

## Kerosene for Cooking and Heating in Iraq Shelter & NFI Cluster Position Paper v7

*November 1, 2019*

This paper presents the position of the Shelter Cluster regarding the provision of kerosene for cooking and heating for People in Need<sup>1</sup> in Iraq.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR KEROSENE

The winter period is recognised as lasting, on average, four months from November through to February. During winter a family of 6 requires an average of 100 litres per month<sup>2</sup> for cooking and heating, compared to 40 litres per month for the remaining eight months of the year.

Spring, Summer & Autumn								Winter				Total
MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	
320 litres								400 litres				720 litres

### GOVERNMENT POSITION

Since 1996 the Government of Iraq (GoI) has provided subsidised kerosene through coupons issued by the Ministry of Oil and linked to the Public Distribution System (PDS). Each coupon allowed the recipient (family) to collect 50L per month of kerosene at discounted rate<sup>3</sup>. Since 2014 the GoI has committed to providing kerosene to people in need, based upon notes from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq - Higher Committee for Relief and Sheltering IDPs in Geneva on the 15th December 2016 and from the General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The distribution system, especially during winter, has become strained resulting in variable volumes per family at Governorate level, distribution points difficult to access due to distance and limitations on the number of trucks allocated to distributions. In support of the GoI response, the UN and NGO partners identified and filled gaps until the 2017/18 winter when responsibility for distribution was handed back to the GoI through the Kerosene Position Paper v4 issued by the Cluster, after consultation within the humanitarian community.

<sup>1</sup> Definition of People in Needs, as per HRP 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Based upon a heater with fuel consumption of 0.25L/hr, 8 hours per day and 30 days per month.

<sup>3</sup> Also reiterated by the Ministry of Oil [on 16.01.2019](#) (Ar)

## **SHELTER CLUSTER POSITION**

The Cluster supports the position of the GoI in highlighting the importance of kerosene supply throughout the year, especially during winter. The responsibility of supply remains with the GoI, allowing the humanitarian community to support other, non-kerosene based, complementary interventions for highly vulnerable families in and out of camp. To achieve this the following strategy, led by the Cluster, and agreed by the humanitarian community, is proposed:

1. Working with all branches and levels of the GoI to support equitable distribution through the analysis of data, forecasting of need, creation of distribution plans and the identification of barriers and gaps. The objective remains for the GoI to share with humanitarian partners a distribution plan meeting the needs of all groups before the start of winter in November of each year.
2. Together with donors, the UN and NGOs, the Cluster will advocate that the GoI meets its commitments of an equitable distribution of kerosene to all families in need. Additionally, the Cluster supports the Protection Cluster and local authorities to ensure families who miss documentation (such as PDS cards) are able to access distributions.
3. This position paper applies to provision of kerosene at the household level by humanitarian actors. Other sectors might pursue a different advocacy position on kerosene use.

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

Through the [Climatisation Guidance Iraq v7.1](#) the Cluster provides information on assistance in advance of winter. As related to kerosene the following additional notes are made:

1. In advance of winter the Cluster will prepare a national winter needs analysis and advocate with donors for funding. The Cluster will prioritise filling critical gaps through the provision of minimum standard shelter and NFI, including heaters and fuel storage.
2. The GoI remains responsible for complementing such assistance with the distribution of recommended volumes of kerosene and further NFI.
3. In support of the CCCM Cluster and Civil Defence, the Cluster will promote fire prevention activities including the installation and maintenance of physical measures and training.
4. In the case of a family being displaced and remaining in displacement during winter, the provision of storage capacity at household level through the distribution of an empty 200L barrel or equivalent number of jerry cans, can be important to ensure the ability of the family to receive kerosene.