

CCCM Cluster Yemen

Advocacy Strategy 2021

Jun 2021

The Yemen CCCM Cluster Strategy identifies a number of barriers which currently prevent CCCM partners from delivering their mandate of ensuring the protection and meeting the basic needs of IDP populations living in sites. As such, the CCCM Cluster Advocacy Strategy aims to present common positions and advocacy work streams, through which both the CCCM Cluster Coordination Team and CCCM Cluster partners can make efforts to address these issues and improve the protection and access to basic services of IDP communities.

The strategy outlined below has been developed based on the CCCM Cluster Strategy 2021, in consultation with the CCCM Cluster SAG, and reflects the current understanding of the issues affecting CCCM interventions in Yemen for the coming year, and proposed modalities for the escalation of critical gaps.

The CCCM Cluster Strategy identifies the following key issues which are currently impeding CCCM partners programmatic implementation:

- 1) IDP hosting sites lack services. More than half of sites are not reached by humanitarian actors, and 93% of camp-like settings in Yemen lack basic services (food distributions, protection assistance, WASH facilities, health posts, durable shelters, education, access to livelihood opportunities, etc.);
- 2) Sites lack formal land tenancy agreements, which can lead to eviction threats, compromising humanitarian access, and increasing the risks of secondary displacements;
- 3) The mandate of the CCCM Cluster is, through building linkages with key stakeholders and building capacities, to improve:
 - a. The coordination of multi-sectoral responses at the site level;
 - b. The quality of interventions at the site level;
 - c. The monitoring of humanitarian services in communal settings.

Advocacy can be seen as a key tool in a multi-faceted approach to addressing critical issues and supporting quality CCCM partner interventions across Yemen.

Objectives

Goal 1: Strengthen coordination in order to improve access to food, humanitarian assistance, and basic services for displaced families living in hosting sites and affected host communities

Targets

UN agencies (particularly WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR), clusters, donors, humanitarian agencies, early recovery - development actors.

Activities

- Position the CCCM Cluster within humanitarian forums as a key source of multi-sector information and data on humanitarian needs and gaps within displaced hosting sites across Yemen;
- Utilise CCCM partner-collected data and analysis on critical gaps in sites to lobby key humanitarian stakeholders including but not limited to UN agencies (WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR), clusters & ICWG, donors, and early recovery - development actors, on the criticality of addressing immediate gaps, and systematic failures which are exacerbating gaps;
- Monitor trends raised through the Referral Escalation System (RES), and implement relevant advocacy actions within the humanitarian system to escalate issues as appropriate;
- Increase awareness of the Area Based Approach within the wider cluster system and amongst UN agencies (including OCHA), ensuring multi-sector Cluster buy-in at the national and sub-national levels to facilitate information sharing and collaboration;
- Strengthen the understanding of roles and responsibilities of CCCM actors amongst other sectoral clusters and partners;
- Advocate for functional sequencing of aid mechanisms, in coordination with other relevant clusters, which work for IDP communities living both in and out of sites;
- Monitor and advocate for donor funding commitments for CCCM programming through YHF, CERF and other UN disbursements, as well as with donors, for partners to receive bilateral funding to implement projects within the CCCM Cluster Strategy and YHRP;
- Further advocate to donors regarding critical gaps identified across sectors in IDP hosting sites. Highlight the impact of funding cuts on CCCM activities and programming in sites;
- Advocate for increased site coverage and presence of CCCM partners across Yemen, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach areas;
- Advocate for improved engagement of Yemeni civil society and national NGOs in the CCCM sector, including for hard-to-reach areas and underserved displaced populations, by ensuring their access to appropriate funding and capacity building support both through direct CCCM Cluster initiatives and wider humanitarian community engagement;
- Raise displaced community voices, concerns, and complaints, and escalate these to relevant high-level forums (including HCT) to ensure CCCM strategies and higher-level

multi-sector Cluster engagement is reflecting the opinions of the communities we are working to support.

Advocacy tools

- Situation Updates on critical issues which can be disseminated to key stakeholders (min. 1 per quarter, more based on need);
- Presentations at HCT or other relevant high-level forums on critical issues regarding gaps in services for IDP communities in sites and proposed solutions (min 2 per year, more based on need);
- Donor briefings (as required).

Goal 2: Improve the humanitarian and local authority response to the Housing Land and Property situation for displaced people in Yemen

Targets

UN agencies, HCT, clusters, donors, local authorities;

Activities

- Utilise CCCM partner-collected data and analysis on eviction threats and incidents through the Eviction tracker to lobby key humanitarian stakeholders (including but not limited to local authorities, Protection and Shelter clusters & partners, OCHA, donors, government agencies, and early recovery - development Actors) on the criticality of addressing HLP issues. This should include the importance of clarity on short-term land tenure agreements for IDP hosting sites, as well as in proposing alternatives such as authorities' mediation to address the eviction threats, and ensuring meaningful exit strategies and durable solutions for displaced communities in the medium to long-term;
- Advocate to donors to ensure that sufficient funding is allocated to HLP, given the linkages to CCCM interventions, acknowledging that HLP issues are a key barrier to effective CCCM programming;
- Advocate to local authorities to allocate public land for IDP settlements as last resort following the execution of an eviction threat;
- Advocate to local authorities to promote alternative and effective dispute resolution mechanisms for HLP issues, in coordination with the Protection and Shelter clusters and HLP WG;
- Work with the Global CCCM & HLP AoR to find a global consensus for meaningful cluster coordination and advocacy on HLP issues, and collaborative information sharing;
- Promote durable solutions for IDP populations including where appropriate, integration, voluntary return, or relocation.

Advocacy tools

- Regular situation updates on eviction trends at governorate and national level (min. quarterly) for dissemination with relevant stakeholders within the humanitarian community;
- Utilising Cluster leverage to disseminate partner-level research and engagement on HLP issues to garner interest at the national level on critical HLP issues and the need for engagement;
- Regular engagement with local authorities on ongoing eviction and HLP issues, to continually seek locally driven solutions to HLP issues affecting IDP communities (monthly).

Goal 3: Ensure protection of the humanitarian space for both IDP communities living in, and humanitarian partners operating in, IDP hosting sites

Targets

UN agencies, donors, local authorities

Activities

- Advocate with relevant local authorities for the acceptance and operationalization of Area Based Approach, as well as acceptance from local authorities for CCCM partners to deliver the CCCM Minimum Activities Set in IDP hosting sites, including through strengthening understanding of roles and responsibilities of the CCCM actors ;
- Advocate with local authorities to ensure that CCCM and other humanitarian partners are able to implement programming in sites, including conducting unhindered data collection to understand needs and monitor programming; and escalate issues that cannot be address at local level to subnational/national level
- In coordination with the Protection Cluster, collate data and reporting on protection violation incidents and violations of humanitarian space at IDP hosting sites;
- Pressure UN agencies (especially OCHA and UNHCR) to hold stakeholders responsible for any violations of humanitarian space or protection principles, and to push for appropriate accountability in line with relevant IHL principles, Protection Principles, and PPA stipulations;
- Monitor and collect data on any administrative or security barriers restricting CCCM partner access to IDP hosting sites to deliver humanitarian aid. Share access updates and trends with relevant stakeholders for further advocacy (primarily OCHA);
- Coordinate at the local level with relevant local authorities to address access issues, to resolve those which can be addressed without further escalation; and escalate access issues that couldn't be addressed at national level.

Advocacy tools

- Regular meetings with authority stakeholders at local, subnational and national level to ensure open discussions on humanitarian space (min. monthly);

- Situation briefs and bilateral engagement with key stakeholders (e.g. UNHCR) to ensure appropriate accountability is upheld following identification of issues (as required);
- Information sharing through reporting with OCHA regarding access impediments (as required).