

## ***'ANNEX timeline' to the JMM report:***

### ***Timeline of initial steps and deployment of Cluster Coordinator***

Below table contains the key events and actions that lead to the formal activation of the cluster system on 24 January 2013. Depending on the assessment on when the tipping point was reached to activate the cluster, it could be concluded that considerable time elapsed between the eruption of violence in Rakhine and Kachin and the formal activation of the cluster system, but labeling this as a 'failure' by the Humanitarian Country Team/Global Cluster Lead Agencies needs to be nuanced as it fails to take into account following elements:

- Rakhine: the first wave of violence erupted in June 2012. While this led to internal displacement, it was assessed by the humanitarian community that IDPs would be able to return to their villages of origin rather quickly. An activation of the clusters system was hence not considered as necessary as agencies involved in a sector coordination response were able to respond to the needs. It was only after the second wave of violence on 21 October 2012 that it became clear that displacement was expected to persist for a longer period. While the sector response continued, the UNCT started the process to start activation of clusters on 9 November.
- Kachin: Fighting erupted in June 2011 and has continued since with different degrees of intensity resulting in new displacement as well as return movements. With limited numbers of UN/INGOs present in Kachin, the humanitarian response was mainly done by and through local NGOs, many of whom were also UNHCR Implementing Partners (IPs). Since numbers of IDPs initially remained rather low and rose only slowly to the present level, the question to activate the cluster has been on the table from the outset with the need for a formal activation becoming imperative only in the last quarter of 2012.
- Overall, while the humanitarian response would certainly have benefitted from an earlier activation of the clusters, it needs reminding that a coordinated response existed from the outset including 'cluster like' activities like trainings provided to local NGOs on CCCM, rapid deployment of people, training material prepared and translated, advocacy done on humanitarian principles and use of international standards for shelters, etc.

Date	Event
9 June 2011	Fighting erupts between <b>Kachin</b> Independence Army and Myanmar Army troops
December 2011	statement by Myanmar's President Thein Sein that he had ordered the army to cease its campaign in Kachin state but the conflict continues into 2012
Early June 2012	Inter-community conflict in <b>Rakhine</b> State starts: 78 people killed and 87 injured. 4,800 buildings burned or destroyed (Revised Rakhine Response Plan)
20 June – 10 July	First assessments in Rakhine undertaken: major needs in food, shelter, NFIs, WASH, health....
July	Rakhine Response Plan (RRP) is released: 32.5 million USD requested. Kachin Response Plan (KRP) is released: 35.8 million USD requested
11 July 2012	UN High Commissioner for Refugees visits Myanmar and meets the President and other senior Government officials. He expressed the commitment to work with the Government within the framework of the

	UN country Team in providing assistance based on principles of neutrality and non-discrimination (from Rakhine Situation External Update 2: 3 August 2012)
4-5 August 2012	John Ging, Director OCHA visits Myanmar
21 October 2012	Second wave of violence in Rakhine: 89 people killed, 136 injured and 5,300 buildings burned or damaged (Revised RRP). Fighting erupted in Mrauk U and Min Bya on 21 October.
30 October 2012	UNHCR declares Myanmar in Level 2 Emergency
6 November 2012	UNHCR Myanmar coordinates the Shelter/NFI/CCCM sector of the revised Response Plan for the Rakhine response. Support provided by GSC and GCCCMC on this plan.
9 November 2012	UNCT starts process to start activation of clusters. UNHCR Myanmar requests a Cluster Coordinator and Information Manager
14 November 2012	The Rakhine Response Plan is revised: the number of people displaced in Rakhine State has reached over 115,000 people, out of whom about 75,000 individuals remain displaced since June and over 36,000 people were displaced following resurgence of violence in late October 2012
30 November 2012	UNHCR Myanmar chairs a meeting of the Shelter/CCCM/NFI Sector discussing standards for the response and creating 2 sub-working groups: one on Shelter and one on NFIs
30 November 2012	Cluster website is created in sheltercluster.org.
3-7 December 2012	Visit ERC Valerie Amos to Myanmar, including field visits to Kachin and Rakhine State. Following her mission, the ERC requested organizing a Director/Deputy Director level IASC support mission to assist the HC and HCT in identifying ways to strengthen operations through the cluster system.
6 December 2012	An experienced and trained Cluster Coordinator (Edward Benson) is selected and agreed for deployment to Yangon
7 December 2012	Deployment procedures start including visa application for cluster coordinator
7 December 2012	UNHCR Myanmar chairs the first meeting of the Shelter and NFIs sub-working groups and standards are defined. Support provided by GSC on the definition of these standards.
20 December 2012	RC/HC sends a letter to ERC Valerie Amos proposing cluster activation for Kachin and Rakhine
14 January 2013	Second meeting of the Shelter and NFIs sub-working groups
15 January 2013	ERC Valerie Amos consults the IASC Principals and Global Cluster Coordinators on the activation of the clusters in Myanmar
21 January 2013	Myanmar visa is awarded to Cluster Coordinator Edward Benson
24 January 2013	Official activation of the clusters by ERC Valerie Amos at 19.35 GVA time
26 January 2013	The Cluster Coordinator (Edward Benson) arrives in Myanmar at 18.40 Yangon time/13.10GVA time (42 hrs after official activation).
17-24 February 2013	IASC mission team comprising senior managers from Headquarters (WHO, UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, InterAction, OCHA) and regional offices (WFP, UNICEF) in Myanmar. For the report, see <a href="http://www.interaction.org/sites/default/files/01.%20Final%20IASC%20Myanmar%20Mission%20Report%20-%2019%20March%202013.pdf">http://www.interaction.org/sites/default/files/01.%20Final%20IASC%20Myanmar%20Mission%20Report%20-%2019%20March%202013.pdf</a>