



Note of Meeting ESNFI Project and

Khartoum, 8 August 2017

Present: ESNFI Project (chair and minutes),
Deputy Representative, Programme , Supply , HR , Finance,
Field coordinators

Agenda Item/Issue	Discussion / Key Points / Actions
<u>Opening Remarks</u>	The Deputy Representative thanked the audience and NFIs team members for the hard work, and emphasized that ES/NFI and UNHCR are not different and targeting to achieve the same goal in providing services and that we have accountability towards our beneficiaries. The Deputy Representative requested staff to continue working with the same spirit and momentum under these difficult situation
<u>Operational Update on ES/NFI Project</u>	The Sector Lead indicated that the Planning figure for 2016 was 140,000 households, which of 25% is provided by sector partners from their owned pipelines .The sector Holds regular coordination meeting for exchange of information on stocks, Pipelines status and partners updates. The meeting is held monthly in Khartoum state and bi monthly in Darfur. In Blue Nile state, AORD is chairing the NFIs coordination meeting with partners in the state. East Darfur State is covered by Nyala office as there is no UNHCR office in east Darfur.
<u>ES/NFI Project Funding</u>	<p>The Senior Program Office, Mr Mesfin stated that he wanted heads of offices to participate in this meeting but due to the business and the size of work currently being done it was not feasible. However, It was difficult to raise funds for ES/NFI project in the beginning of the year. The project started with 1.5\$ m OL. The overall funding for 2016 only funded 22% of the overall planning ,there is a gap of 1.3 \$M to be fitted. The 1.5 \$m secured was spent on staffing. As the staff salaries have increased and payments were changed to USD has affected the projects. UNHCR made sure staff gets their salaries on time, so some of the ES/NFI staff was moved to other pillars.</p> <p>At the moment the contribution for ES/NFI project in 2016 was 2.9 \$m : japan 340 \$k CERF : 871K\$ DDS : 294 , 281 \$ SHF : 1.1 ES/NFI , 80 \$ monitoring,</p> <p>This means we are funded about 19.7 % of total requirement. An OL increase for 1.4 \$ million with the desk .The budget committee was asking whether the amount was secured or not.</p> <p>Another Question on Sustainability of the project, would it continue or mainstreamed within UNHCR? For 2017 it will be mainstreamed to pillar 4. Our fear if we mainstreamed, in any case, The project will not be a separate pillar.</p> <p>The sought 1.4 \$m will be used for covering procurement and staffing, transportation and other services.</p> <p>The Project's budget balance right now is 1500 USD, totally depleted.</p> <p>Regarding on-going shelter project, the Shelter Projects in north Darfur: UPO and AHA didn't start work yet.</p> <p>Deputy Representative Ms Angela emphasized on the moving of staffing costs to pillar one, which will allow funds for procurement.</p>
<u>NFI Common Pipeline briefing</u>	Mr Riyale, the senior supply officer stated that the current stocks are low, due to the funding and customs clearance issues. He also pointed that the contingency stock mechanism is not very effective as some offices already depleted their stocks before replenishing contingency stock , he mentioned that to replenish the stock will require some time which may not be enough sometimes. Mr Riyale also mentioned that to track the intra ware house transfer and loans is not difficulty through MSRP,.
<u>North Darfur briefing (achievements and challenges)</u>	<p>After the North Darfur briefing was presented , A question was raised about assessment , the sector lead informed the group that in the beginning of the ES/NFI project (with WFP) we were using the food assessments conducted by WFP partners, and used the finding to come up with the NFI requirements.</p> <p>Partners are getting funds for assessments and distributions from CHF. Most Nngo's don't get bilateral funding for their activities. Girma suggested identifying one partner in each state who can be the responsible for monitoring, assessments, Distributions etc.</p>

	<p>Mesfin : gaps could be covered by UNHCR funds when there is no alternative, but right now, partners need to push for SHF , as in the past, we bridged some of these gaps. Our main push must be to partners to get funding.</p> <p>SL: RRF might be useful in case of emergencies but for protracted displacement it doesn't work.</p> <p>Gregg Had a question on "Lack of clarity for beneficiaries categories to be served " the questions indicates the "Refugees " category which falls under the RMS responsibility.as the released items to refugees are considered as "Loan " from the common pipeline .</p>
<u>South & East Darfur briefing (achievements and challenges)</u>	<p>Yusuf Bilal, South and East Darfur coordinator presented his briefing. The deputy representative questioned on the "Interaction with UNHCR " on returnees response.as there are massive returnees from CHAD and CAR and the Qatar funds were received by RRR sector already. The deputy representative emphasized on the involvement of UNHCR with the RRR sector to address their concerns.</p> <p>The Sector Lead mentioned that the RWG was addressing return issues and UNDP is taking the lead on it.</p> <p>Mr. Gregg inquired about the sustainable solution that were mentioned in the presentation and how they will be achieved, Mr. Bilal said that there is a problem with shelter provision, as when the IDPs have access to shelter, they tend to stay longer and wait for support, and one of the durable solutions could be the training of beneficiaries to build their own shelters.</p> <p>Mr.Gregg inquired about CRS project, where their cost of shelter is 2000US\$.</p> <p>The sector lead said that this was according to the shelter expert "Ivan", however The USD\$ exchange rates made the costs huge. They cannot buy the items in \$ as it will be according to the UN Rate and this will make huge budget deficiency. The Sector Partner UPO is constructing shelters for 1,100 USD.</p> <p>The deputy representative stated that the issue of land is a problem for shelter constructions; assistance to returnees must be coupled with authorities to make sure there are no land issues. Protection component in terms of shelter should be on board before we use permanent structures..</p> <p>Mesfin the Snr. Program officer mentioned that shelter projects requires resources, we which don't have, we really should concentrate on what we do.</p> <p>Sector Lead: Mesfin has a point. Transitional shelters were only given to returnees or idps with no land issues. There is always the land issue, as its not provided in camps.</p> <p>Deputy Representative Stated that camps are intended solutions for very long time-years, in that context how can we justify the emergency and define the most vulnerable? As far as protection is concerned, it's very difficult to assess the IDPs.</p>
<u>West & Central Darfur briefing (achievements and challenges)</u>	<p>The Deputy Representative had a comment on the presentation, which was to use best practices when it comes to partnerships with sector partners. There should be a binding document that governs the NFIs distributions, UNHCR has the PPA , but its inapplicable to ES/NFI project.</p>
<u>El Obeid warehouse and office briefing (achievements and challenges)</u>	<p>Mr. Ahmed, the project coordinator shared with the group the stock levels in the Main warehouse in El Obied and the sub warehouses in Darfur. Mr. Ahmed indicated that they were receiving some of the held consignments in port Sudan.</p> <p>Other issues concerning the warehouse are discussed under AOB.</p>
<u>Review of the existing targeted beneficiaries groups (priorities) vis a vis NFI CP SOP</u>	<p>The Sector Lead Presented the PPT on NFIs beneficiaries, explaining all the different categories, in light of the Current Sector SOPs. The Sector Lead mentioned that the SOPs need to be reviewed in light of the recent massive returnees and refugees influxes in addition to the nomadic communities.</p> <p>According To deputy representative, no decision has been made regarding supporting the Nomadic communities, however, it's not recommended to support them, as they are targeted by other humanitarian agencies. The issue of fire affected category was discussed; the SL advised that they should be addressed in a case by case approach, as the increasing response is affecting responses to other prioritised caseloads. Regarding the protracted displacement, The shelter focal point Mr. Gregg advised to review the vulnerability criteria to make it a bit more specific, and to sensitize the process in order to make the protracted beneficiaries less aid dependent. Ms. Angela mentioned that the NFIs are not adequate support to the vulnerable communities as it has to be linked with income generating activities, and suggested to follow what WFP is doing with the cash voucher system. Mr. Christophe</p>

	from protection mentioned that they are working on a couple of programs targeting the camps to identify who is the most vulnerable.
<u>Process for accessing NFIs</u> <u>Needs assessment, NFI request & approval process</u>	
<u>Staff contracts, reporting lines, PERs, benefits . Admin ,etc.</u>	<p>Regarding the Admin issues raised by the different project coordinators, they were explained by Johanna and Sulafa from HR as follows :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff Provident funds: no contribution from the organization, it's only the staff contribution, and it will be refunded after contract expiry. 2. Insurance: for drivers holding UNOPS contract in the pool, they are insured and they are insured to drive. To include the drivers in long field missions: more discussions have to be done. 3. Difference in salaries between UNHCR and UNOPS contract holders: this issue will need to be discussed further with HQ. (Undergoing) . 4. Promotion, as staff are working in the same grade for several years: for salary increase, UNOPS's increment is every 3 years. For UNOPS contractors within UNHCR, It has budgetary implications and cannot be automatic. 5. Contract Privileges (pensions, after service benefits):an HRM assessment is on-going. Soon it will be reviewed and shared with local staff. 6. Recruitment of log's assistant in West Darfur. : this issue should have been addressed through HOSO not to Khartoum, as Darfur recruitment process starts in the field , and the HOSO is the one responsible for identifying staffing gaps . 7. Staff Training: no budget for external trainings right now , local and online training only are available. 8. Integration within UNCHR: UNOPS staffs are considered unhcr staff, it's just a matter of contracts, and however, next year more serious steps will be taken towards integration. 9. Considering UNOPS contracted staff internal: this is issue is under discussion in HQ and once there is a result it will be shared with the local staff.
<u>AOB</u>	

Meeting participants

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