

**Meeting minutes 19.05.14**  
**TWIG, Manila**

**Present**

- IOM/ Regional Shelter Cluster Coordinator – Maria Moita
- CRS
- UN-Habitat
- ILO
- Handicap International -
- Shelter Cluster – James Shepherd Baron, Xavier Genot, Dave Hodgkin, Anna Mason. (Caroline Dewast as an observer).

**Agenda**

**1. Global Strategic Advisory Group, Towards Recovery**

**2. Strategic Recovery Session,**

- (1) *Building Back Safer and Disaster Risk Reduction for all?*
- (2) *Recovery Guidelines*
- (3) *What are our target group with which option?*
- (4) *To do so, which resources do we need? Which coordination architecture?*

**3. Any Other Business**

*Contingency Planning*

**Minutes**

**1. Global Strategic Advisory Group, Towards Recovery**

**GSC statement**

“The GSC acknowledges that for the affected population the shelter recovery process starts immediately: households initiate the process of re-building their lives as soon as they can, especially after natural disasters. Consequently, the GSC’s scope includes all aspects related to achieving the right to adequate housing with a humanitarian focus: household-related Non Food Items (NFIs), emergency and longer term shelter support, housing construction and reconstruction, and settlement support such as site planning and urban planning.”

**Shelter Cluster Mandate in the context of Yolanda**

How far is the Shelter Cluster going to be involved in housing, and what is the extend of the Shelter Cluster’s mandate in the Philippines. How far should we engage in settlements and relocation, and how should we guide agencies on settlement?

It was agreed that the statement above fits well in the context of this emergency and in the context of the Philippines.

Where does the Shelter Cluster's engagement with the government lies. This is discussed in further details below.

## **2. Strategic Recovery Session**

### **(1) *Building Back Safer and Disaster Risk Reduction for all?***

So far the government response has been driven by the relocation issues, which only represents less than 10% of the caseload. The Shelter Cluster needs to ensure that the rest of the population also receive support and attention, by guiding cluster members through alternatives to relocation, and potential of building in high risk area.

#### **Term of the Shelter Cluster**

The SRP defines the end date of the cluster being the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

It was discussed whether this date should change according to the changing structure of the cluster. Several other clusters are phasing out and closing down, however it is clear that the shelter cluster will remain with a larger footprint for a longer period of time.

How long will coordination be needed acknowledging that housing reconstruction will take another 10years?

- How long will agencies be present providing support to the Yolanda affected population.
- What is the clusters target in the Recovery phase?

Discussion on the coordination structure and presence of agencies, of OCHA and DSWD and in which regions, until when.

#### **CRS**

5000 core houses  
15000 repairs

#### **UN-Habitat**

30,000 repairs  
30,000 core houses

#### **Handicap international**

2,500 shelter (will stay as long organisation adds value).

### **(2) *Recovery Guidelines***

Goals 1 is currently too broad and needs to be refined and focused on shelter, building back safer, building resilience DRR, training and communication with communities. It should also be very clear that shelter partners provide support in this process. This will be measured in the next REACH assessment.

Goal 2, diagram was agreed upon, with minor changes to the shelter option in the permanent section, such as rental support and host family support which should not be defined as a permanent assistance.

It was agreed that the titles would reflect the current wording of agencies, using temporary assistance and permanent assistance.

### ***(3) What are our target group with which option?***

The current target in the SRP is 500,000HH, which is 50% of the caseload and the government will respond to the other 50%. This target can be changed and adapted if required, and if agencies feel that the caseload has changed and they wish to return to donors to request further funds.

It was agreed that the current target has been used by agencies to develop their program proposal and it does not make sense to change the target at this stage.

The gap seen in the REACH report might not be relevant now as the assessment was done in March and many HH might have been reached since then.

### **Do no harm principle**

This idea of the choice emphasised in the first part of the guidelines might need to be moderated as it is not always the case, as some people might not have any choice.

### **Site planning**

Currently the government is providing different guidance to the international standard and the Shelter Cluster needs to have a clear stand point, although we need to comply with government.

International standard: 225m<sup>2</sup> per HH

Philippine standard: 90m<sup>2</sup> per HH

It was agreed that the Shelter Cluster would promote and advocate for international guidance.

### **Number - Caseload**

Guess estimate of numbers against our proposed caseload as the shelter cluster targets.

It was agreed that further estimation of the caseload compared to the Recovery Guideline diagram would be useful for shelter cluster members.

### ***(4) To do so, which resources do we need? Which coordination architecture?***

If the Shelter Cluster would be writing a scope of work for the next 3 months, what would that entail? The coordination architecture needs to reflect this scope of work.

The general architecture proposed by the Shelter Cluster was approved by the members, considering this can be funded and resourced.

The challenge remains to define which government agency would become the Shelter Cluster's counterpart, since DSWD is only active at a National level and in only one of the regional hubs, and will be disengaging from shelter coordination 30<sup>th</sup> June. Which other government body would legitimately take on this role?

It was acknowledged by the members that this decision is highly political within the national government.

It was requested that the Shelter Cluster should provide one staff in Manila.

It was discussed whether the cluster should hire a person to act on behalf of the shelter cluster and be embedded in government.

UN-Habitat proposed that they could provide a staff which could take on this role.

### **3. Any Other Business**

#### **Contingency Planning**

Shelter Cluster and members need to develop strong advocacy message with regards to contingency planning. In Region VIII, cluster coordinator requested from partners what their contingency planning and prepositioning situation was, and most agencies are not prepared for another disaster.

Action: Xavier and Maria Moita are to prepare an advocacy paper to share and distribute with all cluster members.

#### **Other areas where shelter support is needed**

Zamboanga is currently in a critical situation regarding shelter and only one agency is currently providing shelter assistance.

What is the process for the Shelter Cluster and members to raise this issue?

This should be brought up with the HCT, and the Global Shelter Cluster.

Saying this cluster only deals with affected population from Yolanda is an issue in a country where several disasters are ongoing.

Should there be a long-term Shelter Cluster in the Philippines?

#### **Actions:**

To be discussed in further detailed at the SAG:

- International standard for site planning verses, the Philippine standards and how to go about advocating international standards.
- Hiring a Shelter Cluster staff to be embedded in government and act on behalf of the cluster. UN-Habitat offered to provide this position.
- Does the Shelter Cluster need to have one dedicated person in Manila for the next 3 months.