

Minutes of the Shelter Coordination Meeting
Held at UNHCR Conference Room at 3 pm
3rd September 2009

Participants:

Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Senior Programme Officer
David Evans	UNHABITAT	Chief Technical Advisor
Gareth Price Jones	UMCOR	Share Program Manager
James Stephenson	UMCOR	Share Program Manager
Alejandraruiz-Acevedo	UNOPS	Project Development Officer
Suranga Mallawa	UNOPS	Project Development Officer
Rajinda Jayasinghe	Relief International	Country Director
Lisa Luginbuhl	SAH Sri Lanka	Project Development Assistant
Andreas Ring	DRC	Emergency Project Manager
N. Amalraj	IOM	Programme Assistant
Mil Illangasinghe	IOM	Information Management
Tamara Nanayakkara	UNOCHA	Field Coordinating Associate
Jasmine Sathiagnan	ADRA	Technical Advisor
Thusitha Bodikotuwa	Sewalanka	National Coordinator
Nilkanthi Naranpanawe	UNHCR	Shelter Assistant
Sarah Wimaladharma	UNHCR	Executive Assistant
Babar Baloch	UNHCR	Public Information Officer
Drene Sariffodeen	UNHCR	Associate Programme Officer

1. Brief on the Inter-Cluster Meeting was delivered to the participants:

- The JHU reporting format by UNOCHA;
- Basic data of technical assessments conducted to be made available in the near future;
- Early warning system to be positioned – DMC to take the lead;
- Separated IDPs versus 'surrendees' – UNHCR was requested to refrain from utilising the latter term. It was stated that the UN agencies have held its activities to these sites accommodating former combatants in abeyance until a joint a decision is being made;
- Inter-news to be invited to give a presentation during the shelter coordination meeting.

2. UNHCR's discussions with the GoSL in relation to return:

- A meeting with the Presidential Task Force was attended by UNHCR and the position of the shelter grant, transport and NFI was discussed;
- GoSL was informed of the importance to conduct shelter activities in some areas, particularly for the return caseload that is non-Vanni;
- GoSL's position in relation to the caseload returning to the East was sought and UNHCR is awaiting a formal response;

3. Shelter Grants to Returning IDPs:

- A shelter grant of LKR 25,000 will be given to each returning family;

- The system of disseminating the shelter grant at the point of return is being discussed; i.e. a Return Form with several self-carbon copies will be given to the IDP family when boarding the bus. In order to prepare/print this Return Form, information with regard to the IDP will have to be acquired from the GoSL.
- UNHCR will work closely with IOM who will also assist in the transportation of IDPs;
- The distribution of the grant will be through the state banks: Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank and the Sanasa Development bank;
- In the areas where either of these banks are not present, a mobile bank by one of these banks will be organised to distribute the funding;
- The objective of this activity was to have access to the IDPs in the form of monitoring the distribution of the shelter grant.
- Similar to the shelter grant, the NFI distribution is another tool to monitor the IDPs in the areas of return.
- The modus operandi for the shelter grant has not been approved yet by the GoSL.

4. **Movement of IDPs to Madu-Church:**

- The Bishop of Madu Church expressed the fact that the IDPs moving to the Church site will have more freedom of movement vis-à-vis the Menic Farm and the site will be devoid of military presence;
- The Bishop has requested the GoSL for an indication of figures enabling the preparation of sites and services;

5. **Linking Emergency, Early Recovery and Development phases:**

- UN Habitat is proposing an incremental housing strategy which will link the emergency, early recovery and developmental stages of the shelter assistance scheme;
- UNHCR is working together with the early recovery team in order to effectively make this linkage and discussions are ongoing;

6. **Contingency Planning for Return:**

- UNHCR is coordinating closely with UNOCHA on the contingency planning;
- The unknown factor in this approach is the planning figures;
- Contingency planning for 3 scenarios are being prepared: Public Buildings, Return to Madu Church and Return to Vanni/East;
- The planning figures are fluctuating between 120,000 to 130,000 and continuing to change.
- IOM has been requested to provide transport to the 3,253 returning to Trincomalee;
- Shelter grant for these IDPs will not take place due to the non-issuance of a formal response from the GoSL.

7. **Hygiene Packs:**

- UMCOR indicated the receipt of 20 containers of hygiene packs;
- Contents of these packs are unknown, however procurement of items in order to meet the agreed standard will take effect;
- Agencies to distribute the hygiene packs are presently being considered;
- Close coordination with UNICEF was suggested.

8. **Drainage Update:**

- Rapid progress is being made in drainage improvement work due to the involvement of the SLA;

- DMC has been requested to coordinate with RDD to take over the maintenance of the drainage works and positioning of machinery on site until the rainy season is over for immediate intervention in case of a flooding situation;
- In Zone 1, agencies in Vavuniya are requested to closely analyse the areas with tents, for the low level of the ground will be flooded during rains.