

Strategy Status	Version	Status	Effective date	Next revision
	MAY 2016	Final	MAY 2016	Ongoing revision through 2016
Shelter Cluster Structure				
Response name	Afghanistan Shelter and NFIs Strategy 2016			
Cluster Lead Agency	<u>UNHCR</u>			
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Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) - Agencies	<u>MoRRD, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNHABITAT, UNOPS, IOM, DRC, PIN, ACTED, ACBAR</u> - To be updated June 2016			
Endorsing Cluster partner Members	SAG and TWG Members			
Relevant Technical Working Groups:	Responsibilities TWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TWGs are created in response to specific technical issues raised by the cluster membership and given a specific terms of reference. Once completed the TWG is disbanded. • The key objective of the TWG is to develop and produce the Cluster Technical Standards (CTS) for NFIs and Shelter assistance in Afghanistan. This will include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Composition and designation of NFIs and winterization packages ✓ Composition of emergency shelter packages and modalities of assistance. ✓ Modalities and best practices on cash for shelter and voucher assistance 			

- ✓ Recommend and codename designs for transitional and durable shelter solutions
- ✓ Review building materials specification, use, availability, quality and affordability
- ✓ Ensure that Age, Gender and Diversity aspects are contemplated in shelter designs and NFI packages
- ✓ Agree and recommend incorporation of Local cultural preferences
- ✓ Foresee standards that promote opportunities for local capacity building
- ✓ Promote the use of alternative energy solutions and ensure Environmental sustainability
- ✓ Ensure that humanitarian principles and standards are included in the CTS
- ✓ Develop and recommend technical standards for earthquake prone areas.

- The TWG should provide technical support to agencies involved in shelter assistance, with the aim to increase the quality of emergency & transitional shelters designs, NFIs kits composition and items specifications.
 - It also acts as a platform for discussion and peer review of shelter design models, technical details, including but not limited to engineering designs, BoQs, training and materials, and shelter models.
 - The TWG should lead lessons learned exercises, development of shelter and NFIs intervention case studies and ensure constant incorporation of best practices to CTS.
 - The TWG provides technical advice to the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster on possible shelter and NFIs interventions in particular situations, including but not limited to the framework of the CHF Afghanistan and partners projects to respond to SRPs/HRPs/CERF.
 - The TWG should ensure (through the Cluster Lead) that CTS, shelter designs and NFIs approved packages of cluster partners organizations (CPOs) are available online in the cluster dedicated webpage. The TWG should continue encourage CPOs the use of the available reference library, lessons learned and best practices while planning new shelter and/or NFIs interventions.
- The TWG should agree on a ToR for their specific area of responsibility with assistance from the Cluster Coordinator, subsequently the TWG then nominates and agrees a chairperson for the group and someone to record discussion and decisions.

Shelter Cluster Strategy

Current Situation

Beneficiaries:

The cluster will target two categories of beneficiaries: anticipated displaced populations in 2016 owing to conflict and natural disasters; as well as communities likely to be affected by natural disasters.

The cluster has adopted seven specific vulnerability criteria for identifying the extremely vulnerable among the affected population: Female headed household; Child headed household; Disabled headed household; Elderly headed household; Very large family (8 members or more); Very poor families; Families with chronically ill members or having other pressing vulnerability.

Considering the extreme vulnerability of these people, many of whom reside at high altitude, and do not have the means to construct shelters for themselves, durable solutions are essential. Provision of tents is inadequate leaving families exposed to extreme climatic conditions and other protection related threats. In the case of displaced and natural disaster affected populations, the cluster will prioritize families whose shelter has been either completely destroyed or severely damaged requiring reconstruction or major repair. Both groups will be assisted with emergency shelter and family NFI kits. Beneficiary identification is currently standardized through the use of the ERM standard household assessment form by ES&NFI Cluster members.

Coordination & DRR:

The ESNFI cluster focuses on engaging with other clusters to identify areas of collaboration which might facilitate the transition from emergency assistance to a more durable solution. The Cluster will seek greater engagement of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, UNDAF partners, UN-HABITAT, and Government Ministries for early recovery and DRR activities. Further avenues for rural housing through MRRD and its flagship programs such as NSP will be explored along with resilience building program of various donors funded under Hyogo Framework for Action and others. Many ESNFI Cluster members already incorporate such measures in their shelter responses and work will be done to elaborate and share such programming ideas. Concrete efforts will be made to identify areas of response where ES/NFI cluster members can integrate Disaster Risk Reduction concerns in their emergency response.

The Cluster will seek to strengthen coordination among members, avoiding duplication, addressing coordination, and timely response challenges by establishing clear consensus around agreed standards minimizing differences between assistance packages and programs. It will mean that more people can be assisted from the same funding level, support streamlined procurement and improve cost effectiveness without compromising the quality of shelter and NFIs provided.

SAG and relevant TWG will be reactivated and operational, providing guidance and recommendations as well as being the knowledge reference in their respective areas. The Cluster will strongly interact with fellow clusters and with OCHA in assuring coordinated response, timely reporting & information sharing and coherent humanitarian planning.

Technical Standards:

The cluster has developed its Technical Standards (available on <https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/afghanistan>). The cluster strategy focused on ensuring standardized technical specifications for emergency, transitional and durable shelter solutions as well as NFI standards, implementation modalities, monitoring, reporting, evaluation and inclusion of cross-cutting issues. Ensuring the provision of adequate shelter and NFI relief assistance in the Afghanistan context is central to the Cluster's strategy.

Operational Approach:

- *While addressing emergency needs will remain a priority, the Cluster will seek to address needs through **prudent approaches that enable***

“transition” towards a “more durable” and “sustainable” shelter solution whenever funds would be available.

- *The Cluster will **encourage the development of Cash and Voucher options** for shelter programming where organizations have access and it is possible for beneficiaries to purchase shelter and NFI materials at competitive process. This modality (already in pilot phase with some Cluster Partners) has the potential to accelerate the emergency shelter response by agencies and could be an effective approach in the Afghanistan context.*
- *The Cluster will look to **improve rapid assessment processes** and continue with prepositioning of NFI stocks whenever feasible and operationally applicable.*
- ***NFIs assistance should be provided in the first two weeks of registered displacement** and proper biodata should be collected to avoid assistance duplication.*
- *In case of assisting population affected by armed conflict, it should be **avoided to participate in joint assessment or assistance with any party engaged in combats.***
- ***All cluster interventions should adhere to the ESNFIs Cluster Standards** and humanitarian principles, in particular the principle of not harm and the accountability framework for humanitarian assistance.*
- *Cluster Partners should accept peer monitoring, should participate in joint lessons learned exercises and apply best practices and technical recommendations.*
- *Whenever possible **joint fundraising should be encouraged** as well as to **support implementing partnership agreements** to strengthen cluster partners coordination and operational capabilities. It is imperative the adherence to common standards, codes of conduct, administrative and logistic procedures to facilitate interaction.*

Cluster Objective 1: Ensure that persons displaced and/or affected by conflict have adequate protection from the weather and privacy for family life provision of emergency shelter and NFIs

Activity 1: Rapid assessment to establish provision of tents and family NFIs

Activity 2: Set up of Cash Grants system in areas where organizations have worked previously

Activity 3: Prepositioning of basic Shelter, NFIs and winterization kits

Objective 2: Ensure that persons displaced and/or affected by natural disaster have adequate protection from the weather and privacy for family lifethrough the provision of emergency shelter and NFIs.

Activity 1: Rapid assessment to establish provision of tents and family NFIs for natural disaster displaced persons

Activity 2: Set up of cash grants system in areas where organizations have worked previously

Activity 3: Prepositioning basic Shelter, NFIs and winterization kits

SRP 2016 Objectives

Activity 4: Rapid assessment to establish provision of emergency shelter and family NFIs for natural disaster affected families

Objective 3: Ensure that responses by ESNFI cluster members are informed by accurate assessments to allow contextual analysis and appropriately targeted interventions

Activity 1: Performing assessments and determining vulnerabilities to produce beneficiary lists through agreed formats

Activity 2: Undertake dedicated professional shelter assessments in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster to consolidate and verify initial assessments

Activity 3: Timely provision of CASH / Vouchers for Shelter repairs and materials to conflict and natural disaster affected population

Cluster Objectives

- **Perform rapid assessments** in cases of emergencies produced by natural disasters and sudden armed conflicts and maintain databases of assessed and assisted affected populations. Develop and maintain a national assessment plan for protracted displacement cases.
- **Timely Provide emergency shelter** kits, tools and materials to protect most vulnerable displaced families from adverse weather and climate conditions.
- **Assist the most vulnerable IDPs families with basic NFIs** kits, winterization packages, basic sleeping items, cooking items, clothes and elements to preserve drinking water and food.
- **To provide transitional shelter assistance** and/or materials for repairing damaged houses and technical expertise to the most vulnerable POCs.
- **To assist within the construction of shelters** for the most vulnerable and poor affected IDPs when no other solution is available.

Key Issues

- **Land and property rights:** Most IDPs families have no access to land rights (poverty and displacement factors) and in some cases land disputes increase the tensions with hosting communities. There is no national or provincial plan for land allocation in case of emergencies and solutions are often short term oriented.
- **Substantial reduction of donor funds** to attend shelter and NFIs needs affects the provision of adequate solutions.
- **Security constraints** affect directly humanitarian access to people in need hampering proper assessments, implementation and monitoring & evaluation tasks.
- **Disconnection (in the absence of) with durable shelter and settlement solution** places additional burden to Cluster Partner's relief agencies as the emergency assistance has transformed in durable solutions interventions.
- **Limited National early recovery plans** and Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives to sufficient scale has transformed cyclical natural events in chronic hazards (i.e. floods, landslides & avalanches). It's imperative to develop a coordinated National DRR plan and to assess the risks (exposition to natural hazards) of population in chronically affected areas.

**Monitoring and
Evaluation**

- **Needs to improve the coordination** and interaction with National emergency response mechanisms and coordination framework.

Cluster should prepare and maintain updated its Working Plan and Assessment Plan.

Evaluations should be jointly carried out.

Cluster Peer interaction in M&E activities should be encouraged as a best practice.

Cluster Information Management Officer should keep records of M&E activities and update website

Technical Standards and Intervention Types (Merged from current NFIs stocks and Cluster’s Technical Standards)

INT#	Intervention Name	Description/Specification	Notes
1	Provision of Tent	Included in Emergency Shelter Kit. See Cluster Technical Standards C.2 – Table 2 on Page 5	
2	Provision of Emergency Shelter Kit	See Cluster Technical Standards C.2 Page 5	
3	Provision of NFI basic kit	Based on well recorded experience, UNHCR defined the reference list of the Core Relief Items Catalogue that should be the basis for technical reference on items description and standards. See Cluster Technical Standards C.1 – Table 1 on Page 5	
4	Provision of cooking/kitchen kits	See Cluster Technical Standards C.4 Page 6 and C.5 Page 7	
5	Provision of Blankets	See Cluster Technical Standards C.5 Page 7	
6	Provision of clothes/shoes	See Cluster Technical Standards C.1 - Table 1 on Page 5	
7	Provision of winter clothes		
8	Provision of cooking fuel/charcoal	See Cluster Technical Standards C.4 Split Table Page 6 and C.5 Page 7	
9	Provision of construction tools	See Cluster Technical Standards C.3 Page 6	
10	Provision of Cash for NFIs	See Cluster Technical Standards E- Cash Assistance Modalities on page 15	
11	Construction of Shelters	See Cluster Technical Standards D.3 Durable Solutions Shelters on Pages 11-14	
12	Repair of Shelters	See Cluster Technical Standards E- Transitional Shelters on Pages 9-10 and D- Shelter Assistance – Table 9 on Page 8.	
13	Provision of Cash for Shelter	See Cluster Technical Standards E- Cash Assistance Modalities on page 15	
14	Capacity Building	Trainings, Workshop, On The Job trainings, and ToTs	
15	Assessments	<u>MIRA</u> , RAF & Joint Assessments. See Cluster Technical Standards B.2 on Page 3	
16	Prepositioning of NFIs	IOM coordinating for response to natural disasters. UNHCR through own stock for conflict.	
17	Training on construction techniques	Included in Shelter Projects (whenever possible accompanied by distribution of Shelter Construction Tools)	
18	Lessons Learned compilation	At Cluster and sub-Cluster levels upon completion of major projects/programs Every Cluster Partner should compile a lessons learned summary after completion of a shelter or NFI assistance project. See Cluster Technical Standards I- Simplified Lessons Learned reporting format	
19	Monitoring and Reporting	Reporting: Monthly through SRF; Quarterly by Standard QR Forms Evaluation:	
20	Post Distribution/assistance Surveys	Using Post Distribution Form (ECHO/ ERM). See Cluster Technical Standards H- on Page 16.	

References:

1. ESNFI Cluster Technical Guidelines 2016
2. [Global Shelter Cluster Strategy](#)
3. Guiding Principles and Policies (See <https://www.sheltercluster.org/global>)
4. [Gender, Gender and Shelter; Disabilities; Age, Gender & Diversity; SGBV, HIV/AIDS Guidelines](#)
5. [Environmental Guidance](#)
6. [Landmines](#)
7. [HLP updates Afghanistan](#)