

IRAQ: Kerosene for Cooking and Heating Position Paper

v04

This paper presents the Shelter and NFI Cluster’s position, understanding and strategy with regard to the provision of kerosene for heating and cooking for People in Need¹ in Iraq².

REQUIREMENTS FOR KEROSENE

The winter period is recognised as lasting, on average, four months – November through to February. A family of 6 requires an average of 100 litres per month during the winter period for cooking and heating compared to 400 litres for the remaining eight months of the year, making a total annual average consumption of 800 litres per family of 6 per year.

								Winter				
MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	TOTAL
400 litres (average kerosene usage for family of 6)								400 litres (average kerosene usage for family of 6)				800 litres

Based on an average price³ 100 litres per month equates to USD 53.

GOVERNMENT POSITION

The Government of Iraq traditionally provides kerosene for all residents in KR-I⁴. However, for the winter of 2016, one of the primary needs conveyed by People in Need is a lack of kerosene. To date, residents of KR-I holding a PDS have reportedly not received any kerosene for the winter of 2016 and there has been no clear communication from the authorities on whether kerosene will be distributed in 2017.

For internally displaced families, the Government (through the Ministry of Oil) has sent instruction that it is committed to providing a **full quota** plus a **top-up of 200 litres** to all internally displaced families including those in the liberated areas (Ref/781/16 - Note dated 15 December 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq - Higher Committee for Relief and Sheltering IDPs to UNHCR)

This communication clearly sets out the Government’s intention to provide kerosene to all IDPs and goes further in stating its intention to provide an additional 200 litres per family. However, it does not clarify the situation with regards to host population, returnees or ‘stayees’.

The authorities have distributed kerosene to many displaced communities in KR-I. For example, all IDPs in camps in Dahuk have received 200 litres covering the first two months of the year, however there is no clear communication on whether this will be repeated for January and February 2017. The coverage to date and future plans remains unclear.

¹ People in Need as defined in the 2017 Advance Summary of the HRP – i.e. vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host community

² Kerosene needs for the Refugees in Iraq are covered by UNHCR

³ Average price of 625 IQD / litre http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/cwg_iraq_jpmi_factsheet_nov16_final.pdf

⁴ 400 litres per family.

THE CLUSTER POSITION

Based on the Cluster's understanding of the Government's position to provide kerosene to all residents of KRI and to all displaced families including those in the liberated areas, the Cluster will assist the Government to ensure People in Need have kerosene in amounts adequate to meet reasonable winter needs. To do this, the following strategy is proposed:

1. Working with all levels of the Government and its administration, the Cluster will enter a dialogue to better understand their position, to clarify their commitment to supply all IDPs, returnees, hosts and 'stayees' with kerosene, intended coverage, how and when kerosene is planned for distribution, potential gaps, barriers and needs.
2. Triangulate identified gaps in the field and report these to the relevant Government, administration authorities and Cluster partners.
3. Together with donors and partners, the Cluster will advocate that the Government and its administration meets its commitments on the delivery and coverage of kerosene.
4. In exceptional circumstances, provide kerosene for newly taken areas and areas where the Government and its administration cannot reach.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

The Cluster has identified additional activities that will assist in ensuring that all have safe access to kerosene:

1. Provision of kerosene containers. There is a shortage of 200 litre barrels and so often kerosene is provided by tanker on a weekly basis. It is reported that a lack of suitable containers may limit distributions.
2. Provision of safe central storage areas in camps. In order to ensure better storage, the design and construction of central storage and distribution areas is recommended.
3. Advocate for the provision of pure kerosene to reduce risk of accidents and fires.
4. Promote fire prevention activities in camps and appropriate camp design to mitigate risk and effect of fire.
5. Coordinate with other Clusters to ensure that prevention strategy is adequately implemented in term of measures to be in place, sensitization and participation of the communities.