



Advocacy note on the shelter/NFI response to the Oromia-Somali conflict **September 2017**

Following the clashes which occurred along the border between the Oromia and Somali regions in early September, the Shelter/NFI cluster has been mobilized to assess, monitor and cover the needs of the displaced and affected households (HH) in both regions simultaneously. Figures provided by the Federal Government, which is leading the humanitarian response through the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) as part of a recently formed National Steering Committee, revealed the need to assist 20,080 displaced HH in the Somali region and 23,507 displaced HH in the Oromia region with shelter and non-food items (NFI), as assessed by regional authorities (subject to reevaluation). The Government identified the following areas as priorities: Dawa zone and Borena zone, Bale zones on both sides of the border, Harar, Chiro and Jijiga.

The Government's approach has been to facilitate rapid movement of IDPs to places of origin and for the majority of IDPs to seek refuge with host families or in collective centers in urban areas. Furthermore, it has been acknowledged that there were differing levels of needs among the displaced population based on pre-displacement socio-economic situations and that one of the main NFI-related need might be clothes. Cash has been agreed upon between the Government and the humanitarian partners as a fast and flexible response modality, when feasible, safe and appropriate.

Although some areas where IDPs have sought refuge in the Somali region remain inaccessible, the cluster has been advocating for verifications of needs to be further conducted on the ground, to enable an evaluation of the priority needs, based on the type of settlements that IDPs are staying in, due to limited resources (to date, cluster members have jointly committed 11,950 shelter/NFI kits and 600 HH cash grants & vouchers that are presently available, for this response) and due to the rapid evolution of the situation. NDRMC therefore encouraged agencies to conduct verifications jointly with their agents stationed on the field and for the verifications in the Somali region to be channeled through the drought humanitarian coordination mechanism.

To coordinate the shelter/NFI response, the cluster assembled an action plan (annexed) listing planned assessments/verifications and response activities based on present and future capacities, geographical presence and access to the concerned areas. In addition to already active cluster members (IRC, ICRC, IOM, NDRMC, NRC, the Ethiopian Red Cross (ERCS) and UNICEF), Care, UNHCR and DRC have expressed interest in engaging in the shelter/NFI response and their efforts are being coordinated jointly with others. The cluster is also coordinating the response with the IOM and OCHA colleagues in the Somali region, jointly with the Somali authorities. Additionally, NDRMC is presently preparing a response plan including a budget, to be presented next week, which will indicate government resources and gaps to be covered by the humanitarian community. It should be noted that NDRMC, which is chairing the Shelter/NFI cluster, has already indicated their shortage of NFI and invited the Shelter/NFI cluster members to meet all the related needs. To pilot the overall response, DRM focus group meetings chaired by NDRMC are convened twice a week.

Among its advocacy messages, the Shelter/NFI cluster recommends that the response be coordinated at a multi-sector level, notably the use of cash, by NDRMC with support from OCHA and cross-cutting issues, such as access and joint assessments, be discussed in the DRM focus group meetings chaired by NDRMC.

Taking into account the current cluster capacities (6,700 kits and 600 cash grants & vouchers in stock, 15,900 kits currently under procurement, that could be available within 1 to 3 months, for the overall multi-driver response as well as 1,700 cash grants & vouchers, in addition to the ongoing EHF allocation of 3 MUSD to IOM, NRC and IRC which will further enable the delivery of 9,800 kits and 3,100 HH cash grants & vouchers), the majority of shelter/NFI needs remain outstanding. The most recent cluster need prioritization exercise conducted at the end of September, categorized the 231,000 HH in need of shelter/NFI, including for the current conflict response, into priority 1 (145,000 HH) and priority 2 (86,000 HH). Against current resources available and pledged, **there is presently a gap of 193,200 kits or equivalent in cash grants & vouchers**, valued at **27 MUSD**. Against the other HRD MYR targets (activity 1: 40,000 HH to be assisted with house repair, rehabilitation and DRR activities and activity 3: 15,000 kits to be prepositioned for contingency), there is also a funding gap for the assistance of the 40,000 HH from activity 1 (12 MUSD) and the procurement of the 15,000 contingency kits (1 MUSD).