

JOINT PERMANENT HOUSING, SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 15 December 2011 at 15.00 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	David Evans	UN HABITAT
Elini Hoole	ZOA	Michelle Berman	IOM
Sarath Wasala	UNICEF	Keshiya Leitch	ASB
Rasika Mendi	Law & Society Trust	Nicola Perera	UNOCHA
Dulani Sirisena	AusAid	Rob Drouen	DRC
Donald Sinclair	UNOPS	A. Lesley	EU
Edward	HFSL	Katshya Yoshida	SCiSL
Ruwani Hettiarachchi	UNHCR		

Highlights:

1. Settlement in Kombavil
2. Situation in Manik Farm
3. Briefing on the meeting held with PTF
4. Current status of the ferri
5. Shelter Update

1. Settlement in Kombavil

It was pointed out that IDPs have been resettled to Kombavil. Field missions were taken place to check the voluntariness of the return and to monitor the protection situation when the IDPs arrived. These IDP returnees were provided with good quality transitional shelters that were constructed by the GoSL. Other infrastructure however is not fully in place. Further, livelihoods of the fishermen have been supported by providing equipment and cultivating locations for farmers.

Global advocacy done on the resettlement in Kombavil in the field and here in Colombo, by all parties have born fruits. GoSL has really looked into most of the issues raised and have responded to them in a positive manner. There were number of shelters which have not been used yet. But resettlement has stopped temporarily because of the rains and there are no indications on when it will restart.

It was also noted that due to many rumours that being spread, IDPs in Manik Farm often change their idea about Kombavil. As a result of this it is difficult to grasp the views of the people which is why the Survey to be carried out in Manik Farm by UNHCR is important. However, despite RC/HC office's effort to approach the GoSL, so far no green light has been given for the commencement of the Survey. The decision at this stage is still not to provide assistance to the returnees in Kombavil. UNHCR is however continuing to advocate for assisting the people with NFIs and Shelter Grant.

2. Situation in Manik Farm

UNHCR will continue to advocate for the Survey on intentions of the IDPs living in MF regarding their return and locations etc. There is no expectation that this will materialize despite the continuous lobbying done for it. UNHCR has decided to carry out another round of NFI distribution to all families living in MF. (*Presentation related to figures attached*). RC/HC's office under the UNICEF representative leadership has compiled information comparing the situation six months ago to what the situation is now in MF. UNHCR also will continue to provide assistance to maintenance of shelters and drainage systems.

3. Meeting with PTF

Issue of Kombavil and survey in MF was reiterated at the meeting. In terms of the JPA, UNOCHA indicated that it was agreed not to include some population figures in the JPA. The number of IDPs and Returnees will however be reflected in the report, as there is no dispute over these two figures. However, the number of protracted caseload and the number of IDPs with host communities will not be in the JPA. Keep the issues related to categories of populations of concern but not the figures. Main document will be finalized and signed off during the coming week, and the compendium will be processed in the meantime. UNHCR has commissioned UNOPS to carry out the Survey on Old IDP Survey Caseload. It is important to survey old IDPs that are living out of Vanni in all other districts. We are facing difficulties, as the Districts do not provide us with the figures based on which the survey can be done.

4. Current status of the ferri for Refugee Returnees from India

It was noted that the functioning of the ferri has stopped due to technical failures. The advantages of the ferri was that in one go, approximately 200 persons can be transported. However, the GoSL is now looking for a smaller vessel for this purpose. It is anticipated that this will not take place in January 2012.

5. Permanent Housing Update

The total number of earmarked and committed houses is approx 80,000 and there is still a gap of about 31,000. Added to this is the NEHRP houses totalling to 5,000 that will not be done. It was indicated that the construction/repairing of houses for the North is house owner driven, while the 6,000 earmarked houses for the plantation sector will be contractor-driven. It was also highlighted that eco solutions for the houses will be of focus for these projects.