



## **Terms of Reference for ES/NFI Cluster Provincial Focal Point**

To enhance the effectiveness and timely delivery of the ES/NFI cluster response at the operational level, the regional coordination mechanism was established through the creation of a Regional Focal Point and Co-chair in seven regions. UNHCR leads the regional coordination for six regions (North/Northeast, Central, Central Highlands, West, South, East) and IRC for one Region (Southeast) while IOM is providing the Co-Chairs in all six regions in Afghanistan. This coordination mechanism is very active in East, West, Central, North/Northeast, Central Highlands while the mechanism needs to be improved in the Southeast and Southern Regions.

OCHA leads the overall inter-cluster coordination mechanism in the Regions through the Humanitarian Response Team (HRT) at the Regional Levels and the Operational Coordination Team (OCT) at the Provincial levels for mainly returnees and conflicted related response while the Government (ANDMA) leads the Provincial Disaster Management Committee (PDMC) related to natural disaster response at the Provincial levels.

### **Coordination Concerns:**

For all coordination mechanisms, both OCHA and the Government relate directly with the agencies and not the Cluster representatives. OCHA also coordinates sectoral response through these forums directly with the agencies. This approach undermines the cluster approach and creates challenges related to information sharing, reporting and identification of gaps within the Cluster as partners at the various level report directly to OCHA. Also as a result, there is a lot of reluctance from the partners to coordinate with the Regional Focal Points as well as share information through the agreed systems.

Secondly, the regional coordination mechanism of the ES/NFI Cluster is centralized depending on the location of the Regional Focal Point. This excludes partners who are not based at the location of the Regional Focal Point. Furthermore, the Regional Focal Point is unable to represent the Cluster in all HRT, PDMC and OCT forums as well as limitations to effectively coordinate response at the Provincial level.

### **Way forward:**

To improve ES/NFI Cluster coordination and response, and ensure representation of the Cluster at the various coordination forums, the cluster agreed to identify Provincial Focal Point to support the regional coordination mechanism. In consultation with the Regional Focal Point and Co-chair, the Provincial Focal Point or Alternate will:

- Represent the Cluster at the various coordination forums
- Inform OCHA and if requested, the Government about ES/NFI assessment and response capacities in the Province
- Share information with the Regional Focal Point about assessments, response and gaps in the Province
- Contribute to reports on partners mapping, services and gap analysis related to the Province
- Share information from the regional level with all partners in the Province
- If necessary, organize and chair ES/NFI Provincial coordination meetings