

Shelter Cluster Coordination Meeting 09/12/2013

MANILA, PHILIPPINES ILO MEETING ROOM

1. SAG Meeting with DSWD:

- There still remain some discrepancies in numbers which makes it difficult to know what to work with
- Figures from some municipalities are coming out higher than the census
- DSWD have started community mapping in 40 municipalities
- Among the most vulnerable are those identified in the no build zones (NBZ). We are now hearing talk of 'climate change victims'
- Community groups are already getting together to make decisions about where to rebuild, but not sure if their decisions will be accepted by the local government unites (LGUs)
- A long discussion was had about NBZs. The national recommendation is that NBZs are established 40 metres from the mean high water mark, but this is up to LGUs to enforce. A key issue here could be if they don't enforce the NBZ, and re-built homes are destroyed in future disasters. Who is accountable?
- There needs to be a physical demarcation of no-build zones so that communities are aware – perhaps this will lead to 'self-migration'? This has already started in Tacloban to an extent.
- DWSD have said assistance can be provided to those still in the NBZ but only shelter materials that can be dismantled.
- Discussions were also had about relocation – NHA is looking for guidance on this especially in regard to economic activities e.g. by undertaking an intention survey to see what the beneficiaries want.
- The National Housing Authority is looking for Guidance on HLP issues – HLP working group can provide this.
- Still not sure how long everything will take and what measures to support in the interim – but we are trying to avoid too many bunkhouses
- DSWD wants more confirmation on our numbers and funding
- There is still confusion about the difference between early recovery and permanent housing – this needs to be explained in terms of materials/products in order to provide clarity.
- We need to get confirmation from DSWD about private lands that are located with the 40m zone and what they intend for compensation. There needs to be a distinction between public and privately-owned land and how to address this.
- Also need more information from the government in terms of identification of relocations sites.

2. Shelter Cluster Strategy and REACH assessment:

- 'Soft launch' of the SRP on Tuesday 10th December, official launch on 16th December
- Government appeal launch on 18th November
- The Shelter Sector has cut 12% from original funding proposition to align more with the government appeal
- The SRP contains 32 projects from 27 agencies, totally approximately 178 million – 23% of total appeal
- Prominence has been given to HLP issues at front of SRP
- The average shelter intervention by the humanitarian community will be approx. 10,000 PHP per household – equates to what the govt. is providing for partially damaged houses
- How will this overlap? E.g. If families received 10K from humanitarian sector, will the govt. also top this up?
- In Tacloban, some are saying that if the humanitarian community provides assistance, they won't receive any from government (is this what is happening in practice).
- We still need more clarity from the government on this, then will develop key advocacy messages around this issue.
- Still need to identify how to organize spatial planning/land use planning and how to deal with this at the local level when it comes to identification of relocation sites, no build zones etc.
- Shelter coordinator will further discuss with DSWD on how to support the LGUs from a capacity perspective. UN Habitat has an urban planner in Tacloban who is providing support to the Coordination team there
- Much of this conversation is still high level and we are still asking questions
- Again the issue of vulnerability and accountability was raised re: NBZs - if people insist on rebuilding on NBZ if the zone is not enforced by LGU.
- Land is a very political issue – we want to support the government where we can without being too divisive on issues.
- A key advocacy point could be to encourage LGUs to be more decisive on these issues and declare no build zones to avoid problems down the track.
- Regarding the shelter strategy, we still need to develop how to monitor indicators against the objectives i.e. standard 3W reporting, REACH assessment (first snapshot of the situational analysis).
- It was suggested that training for beneficiaries should be done soon: e.g. once reconstruction is happening people will not necessarily come to trainings because they are already occupied. It will be important to have them at trainings so they know how to build back better before they build back worse.

- The REACH assessment is ongoing, a lot of monitoring is being done along the 50KM radius of the typhoon path

3. Information Management:

- SCT is starting to report against the objectives in the SRP
- Some changes have been made to the 3W reporting and structural changes made to the Shelter cluster database
- Need to identify which intervention types get identified against which objectives- are they response or recovery? This will determine the way it is reported.
- Feedback from users on whether the data is useful or not will be helpful so we know how to make the data user friendly.

4. Communications and Advocacy:

- Many stakeholders don't understand what the cluster is – need to clarify this
- Key advocacy messages and figures will be shared on a regular basis so that all cluster partners 'speak with the same voice' on key shelter issues
- In this process, the SCT wants to consult with Cluster partners and reflect key views
- SCT developed reactive press-lines – what questions do we need good answers for?
- Need ideas for how to use communication channels to better communicate with disaster affected communities
- Also need to get photos from everyone so that we can give visibility to all partners.
- It was asked whether communication can help empower communities and how to message better to some particular hubs so that the messages are not just going to the national level. Need to be working with the local level government and communicating to them as well.

5. CASH update:

- Cash is cross-sectoral and is now being considered by shelter cluster as well
- The key issue is getting an idea of what the market looks like
- Cash allows people to have more control over the types of solutions they choose e.g. what type of nails to buy. However this can also impact the extent to which people 'building back better' – need to make sure people know how to do this and don't just buy the cheaper materials.
- A cross-sectoral cash working group has been established – looking at where to do cash and what assessments are needed.

- Many agencies are now looking to do their own market assessment.
- OCHA has a cash coordinator to discuss cash at a more strategic level.
- Cash working groups have been established Tacloban, Cebu and Guiuan. These are open to join for those in the field
- The working group is also mapping out agencies and locations where cash is planned, ongoing or completed. Please consider having a column on cash in your reporting e.g. to allow the mapping of cash vs. in kind support.
- Need to know about material availability, quality and prices. – also the type of materials that will be used and what they can withstand (quality of materials).

6. Housing Land and Property (HLP):

- It is clear from reports from the field that land is going to be a big issue, has a lot of political implications.
- Shelter cluster has established an inter-cluster working group on housing, land and property issues to discuss HLP issues with regard to no build zones, relocation and resettlement, bunk houses, informal settlements etc.
- There may also be potential issues around compensation.