

SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING
Thursday, 01 July 2010 at 15 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Justin Bayard	UNHCR	Glenn Costes	NRC
Aldous Silas Amarasinghe	ADRA	J Stephenson	UMCOR
Carrie Horward	UN OCHA	Klaus Palkouis	IFRC
Rishana Haniffa	CARE	Donald Sinclair	UNOPS
Irene Fraser	SAH	Julian Jones	ICRC
Leyn Gantare	ADRA	Edward Ivan	Habitat for Humanity
Amenthi Jasinghe	World Vision	P.T.J Oyalood	ECHO
K Vyasah	Internews	Deindre Kiernan	UNICEF
Jehannara Mohideen	COHRE	Meryse Tissenena	ASB
David Evans	UN HABITAT	N D Donald	LEADS
Patricia Purves	World Vision	Reinout Pienerman	ZOA
Michelle Berman	UNHCR		

1. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes

The previous minutes were accepted by the attendees with no amendments.

2. General Update

- Core Housing

Cluster members were advised that a technical working group held in Vavuniya had looked at the design of core housing and consolidated an agreed BOQ and Specification for Core Housing. The TWG will meet again to see whether the design should be forwarded to the Ministry of Resettlement and the PTF for consideration of core housing as an accepted permanent housing implementation mechanism.

- Tin Sheets

Latest advice suggests that a consignment of 246,000 tin sheets is expected from India with potentially additional consignments to follow. Latest information suggests that the consignment will arrive in approx. 2 weeks.

- Menik Farm

Due to the deteriorated condition of tents in Zone 2 & 4 and the high winds over recent weeks, maintenance was required to the tent structures. The only maintenance that could be facilitated at this stage was the distribution of a single tarp to families in each of the zones which was provided by NRC.

It is anticipated that a meeting will be called by the GA Vavuniya in the following week or 2 to discuss the proposed consolidation of Menik Farm. The consolidation to zones 0, 1 and 3 is likely in the near future although maintenance in each of these zones is required.

Other return areas – feedback

- Trincomalee

There is a dire need to replace all ESKs in Killivety and other camps in Trincomalee region where the structural framework has deteriorated extensively. The insect damage etc requires total replacement of the frames rather than repair. It is suggested that 4 GN divisions which is the prior land of the occupants of these camps is currently a high security zone and is intended by Government to be made an industrial zone.

- Jaffna

Information was shared on the new appointments of Government Agents of Jaffna, and Mullaithivu. **(Please note: Subsequent to the shelter meeting, advice received suggests that these movements have been delayed – possibly for 6 months)**

The proposed appointments were stated as;

GA Jaffna- Mr Kanesh current Jaffna GA (to retire) Ms Imelda (current GA MTU) to be appointed new Jaffna GA.

GA Mullaithivu- Mr Velnathan (Formally GA Kili) to be appointed MTU GA.

Jaffna shelter cluster raised concerns regarding the implementation of shelter and the possible inequity where not all agencies (exception being IOM) are meeting the 240sqft design agreed with the GA for transitional shelter construction in Jaffna.

The first 450 mts within the buffer zone is being cleared and allowed for return. Returns are present being undertaken in Division (Tellipallai) in area of Kadduwan west. JSAC (UNHCR funds) NRC & DRC are involved in shelter construction to GA's Design in this area.

3. Proposed area of return cluster meeting

The 'Area of return' cluster meeting, to be facilitated by the Colombo Cluster will be held in Vavuniya on Thursday, 12th August 2010 as an afternoon session.

This exercise will enable to build better and common understanding between all shelter actors (field or Colombo based). An update will be provided from all field locations on their area specific activities. Colombo Shelter Cluster members are encouraged to plan their field visits to coincide with this date.

It is proposed that this meeting be the first of a regular meeting to be held every two to three months time in Vavuniya (being a central location in return implementation).

4. Update on the Early Recovery - Permanent Housing Sector.

It was confirmed that a high level mission from India have been assessing the options for implementation of the Indian government commitment for 50,000 houses. (It is also understood that there is a one billion US\$ soft loan for infrastructure and other activities.)

Construction activities will begin following further analysis of the information gained during the assessment mission. The mission was keen to learn from recent construction experience, both post-tsunami and post-conflict related. The project is a high priority for both the Sri Lankan government and the Indian government and the time frame realistically will be not less than 24 months using a Home Owner Driven, traditional build methodology. Faster construction is possible with pre-fabrication, but wide scale use of pre-fabs is not favoured in Sri Lanka.

It seems that the SL government prefers that the NEHRP standard is followed and the Indian mission confirmed that NEHRP would be their minimum standard.

It was also understood that there are approximately 5,000 families to return in the near future from India. It is unknown at this time whether or not these families will be a high priority for inclusion in the Indian funded project.

The commitment to construct 50,000 houses in a short time period would inevitably face issues with regards to limitations of materials such as wood, cement and sand as well as difficulties sourcing adequate numbers of skilled labour. All these issues were examined by the mission and will be taken into account during their planning phase and will obviously impact on the construction time frame.

5. Informative Booklets on Minimum Agency Standards for incorporating Protection in Humanitarian Response.

A booklet was shared among participants on Minimum Agency Standards for incorporating Protection in Humanitarian Response. If any further information/ copies of this booklet or training are required it is advised to contact Ms. Patricia Purves on patricia_purves@wvi.org.

6. Land Consultant presentation - Land related issues/ legal aspects related to IDPs

- Briefed on the types of land ownership (State owned / Permit Land granted to individuals/ Private Land) and the institutes dealing with land ownership (eg : Land commissioner General's Department-main body of Administration and policies are taken in collaboration with the Ministry of Land)
- Discussed on the constitutional rights related to Rights. These rights are in directive policies as the Right to Property- land is not included as a fundamental right in the constitution. Therefore, state policies/ Acts have marked many principles in related to land in Sri Lanka.
- It is vital to identify the phases of displacement and a 10 year prescription that may result in disowning a land due to secondary occupation (by state, other IDPs and new settlements)

It was also suggested that issues related to land ownership and general administration and resolution of these issues will continue to be difficult due to one or more of the following:

- Loss of documents/ deeds/ permits.
- Issues related to unwilling and forced transfers of property.
- Legal issues related to privately owned land in high security zones and if these are converted to economical development zones which would need compensations in land ownership. This is currently a major issue in Sri Lanka.
- Difficulties in identifying the boundaries of the owned land areas
- Successions and inheritance without proper documentation to prove ownership (No death certificates of parents in order to claim the land)
- Landless (importance on defining and identifying demography of the landless)
- Language barriers are a major issue – administration processes often not facilitated if tamil is language of submission.
- Land given by the LTTE – considered null and void.
- Issues on the returning refugees from India – returning to land subsequently occupied.
- Issues on Land ownership of the Muslim population, particularly where displacement occurred early in the conflict.

7. Briefing on the shift in reporting in the JHU, using 3Ws reporting tool

The intended shift in the JHU and reporting frameworks is in an effort to provide a document that provides more accurate identification of the gaps in assistance.

With the similarity of information required for various reports prepared by OCHA and those used by the shelter coordination to ensure minimisation of overlap, UNHCR and UN OCHA will work closely the reporting mechanisms requested by implementing agencies is minimised.

8. AOB.

Query rose about returning families in transit camps in the Vanni. UMCOR explained that the main cause for these families remaining in the transit camps was the presence of military installations on the land of these returnees.

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