



Notes on Donor Engagement Session

Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster Yemen

25-26th March 2019 Amman, Jordan

Introduction

As indicated in the ToR there is and will continue to be increased pressure in the Yemen operation for funding and Partners are increasingly expressing interest for the Cluster to engage more proactively with Donors to establish a more synergistic relationship. Therefore, the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster organised with support of key donors a Donor Engagement Session on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th March 2019 in Amman, Jordan to inform engage and collaborate together to enhance the Cluster response in Yemen.

Please find below the links to the Agenda, Participants List and ToR for more details.

Key Highlights

The Donor Engagement Session was broadly organised according to three key overarching themes to provide a coherent road map towards reaching its ambitious objectives over the next two years.

An overview of the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster Strategy 2019-2020 was provided including a linked but separate session on the Site Management and Coordination (SMC) Strategy 2019-2020 highlighting the key priorities of the Cluster and key stakeholders. The strategy was developed in November 2018 through a one-day consultative session with Partners, Authorities including lessons learned from the previous 2 year strategy using the Theory of Change methodology. This session provided the opportunity for the Cluster to present a comprehensive situational analysis which formed the basis of the Cluster strategy with Partners and local authorities providing their perspectives as well as the perspectives of the beneficiaries.

Thereafter Cluster Partners provided presentations on Key Cluster priority projects supporting the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster strategy and priority activities to demonstrate the Cluster programming approach to implement its strategy. This session provided an overview of the following Topics; Women in future shelter and NFIs programming – by *Grassroots NGO*; Sustainable Shelter solutions – by *NRC*; IDP relocation Pilot Project – by *ACTED*; Cash for Shelter – SHS and SMC Experience Sharing – by *ADO*. This provided key lessons learned and challenges and provided the opportunity to Donors and Partners to give constructive useful feedback.

The Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster also gave an overview of some collaborations with Partners and the private sector aiming to provide better analysis of the rental housing and host community capacity, developing capacity and understanding of the impact of its activities on the target beneficiaries and to improve the reach and capacity of the Cluster through the propositioning project namely: Prepositioning Project – DRC/Shelter/NFI/CCCM – *Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster*, Rental Housing and Capacity Assessment – CSSW/Prodigy Systems – *Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster*, Impact Monitoring Project – *Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster/Prodigy Systems* – *Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster*. This session was to demonstrate the efforts the Cluster was already making in moving towards a more evidence-based approach to support its programs and activities by providing Partners with critical assessment information necessary for a more tailored and appropriate response.

The final theme included the engagement and discussions on key priority topics suggested by the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, Cluster Partners and donors in which small groups were formed based on interests, knowledge and experience to drill down into key issues and come up with recommendations for the Cluster.

This session also provided the space for Donors to present their priorities and strategies and highlight some of the challenges they face in supporting Clusters and the type of technical support they had available.

Many of the recommendations from the group and plenary discussions were already in the Shelter Cluster strategy and the SMC strategy and those that were not captured that could practically be implemented given current Cluster capacity have since been included.

The group discussions focused on the following topics; Localization of Aid/Response Sustainability; Targeting; Enhancing Coordination; Monitoring and Evaluation; Integrated Multi-Cluster Response and Cross cutting issues

The resulting conclusions and recommendations from the various group and plenary discussions overlapped and converged around specific key themes that have been consolidated and detailed in the table below.

The Cluster undertook to ensure that there is follow up of agreed activities including those that need to be further discussed and clarified and to continue to expand the donor pool and prioritize engagement activities with Partners.

Recommendations and Conclusions

No	Gap/Issue	Recommendation	Proposed Actions	Comments
1	Improved SMC presence and visibility			
A	More SMC technical capacity and presence in Field Locations	Increased presence and empowerment of CCCM actors will allow for a more coordinated, accountable, and nuanced response. Improved field presence will also facilitate better sequencing of multi sectoral response activities in IDP hosting sites	Cluster will engage more with SMC Partners and Partners interested in SMC to recruit field based technical experts and expand programmes in the field. Identification of new SMC Partners and capacitate them to be involved in the response. Promote Integrated Response through more visible leadership of the Cluster especially at the Sub National Level	Part of Cluster Strategy
	SMC visibility to be significantly improved through various avenues	SMC representation in coordination meetings, at various levels, to increase awareness on SMC issues; support advocacy efforts of SMC actors; and improve partners' understanding of SMC.	Cluster to explore efficient ways to improve visibility through various means including capacitating SNCCs, Partner Focal points etc to engage in identified fora and ensure information on activities, gaps and challenges, Including HCT, ICCM and RCT meetings in the Field.	Needs to be discussed further and concrete actions agreed with Partners
	SMC to be a standalone Cluster	While the Humanitarian Coordinator has recommended that the SMC Cluster should be formally activated (timeframe to be confirmed), partners agreed that CCCM presence in the ICCM is required immediately.	UNHCR, as Lead Agency and the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster to follow up with HC on splitting the Cluster Representation at the ICCM and other coordination fora will be agreed when the split SMC Cluster has been officially agreed by the HC, Lead Agency and Co lead.	Discussions with UNHCR and HC on Cluster split further advanced
2	Strengthen Shelter common pipeline			
A	Strengthen common pipeline of the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster to improve its response capacity and reach	Improve partners' reach, speed up response to emergency needs, and improve the overall coordination and prioritization of response. Strengthen resource mobilization efforts to continue to scale up procurement of stocks	Cluster, in line with its strategy, will continue its decentralisation and strengthening of SNCC capacity to lead and support the response at the field level. Consistent predictable funding of (i) the pipeline is a gap that will need support of Donors and Partners (ii) Staffing including identification of short to medium term international staff support to capacitate SNCCs in priority Hubs	Lessons learned of prepositioning project will be useful to identify areas to improve based on evidence
B	Identify mechanism to provide access to	Identify and pilot initiatives to improve smaller NNGOs access to international donor funding and existing funding instruments	Cluster to support NNGOs to establish Consortium to access available funding instruments.	(Pilot already started with the Hajjah response). Lessons learned will be useful

	funds for small national NGOs		Cluster to provide incentives for larger NNGOs and INGOs to sub grant to smaller NNGOs to provide funds and technical expertise. Cluster in collaboration with UNHCR to pilot a “micro” grants mechanism to support NNGOs implement small projects	to share with Cluster Partners
C	Lack of Monitoring (performance and Impact) capacity of the Cluster	Cluster has very limited capacity to monitor its activities, its policies and guidelines to determine the impact of its Strategy	Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster working on ways to improve its impact monitoring capacity. Pilot Impact monitoring project will provide guidance on the best way to systematise this. Regarding performance monitoring of projects and technical guidelines Cluster should identify most cost-efficient way to proceed; through TPM company, CCT or Partners.	Lessons learned from pilot project will be shared to identify how to systematise
3 Capacity building				
A	Clear need for Capacity Building (CB) underscored and to be comprehensively addressed	Continue efforts to promote capacity building of both internal and external partners.	Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster to finalize Capacity building Strategy being drafted including details of innovative initiatives, activities, technical resources and funding required. This will be shared with interested donors and Cluster Partners. National Partners to be prioritised through initiatives like: seconding Cluster capacity building experts to reinforce SMC capacity, mentoring and coaching etc Cluster to continue to train NNGOs in programmatic and administrative issues as well as proposal writing, to help them access donors and funding mechanisms.	CB Strategy draft completed and will be discussed at next Cluster meeting and implementation to start asap. Can already identify Partners and mechanisms to mentor NNGO staff
B		Cluster CB strategy to be finalized and clear road map presented to Cluster Partners.		
C		Initiatives like: Funding for CB activities as part of Shelter/NFI/CCCM proposals.		
D		Funding for short term roving capacity building experts (Shelter, Cash, SMC) in Partner proposals		
E		Active mentorship of NNGOs with INGOs promoted to ensure long-term support.		
4 Targeting				
A	Cluster to be better at identifying and targeting populations in	Better focus on improving our understanding of targeted populations and work towards a more nuanced and integrated response. SMC will be key to achieve this in IDP Hosting Sites	Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster will strengthen SMC through more and structured presence in the field and use it as an entry point to vulnerable populations in need.	Already CCT is planning more missions to the field and support



B	critical need of support in a more dynamic manner	Identify more appropriate avenues of engaging and listening to beneficiaries throughout the project cycle – through complaints and feedback mechanisms –	The Cluster targeting criteria is being reviewed to include both protection and Shelter vulnerability for families in Host communities.	SNCC to visit project sites more often
C		Lack of updated information on displacement sites to be holistically addressed. Needs for a system in place to systematically map Sites with key information	Cluster to prioritize update of the HNO indicators that will ensure that prioritized locations are more frequently updated according to key criteria and thresholds as the situation evolves.	
D		Need for discussion on the issue of consolidating IDP hosting Sites beneficiary information Partners engaging in <i>listing</i> need to coordinate to avoid duplication and work with a harmonized approach	Cluster will prioritize completing the baseline assessment in remaining IDP hosting sites and establish a system to identify and assess new sites either through a third party or Cluster Partners. Work ongoing with REACH Initiatives to establish simple and effective monitoring system to improve the information collection and management at site level.	Further discussions on the listing/registration issue to agree on priority support activities
E		Host communities to be more actively included in response. Cluster recommends % of assistance goes to host communities and % is defined by the Sub National Clusters	Cluster to liaise with UNHCR to update on their plans of rolling out “ASSIST” in the South. And with IOM to update on potential plans to roll out biometric registration in selected locations.	
F		Over a million people returned, mainly in the South there should be more consideration of more appropriate evidenced based responses	Cluster initiatives on IDP profiling with Protection Cluster and return locations Service mapping with IOM were put on hold and can be discussed	Further discussions on specific actions to be taken
5	Bottom-up approach			
A	Focus on capacitating SNCCs and Field based Partners and staff	Partners should continue to scale up field presence, including through international experts where possible to improve service delivery and quality control.	Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster will ensure that the additional international staff capacity it is requesting (Cash Expert, SMC Capacity Building Expert etc) will be based or at least focus on Field operations.	
B		The Cluster is only as strong as its partners – Partners should more proactively lead initiatives and specific issues they prioritise and have capacity to support.	The Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, in line with its Strategy will proactively identify Partners with capacity to champion and support priority initiatives identified by the Cluster and the SAG.	