

Shelter / NFI / CCCM Bhamo Cluster Meeting Minutes

15:00 to 17:00, Friday, February 20, 2014

UNHCR Office, Bhamo

Attendees: OCHA, METTA, SI, UN-Habitat, KMSS-BMO, UNICEF& UNHCR

(Advanced) notification sent that not attending meeting: KBC Bhamo

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action / Actor / Date
Welcome and introduction	Cluster Coordinator Kachin (CCK) thanked the participants for their presence. The most important part of the agenda would be where the Cluster members can review the performance of the cluster, ask questions and offer/seek advices. After a round of self-introduction the bilingual meeting started.	
2014 Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan	<p>CCK presented the <i>2014 Strategic Response Plan</i>, how it was developed and its goals, insisting that to be fully relevant such documents needs clear and precise input from the field, based on solid and credible data. Indeed, if the field does not provide it decisions on need and assistance might be made at higher levels by people who have less knowledge of the field. Participants said they had not heard about the <i>Plan</i> and were glad to receive this briefing, saying it made more real for them the work done by the Cluster in the field and how it can be beneficial to implementing agencies</p> <p>Linked to the previous point, CCK mentioned the need to improve and systematise data collection for the Cluster in 2014. Overall, in 2013 the Custer succeeded to collect data with support from Cluster members, but only through a time consuming field monitoring and one-on-one follow-up with partners. However, this is not a sustainable system as it it based on the cluster pro-actively following up activities of each partners, which is not a system. Note, the Cluster is not an indefinite support structure, whereas need for reliable data will remain as long as there are operations. Therefore, through 2014 the Cluster would like to support building the capacity of partners in data collection rather than doing it itself.</p>	

<p>3W and Camp profiling</p>	<p>In March the Cluster will circulate a 3W matrix, on the same principle as the one implemented by the WaSH Cluster and request partners to update it every 2 months. In case of difficulties, the UNHCR/Cluster Information Manager based in MTY will be available for questions, and if needs arise can come for a mission on the subject to BMO. On the same subject of improving data collection in 2014, CCK presented details of the Camp Profiling workshop to be held in YGN 27 February. Everyone is welcome to attend, and results will be presented to BMO members within a few weeks</p>	
<p>Quarterly joined cluster meeting</p>	<p>Next was interest in organising a quarterly joined coordination meeting for the whole of Kachin and Northern Shan State for the Cluster. This is not a necessity for the Cluster that goes anyway regularly to all the coordination hubs in the area, but in the past it was mentioned by Cluster members in the different areas that it would be useful to all meet together and avoid the gap felt between MTY, BMO and Northern Shan State. The Cluster is ready to try and support the coordination of such meeting if all members confirm good attendance. This meeting would be held in BMO or MTY alternatively, with probably the first one in BMO. As it is a regular meeting and not a training, the costs of the travel should normally be the responsibility of each agency. However, CCK will try and investigate if support solutions are possible. Such a meeting would be organised jointly between WaSH and shelter, with maybe also a General Coordination Meeting (GCM) led by OCHA. It would be spread over 2 days, including general meetings and working groups, focusing on cross-cutting issues between WaSH and shelter. Participants confirmed their interest in such meeting and requested the Cluster to organise. The tentative date is last week of April, and venue would be BMO. Cluster will send an official invitation and agenda by mid-March.</p>	
<p>NFI and shelter technical working groups</p>	<p>Back in November 2013, the Cluster had agreed to meet to agree on standards for the winter kit items but due to the subsequent Mansi T/S events agencies were preoccupied. However, this needs to be addressed because soon implementing agencies will enter the process of planning their activities for the next winter season. After discussion, the participants agreed to meet 18 March (morning) on this subject. Later during the meeting it was agreed to combine it with the needed re-activation of the shelter Technical Working Group (TWIG). CCK insisted that for these technical meetings it was important to have the right person from each organisation to attend as the discussions will go into details and decisions will be made and validated during these meetings that will impact everyone's operations in 2014.</p>	

<p>WaSH/Shelter coordination</p> <p>Cluster updates</p>	<p>CCK underlined again the need for good WaSH/shelter coordination whioe implmenting projects to avoid hygiene, health and potentially protection issues (women walking long distances for showers or toilets use for example). If difficulties are faced, the clusters can help advocating towards donors on this subject.</p> <p>Metta acknowledged but underlined the problem they faced in Momauk where they had applied for WaSH funds at the same time as shelter funds, but the WaSH funds were released six months after the shelter, stressing that they cannot wait too long to spend the money from one project for the other to start. CCK confirmed he knew the problem and that the two clusters have discussed it repeatedly but that it is a reality that in this specific case the coordination failed to address the issue. Could in such a case emergency latrines for a few months during the gap be an option? SI specified that to access funds for emergency latrines is often submitted to be used to answer to an actual emergency situation, whereas in this case we are speaking about a problem that could be resolved.</p> <p>OCHA noted that on that that day, when WaSH Cluster attended the shelter meeting, the Shelter Cluster had not attended the WaSH meeting, and suggested that a first step would be to attend each other’s meetings, systematically. CCK agreed and apologised in the name of the Shelter Cluster, then proposed that outside the regular meetings the WaSH and Shelter Cluster Leads would sit together every two weeks to ensure a good/regular flow of communication is established.</p>	
<p>Review of the cluster for 2013 by the members</p>	<p>CCK encouraged the members to ask any questions they may have about the Cluster, and mainly to mention <i>how</i> they think the Cluster could support them better in 2014. Indeed, the Cluster is mainly a service support, and therefore is ready within its limits to adapt to the functioning the best adapted to the needs of the partners/members.</p> <p>Metta asked if the Shelter Cluster had some specific designs already prepared for the shelter construction. CCK answered that the Shelter Cluster had those and that they were decided upon with partners in 2013, as a recognized basis, but that designs should be also regularly discussed in the TWiG meeting because if relevant justifications is provided they can be modified. UNHCR/Cluster shelter focal point for BMO will circulate the existing designs ahead of the next TWiG meeting.</p>	<p><u>Action point:</u> UNHCR/cluster shelter focal point to circulate existing shelter standards.</p>

	<p>Metta also raised the issue that in some camps where various shelter actors built different quality of shelters it created tensions within the community. CCK underlined that it was actually exactly <i>why</i> the Cluster was trying to support coordination and insist for members/partners to share their plans ahead of construction. This is also <i>why</i> the cluster insists on agreed standards within the cluster members such that IDPs receive similar/equitable assistance, regardless of who is the implementing agency.</p> <p>Several points were raised by participants on the subject of NFI: what about replacement, regularity and what kind of item should be replaced and that NFI distribution should be better targeted to the needs. CCK thanked participants for these remarks and specified that it was exactly the goal of the upcoming NFI technical meeting agreed at the beginning of this meeting, 18 March. Indeed, after almost three years of displacement in Kachin there is an obvious need to revise the NFI distribution approach.</p> <p>OCHA mentioned that the Cluster should push advocacy towards donors to raise more money for constructions and renovations of shelters. CCK informed that it was actually being done quite intensively, for example through the contribution of the Shelter Cluster to the overall OCHA-led <i>Response Plan</i> and a donor briefing organized on the subject in Yangon on 6 March, hosted by KMSS. Closing the large remaining gap of temporary shelters continues to be one of the main/key strategic objectives of this Cluster.</p> <p>Metta mentioned they had some remaining budget for renovations and inquired if the Cluster had lists of priorities for renovations, and if for example Metta could support renovation of shelters built by the UNHCR. CCK thanked Metta for this information and underlined that it was exactly <i>how</i> the Cluster was hoping to function: to have clearly established priorities and identify which member could cover the needs. When it comes to renovations, for the Cluster the most important is good coordination and that one member renovate shelters built by another one is no problem. The UNHCR/cluster shelter focal point in BMO will provide Metta with list of urgent renovations needed to direct their budget as best as possible.</p>	<p><u>Action points:</u> UNHCR/cluster focal point BMO to provide Metta with list of renovations priorities. Two to sit together to define <i>how</i> Metta support could be used the most efficiently.</p>
<p>AoB</p>	<p>Agreed in March the most important meetings would be the technical meetings (NFI & shelter) and therefore the date of the next meeting will be confirmed later to try and create limited disturbances to the implementation of partners. However, tentatively agreed for 20 March, maintaining this monthly meeting monthly and it synchronizing with the WaSH meeting.</p>	

