

Shelter / NFI / CCCM Myitkyina Cluster Meeting Minutes

9.30 to 12.30, Thursday, January 30, 2014

UNHCR Office, Myitkyina

Attendees: Shalom, DRC, KMSS-MTY, UN-Habitat, KBC & MRCS

Received advanced notice but did not attend: OCHA, UNICEF WaSH Cluster, UNDP, UNFPA & Metta

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action / Actor / Date
Introduction	Cluster Coordinator Kachin State (CCK) welcomed everyone and introduced the shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster Coordinator who had participated in the Laiza cross-line mission prior to this meeting. After a round of self-introduction the meeting started.	
Cluster presentations and updates	National Cluster Coordinator (CC) thanked all participants for attending the Cluster meeting, underlining he was glad to see such an attendance of main shelter/NFI/CCCM actors. He specified that creating a successful work relationship between clusters and LNGOs can take time, but trust has been built in 2013 and ground work done so he is optimistic for 2014. He also stressed that donors expect to see further convergence in 2014. CC had a meeting with the likes of KMSS, MDCG and Metta in Yangon mid-January to discuss further coordination between the 2 entities.	
2014 Myanmar Strategic Response Plan	CC gave a presentation of 2014 Kachin section of the <i>2014 Myanmar Strategic Response Plan</i> . The humanitarian community has worked at national level to produce a 2014 humanitarian strategy for the whole of Myanmar. CC has taken what has been sent from Kachin State based on information from Cluster members to produce this Cluster's submission for Kachin and Northern Shan States in the sectors of shelter, NFI and CCCM. CC presented the draft final document, insisting that all cluster partners' details will be in the document. This is not about UNHCR but rather all implementing agencies. It was stressed that what the needs and priorities must be for 2014 came from the field. CC noted <i>Myanmar Strategic Response Plan</i> was not 100 % finalised but submissions from this Cluster were completed.	

<p>Camp profiling</p>	<p>CC presented the general and specific objectives, and explained how this Cluster's strategy ties into these objectives. The strategy document will be translated into Myanmar.</p> <p>CC did explain that when he advocates to donors, they have concerns that we continue to request money for very temporary solutions, and question how sustainable it is. Ideally they want to see durable solutions and the conflict-affected caseload become less not more dependent on aid or 'hand-outs' (as some liked to define). During this mission CC has driven around MTY-BMO-Laiza and can appreciate, seeing the abandoned villages that large-scale return in many areas is highly unlikely. However, donors want to see in our activities and objectives that we are working towards more durable solutions. Consistent with efforts to reduce dependency, exploring options such as participation of IDPs to the Camp Running Costs (CRC) is an example.</p> <p>CC concluded his presentation repeating that the <i>Strategic Response Plan</i> for shelter, NFI and CCCM was <i>not</i> developed in Yangon, rather on information provided by Cluster members in Kachin and Northern Shan State and their support had been critical. Finishing, CCK and CC stressed that the Cluster cannot present the overall situation in a credible manner without the coordination meetings, technical working groups and data collection, etc... being carried out in a systematic and accurate manner. Such collective efforts help the Cluster Lead help the local NGOs.</p> <p>CCK noted that Maran Tan Nau (maran@unhcr.org) was now "fully in charge" of CCCM activities, both in terms of UNHCR program activities and as the Cluster Lead on CCCM.</p> <p>UNHCR Information Management (IM) Officer/National Cluster Information Management Focal Point will come to MTY from YGN, 25 Feb to 4 March to work on next steps of second round of camp profiling/provide needed related training. CCK specified that Cluster had not received feedback despite what had been agreed in November Workshop (W/S) regarding questionnaires, guidelines, translations, etc. This mission does need to see decisions made about the next step of camp profiling. Exact format of the exercise can still be discussed and the Cluster will not impose its own approach, but it is central to all relief activities in Kachin and Northern Shan States that data is regularly and accurately collected, for both programme decisions and fundraising. Agreed that a one- day meeting/workshop will be organised at the</p>	<p><u>Action points:</u></p> <p><i>CCK to provide final planning for camp profiling workshop by end of February.</i></p> <p><i>All Cluster members to prepare/give feedback on camp profiling and participate in the workshop.</i></p>
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	<p>support their fundraising efforts/needs in the future.</p> <p>Based on this analysis CCK introduced a 3W follow-up database to be filled by all members, regularly. Cluster IM focal point would visit/help each member in filling in at the beginning, and if needed could organise a training. CC completed the discussion by underlining that ECHO, who is one of the main donors for relief in Kachin and Northern Shan States, had recently questioned why the data was not more precise in 2013 in regards to shelter needs. This year there is a need/must for members to provide the information in a more systematic manner to strengthen the Cluster effort of advocacy towards donors. CC is conscious that this is difficult and time-consuming, but he stressed eventually everyone benefits. After discussion all members agreed to fill-in the 3W matrix every 2 months (it was argued that most members consolidate their own data every 2 months because of the difficulty of getting some data from the field, so the 3W would match this periodicity). The Cluster will start distributing this matrix by mid-February.</p>	<p><i><u>Action points:</u></i> <i>Cluster to circulate 3W by mid-February along with necessary guidance.</i> <i>All Cluster members to provide updates for the 3 W every 2 months, starting March 1st</i></p>
Cluster review from members	<p>CCK asked members to give their comments about the support the Cluster in 2013. Indeed, in many aspects the Cluster is a “service provider”, here to help the implementing agencies. It can adapt, within limits, to fit the needs of the members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shalom inquired if the UNHCR Implementing Partners (IPs) had to report twice, to the UNHCR and to the Cluster, given that the UNHCR should report to the Cluster as a member. CCK answered that it was always better to report to both as the UNHCR and the Cluster are sometimes looking for slightly different information. More generally, if the Cluster receives the information twice it is less a problem than not receiving any data. • KMSS inquired about how the Cluster planned to fill the gap when the UNHCR does not have the budget to cover the needs. CC explained one of the <i>main</i> responsibilities of the Cluster is to identify gaps and try to find the funds to match the needs. The Cluster advocates to donors for the overall needs (see <i>2014 Myanmar Strategic Response Plan</i>). Donors generally consult the Cluster to ensure they give the money to implementing agencies who do participate in the coordination, which helps efforts to use the money efficiently, and also implement projects to accepted international standards. CC noted that USAID, ECHO, DFID, Germany and Japan, amongst others, 	

	<p>are members of the Cluster at the national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRC said updates about gaps are not updated often and clearly enough to facilitate implementing agencies' planning. CCK recognised that it was definitively a weakness of the Cluster. Many efforts have been made in 2013 and the situation of data has improved, but "a lot of work" remains to be done. This is why the Cluster is trying to introduce new tools. However, this goal will be achievable only through strong support and participation from all Cluster members. • Shalom mentioned that as they do not have monitoring officers, it is difficult for the central office in Myitkyina to know exactly what is implemented. • KBC also specified that due to communication challenges and logistic/budget issue they could collect data from their field teams only every 2 months. <p>CCK thanked all members for their questions/advices/remarks. Sharing openly about difficulties/shortcomings is the best way for the Cluster to try and improve its support. These difficulties will be taken into account and relayed. However, we also have to offer regularly updated data to donors such that they know how their money is being spent. Therefore, we should not stretch any further than every 2 month to update of the 3W. Participants agreed on this approach. CCK also reminded everyone that the Myitkyina based UNHCR IM Officer/Cluster Information Management Focal Point, Pyae Sone Kyaw Win (winp@unhcr.org) was there to offer technical support and that Cluster members should not hesitate to contact him.</p>	
Various update from partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRCS gave update about situation for IDPs in Putao and Machanbaw Townships as well as action from MRCS with ICRC support. MRCS alerted the Cluster on the conditions of shelters there for 29 HH. MRCS have distributed winter kits to these families. In Machambaw people mentioned their will to relocate on their place of displacement. Government offered 1 acre if they resettle in Putao. If this materialised, they will need permanent shelter. With support from the Chinese Red Cross, the MRCS will distribute 10,000 family kits, 50% in GCA and 50% in NGCA starting 10 February 10. MRCS provided the list of items to the Cluster. Appeared that few items in these family kits were the same as the ones provided by other actors, so concerns for overlap from this Cluster were limited. However, as the MRCS plans to 	

	<p>distribute around 20,000 blankets and large amounts of blankets have already been distributed at the end of 2013, CC requested the MRCS to wait a few more days that the Cluster can provide them a table with remaining gaps to limit overlapping. Also, as the kits contain foods, CCK advised the MRCS to also coordinate with the food sector (probably through WFP). MRCS informed that they were planning to do it at next opportunity when there would be a General Coordination Meeting (GCM). CCK encouraged the MRCS to take bilateral contacts with WFP as GCMs are not organised regularly in Mytikyina.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KMSS-MTY informed that WFP had reduced by 50% the amount of food distributed to CCCM focal points in camps and that as a consequence many focal points were considering “abandoning their positions”. CCK inquired <i>why</i> focal points preferred to receive more food rather than a stipend (which amount is more than the price of the food provided by WFP). Cluster members explained that in many areas it was not so easy to purchase food, so it was more interesting for people to receive full amount of food and try to find daily jobs rather than having a fix job but receiving less food. KMSS-MTY informed that they had distributed 1031 solar panels in 4 camps. • DRC, KMSS-MTY and KBC gave update about shelter construction in Main Hkang Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ KMSS-MTY with support from DRC will build 139 units. ➤ KBC will build an additional 30 units. ➤ KBC also informed that they carried out an NFI distribution in 6 camps in NGCA and provided detailed. To ensure that recording would be done accurately by the Cluster, CCK promised to ask Pyae Sone Kyaw Win to visit the KBC Office within one week to collect exact data. 	
Next Meeting	CCK will try to organise the February Cluster meeting at the same date as the Camp Profiling Workshop to facilitate participation, on 26 or 27 of February. Exact date and time will be communicated before 10 February after consultation with UNHCR/Cluster IM.	