

## SHELTER CLUSTER STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

### 8 May, 2017, UNHCR Branch Office Kenya & UNHCR MIA

#### MEETING NOTES

List of participants	
Name	Agency / Title
Graham Eastmond	Cluster Coordinator
Padmore Okal	Cluster Support Associate
Deng John Majok Kuir	Protection Officer, UNHCR
Rizack Abdi Thahir	HAPEN
Issa Oyow	DKH
Chiara Jasna Vaccaro	DRC
Priscilla Kabiru	UNHABITAT
Henri Stalder	UNHABITAT
Joseph Slowey	REACH

#### 1. Introductions

The incoming Cluster Coordinator, Mr. Graham Eastmond, introduced himself and expressed thanks to those SAG members who were able to attend the ad hoc SAG Meeting. The objective of the meeting was to give SAG members an opportunity to share their views on the cluster's response in Somalia and challenges including funding.

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#### 2. Overview on Cluster Response, Funding and Challenges

- UNHabitat stressed that the drought is exacerbating a long standing protracted displacement problem wherein there has been insufficient investment in more durable solutions and improving linkages between relief and development to improve community resilience to natural and other disasters. The humanitarian community needs to look beyond technical solutions to more holistic and sustainable solutions to shelter and settlement needs.
- There are land and land tenure challenges which are not perceived as a "Shelter" issue but should be encompassed under a broader Shelter and Settlement strategy. In order to broaden the understanding on what comprises a shelter problem, shelter cluster strategy should always be designed towards an area based integrated response especially in locations where the need is great and the potential to have impact is great. Shelter assistance should always be linked to Protection, WASH, CCCM.
- At the same time, it is recognized that within the drought there is a displacement crises with over 600,000 displaced since the beginning of 2017. Shelter assistance is life-saving, enhances health conditions, promotes livelihood regeneration and addresses some protection issues . As such, there

is an immediate need for relief items – Emergency Shelter Kits and NFIs (amongst others). Several assessment report confirm this.

- UNHabitat is spearheading a settlement or area approach to better integrate humanitarian and development actors to combine resources into a single area, and enhance coordination of a multi-sectoral approach.
- There followed information about different agencies activities which cover the spectrum of emergency shelter to permanent shelter across a number of different regions. DKH highlighted their ESK assistance plans. There is need for more close coordination between cluster partners. For example it would be good if DRC, NRC and UNHABITAT could enhance the coordination between them to create a synergy in delivering sustainable shelter solutions.
- Cash as an alternative to in-kind relief items was discussed and it was claimed that ICRC was actively moving from NFI distributions to cash distributions. Padmore will seek further information. The shelter cluster has conducted NFI market assessment in seven key towns in Somalia, and intends to do more.
- Funding was cited as a major challenge Shelter has not been prioritised in the HRP and other advocacy documents. As a consequence, for example, out of the close to \$600 million given by donors for Somalia drought response, the Shelter Cluster partners have only received less than \$4 million. The Cluster Coordinator provided an update on the production of the revised 2017 HRP (and mini version) which will be launched at the Somalia Conference in London on 11 May. There is need for self-reflection by members on where exactly shelter activities sit in their organizations' and donors' priority list.
- The Cluster has not fully engaged in advocacy campaigns to raise awareness of funding gaps and the needs on the ground. The Cluster Coordinator requested assistance from the cluster members with communication material (photos, videos, stories from the field, advocacy statements, success stories etc.) which highlights not only the gaps and needs on the ground but also the capacity of the cluster to respond. Padmore reported that ERGO radio station recently broadcast a story about the plight of the displaced in Jubaland. DRC also produce success stories which they can share within the cluster.
  - Post-meeting Note – The blog can be found here:  
[https://www.radioergo.org/en/blog.php?article\\_id=2895](https://www.radioergo.org/en/blog.php?article_id=2895)

### 3. Any Other Business

- Infrastructure Mapping – The Shelter Cluster will lead an Infrastructure mapping exercise to build off what has already been carried out in Baidoa across the rest of the country. It is intended that the coordination team work closely with the regional focal points to ensure that the tools and methodology used previously are adopted and the mapping exercise is completed quickly. The coordination team will collaborate with UNHCR/PRMN, IOM/DTM and REACH to move the mapping forward and to streamline the process where possible without compromising the outputs.
- Revised 2017 HRP – An update was requested and provided by the cluster coordination team. The revised HRP will be launched on 11 May.
- Regional Coordinators – Some concerns were raised about the role of the regional coordinators and their responsibilities with particular concern that the workload is not commensurate with the fact that this a voluntary role that is combined with agency responsibilities. The regional

coordinators represent one of the strengths of the coordination structure which requires a decentralized approach to be most effective in a large country with varying contexts. One possibility is to hold, in the near future, a workshop for the coordinators in which roles and responsibilities are discussed to better refine expectations and look at tools that will assist regional coordination.

**National Cluster Meetings:** Members of the SAG requested more regular National Cluster Meetings with the opportunity to meet the Coordinator in Nairobi where many of the cluster agencies are based. It is felt that these meetings promote better collaboration, stimulate cross-filtering of technical and non-technical best practices and motivate the agencies to support the cluster approach. These would also reinforce the monthly meetings conducted in the field hubs. Some of these regional cluster meetings are not taking place at all.

#### **4. ACTION POINTS**

1. Padmore to contact ICRC to find out about their NFI - > Cash distribution programs
2. Revised HRP to be shared with the Cluster.
3. Cluster partners to share advocacy and media materials which can be used to develop advocacy messages about the displacement crises and the Shelter/NFI needs on the ground.
4. Cluster Coordination Team to develop scope of mapping exercise and share with partners with clear methodology and timeline.
5. Cluster Coordination Team to review role of regional coordinators and how they are engaged. Explore possibility of running a workshop after Ramadan to facilitate new approaches to the role.
6. National Cluster Meeting to be convened to reinvigorate information sharing etc.