
Shelter Coordination Group - Cyclone Sidr
Meeting, 30 January 2008, 1500 hrs
CDMP, 4th floor Conference Room, Disaster Management and
Relief Bhaban, 92-93 Mahakhali, Dhaka.

Minutes

ADMINISTRATION

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Changes to the agenda
3. Review of minutes from 16 Jan 08

OPERATIONS

Information management

Review of "Shelter Coverage in Cyclone Sidr response" document

The latest updated information was presented to the group with an explanation of figures.

Information shows the supply of emergency shelter adequate for needs on a macro level but some shortfall in specific areas. Agencies requested to focus remaining emergency shelter programs in these areas.

Transitional shelter needs remain significantly higher than shelters programmed.

Presentation of preliminary assessment findings

Barguna ward level assessment indications presented, figures to be finalized within 7 days.

SCG group reminded that these are from 5 wards within the Baguna district and may not accurately reflect the other districts. Other districts may be targeted in the future.

It was suggested that whilst the self recovery figures are high the majority of these have not had the capacity to reconstruct better dwellings than what existed prior to the cyclone and may be more vulnerable in the future.

Losses in the region are very high with no experience of this type of natural disaster, most do not have the capacity to reconstruct in a more suitable way.

Various agencies report field observations supporting these assumptions. The SCG needs to be aware of the poor building skills and provide training as shelter assistance packages may not be effective.

The 1.1 million figure in need of training and awareness raising requires further analysis and action in the short term.

Agreement taken to release the data to the SCG group

4. Update on emergency shelter

- 4.1. A timber workshop (approx 2 days) is being planned by the SCG team to occur in early February
- 4.2. The SCG team reported that the presentation by the ERD and World Bank identified shelter/housing as the infrastructure most affected by cyclone Sidr
- 4.3. Funds are expected to become available shortly for any agency capable of expanding its programs.
- 4.4. At no stage during this presentation was the issue of landless people addressed.
- 4.5. The SCG team is holding coordination meetings in each of the districts weekly. All agencies requested to check the website for times and attend.
- 4.6. UN Habitat to organize TWIG meeting next week regarding land less people and contact other relevant agencies for assistance and participation.

5. Update on early recovery activities

- 5.1. Habitat for Humanity reported that construction of 3000 shelters would commence in Patuakhali in the next 2 weeks and training programs are planned.
- 5.2. Habitat for Humanity has the capacity for approximately 6000 shelters if funds become available.
- 5.3. The SCG team has assisted the UNDP produce a draft summary document of shelter options for the Chief Advisors office
- 5.4. Due to increasing field activities by most agencies the main SCG coordination meeting is to be conducted in Barisal. Venue to be confirmed.
- 5.5. The meeting in Dhaka to remain but reduce in frequency and deliver a strategic direction for the cluster.

6. Update on field activities

Field activities and observations presented to the group.

7. Update discussion of core shelter model and design plans

- 7.1. New and detailed costing estimations presented to the group.
- 7.2. The Barisal TWIG assisted the government with field technical meeting across the districts last week.
- 7.3. The national TWIG agreed to meet the government standard for CI sheet at .40mm as a minimum size. Field observations indicate that CI sheet being supplied by the government is much less than .40mm and distributions of this quality are being sold rather than used. The TWIG were asked to revisit their recommendations.
- 7.4. It has been found during pilot shelter implementation that in some circumstances the affected population do not own enough land to construct a shelter meeting sphere standards. This requires the shelter to be reduced in dimensions. This is expected to occur in a minority of cases and requires clear definition and the

procurement of extra land in the future to be addressed satisfactorily. In the short term (prior to monsoon season) it may be necessary to construct smaller less appropriate shelters to provide some protection.

8. **AOB**

- 8.1. Update requested on the procedure for getting designs approved by the government. SCG team to report next week.
- 8.2. IOM offered to submit designs for concrete shelter, some concerns raised regarding timing of construction, IOM to submit to SCG team
- 8.3. In previous disasters in Bangladesh it has been found that conditional cash grants are not always used for their distributed purpose. The SCG team requested to obtain details of the procedure planned by BRAC to distribute cash grants
- 8.4.

9. **Next meeting?**

Proposed Wednesday 13 Feb 08, 1500 hrs
Venue: CDMP, 92/93, Mohakali, Dhaka

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Or find us on the web: <http://groups.google.com/group/shelter-coordination-group-cyclone-sidr>