



SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 03 March 2011 at 15.00 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

| Name | Agency | Name | Agency |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Laurent Raguin | UNHCR | Nilusha Dissanayake | UNOPS |
| Meryse Tissera | ASB | Faslan | Muslim Aid |
| Reinout Pieneman | ZOA | M Balaramana | Save the Children |
| Klausa Palkovits | IFRC | A C M Razik | Ministry of Resettlement |
| Ashanthi | Sewa Lanka | S Priya | Sewa Lanka |
| Michelle Berman | UNHCR | | |

1. NFI & Shelter Grant Update

A total of 113,578 NFI kits have been distributed among the returnees since November 2009 to end of February 2011, out of which 4,236 NFI Kits were distributed in 2011.

As of end of February 2011 approximately 80,078 return forms have been distributed in Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu, Mannar & Jaffna. This return form covers the LKR 20,000 component of the Shelter Grant (the total shelter grant amounts to LKR 25,000 per family). The distribution of these shelter grants began since November 2009. The main reasons for the increase of the NFI distribution than the shelter grant are the following;

- NFI includes all categories of returnees (Old and new IDP returnees, IDPs in host families, Refugee returnees)
- The Shelter grant eligibility beneficiaries are new IDPs displaced after 2008
- Number of NFIs per family vary on the number of members in a family

Summary on IDP Statistics – Currently 18,880 individuals (5,742 families) are in camps (Menik Farm and Ramavil Camp) out of which 17,701 individuals (5,403 families) are in Menik Farm. Apart from this 2,653 individuals (708 families) are in transit camps. Also 65,241 individuals (22,248 families) are in Host communities. Since April 2009, a total of 264,804 individuals (84,876 families) have returned to their villages of origin.

2. Update on Menik Farm, Vavuniya

Total of Persons in Menik Farm which is 17,701 individuals (5,403 families) are divided as follows among both zones (0/ 1);

- Zone 0 – 7,787 Individuals (2,355 families)
- Zone 1 – 9,914 Individuals (3,048 families)

Post-consolidation and shelter rehabilitation continues in Menik farm. Out of 9,220 shelters in Menik farm zones 0 & 1, 5,361 shelters are occupied by these remaining IDPs. UNHCR continues to maintain drainage with the assistance of UNDP, where 2,220 meters of road drain were cleaned in Zone 0 and 2,790 Meters of road drain were cleaned in Zone 1 in the month of February.

It is said that Menik farm was able to overcome the effects of the flooding, and was able to distribute 5,500 Monsoon kits by DRC (these monsoon kits consists of Hygiene kits/ Mosquito nets and clothes).

The UNHCR Vavuniya Field Office visited IDPs in Menik farm to survey on the movements of IDPs. During this survey it was said that 98% of the persons are not happy to stay in camps. Concerns were also brought about the looting of persons in these areas.

Its visible that these transit locations still remains providing that assistance will need to be rendered to these individuals who still awaits to return to their places of origin. It was also stated that the last batch of persons from Mannar (Madhu specifically) returned from Menik farm.

UNOPS continue to provide regular shelter maintenance in zone 0, where as per end February, 1,725 shelters have been maintained. Another 125 is to be attended to. Also UNOPS deals with the decommissioning of shelters.

3. Update on the North & East

Jaffna

Resettlement in High Security Zones

Initially twelve GS Divisions in the western part of the Tellipallai HSZ have been identified for release. In addition, with the recent announcement from the District Mine Action Office, another 11 GN divisions of Tellipalai, Uduvil and Kopay HSZs were cleared and handed-over to authorities for resettlement; where some 5,074 families (16,791 persons) have registered to be resettled in 23 GN divisions. Out of the 23 mine cleared sites, 3 GN divisions have already been opened and IDPs from these divisions are clearing their lands and preparing to return. However, what is noted is that, to date, not a single family has permanently returned to these 3 GN divisions, largely due to lack of shelter and water sanitation facilities in these villages. The rest of the 20 GNs are expected to be released shortly. Most of the properties are destroyed and are no longer habitable. Hence, the GA is looking to humanitarian agencies to fill the gap.

Muslim returnees

The Muslim representatives of the return community requested the GA and the humanitarian agencies to provide shelters facilities to the returnees who own land in the district. They also requested the GA to provide land to the landless people who have returned. In addition, the Muslim representation requested for water, sanitation, drainage system, electricity and schooling facilities.

The GA requested humanitarian agencies to consider the requests. Additionally, the GA said that her office and the relevant Divisional Secretaries would work together to identify the needs of the Muslim returnees and based on the needs the relevant humanitarian agencies working in Jaffna are to be requested to provide assistance, if possible.

Trincomalee

Refugee Returnees

Since the beginning of January 2011, more than 400 persons have returned from India and Malaysia. Mostly of the refugee returnees have returned to Trincomalee, Mannar, Jaffna and Vavuniya. Generally the Indian refugee returnees do not go to Kilinochchi.

UNOPS

UNOPS continues to assist the returnees through providing transitional shelters, distribution of shelter material kits and construction of basic shelter structure in Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu.

IFRC

Three housing projects are commencing at Mannar, Wadamarachchi and Mullaithivu. The German Red Cross has contributed some 800 houses.

Muslim Aid

Currently, Muslim Aid is constructing 25 permanent houses in Manthai West, and also received PTF approval for another 30 houses, but is unable to proceed, as still awaiting for land allocation.

4. AOB

Issue on Beneficiary selection

It was informed by some sources that a government circular was sent across regarding the military to take part in the beneficiary selection with the civil authorities. Generally, the selected beneficiary list is received by the relevant Government Agents. The Ministry of Resettlement at this point shared that they too receive the beneficiary list from the Government Agents. But no proper certified information on this regards has not yet been shared. The Protection working group is currently compiling information in this regards and it is decided that the UN coordinator would take initiatives to approach the PTF in this regard. Majority of the consent was that for a more sustainable development of the North, it should be a civil body which should take part in the selection body.

Access Issues

It was raised that some agencies are still facing issues regarding access to operation sites. The access issue delays the delivery of assistance to the area. It was noted that this issue seems to be for the agencies that do not have an office in Kilinochchi. It is clear since the priority of activities have deviated from Vavuniya to the Vanni, it is wise to transfer office to Kilinochchi. Generally the approval is received for three months for national staff. This question was raised to the attention of representative of the Ministry of

Resettlement, Mr. Razik, to raise it with their authorities. Negotiations are needed to simplify and provide a longer term access for a more durable result. It was also re-instated that all activities conducted in the Vanni are endorsed by the PTF in line with the JPA.

Next Meeting

The Next meeting is decided to be held on the 24 of March 2011 at Kilinochchi. An official invitation will be sent out later confirming the venue and time of the meeting.

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