being facilitated by the cluster coordinator. In order for the cluster to be effective in the provision of shelter, energy and NFIs to the most affected, a SAG, which will comprise six actors (a chair, one international organization, two national organizations, a donor, and an observer), will be guiding the larger cluster membership with policy decisions, strategic direction and coordination mechanisms. The Terms of Reference are available in the Shelter Cluster website and were discussed during the January meeting with partners. During the monthly meeting with partners organised on 21 January 2020, the cluster shared the monitoring results of the 2019 HRP. The cluster, through its partners, benefitted 67262 people, who received assistance to improve their shelter conditions, access to energy/electricity, and/or received assistance through NFI distributions.

As part of the HNO and HRP 2020 workshop organised by OCHA on 27 January 2020, the cluster formed a roundtable with partners to solve questions related to the type and relevancy of activities for the HRP, log frame and, overall, questions related to project development and the submission of concept notes. The cluster partners, and other clusters were invited to participate on a series of trainings on renewable energy, starting on 13 February 2020, that are being organised together with the national organisation Tinta Violeta.

**NEED ANALYSIS**

The cluster’s top priority at this time is to ensure partners are aware of the humanitarian cycle and the submission of concept notes and project proposals to be funded through the 2020 HRP. In order to finalise the NFI catalogue in a participatory manner, the cluster has again requested the partners to send the estimated cost of the items included in each of the kits. The cluster is expecting to produce an NFI guidance document with the information and materials produced during the Technical Working Group. Activation of the subnational cluster structure in the field offices, including Maracaibo (Zulia), Guasdualito (Apure), and Ciudad Guayana (Bolivar).

Based on the needs for an improved localisation of response and the activities described in the Global Shelter Cluster Strategy, a localisation survey was distributed among the shelter cluster partners, aiming to enhancing shelter coordination that enables meaningful local participation. The cluster is in process of updating a map covering the location, conditions and the organisations working on temporary shelters for people in transit.

**GAPS / CHALLENGES**

Lack of national level multisectoral data, including shelter and energy. The capacities and the level of access to different field locations for the new Shelter Cluster members are still a challenge; however, a survey was shared with the partners in order to get more clarity on their capacities to scale up operations.