

**TOPIC** : Shelter and NFI Meeting  
**DATE** : 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
**LOCATION** : UNHCR Conference Room

**ATTENDEES :**

Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Snr. Programme Officer (Chair)
Cecilia Dahlgren	UNHCR	Programme Officer
Sanja Saputantri	CARE	Architect
Matthew Todd	ASB	Country Director
N. Amalraj	IOM	Project Assistant
T. Vaigunthan	Sarvodaya	Project Manager
Tamara Nanayakkara	UNOCHA	Field Coordination Associate
Katja Laurila	UNOCHA	Field Coordinating Officer
Gareth Price Jones	UMCOR	Share Program Manager
Dinesh Thalpawila	UNHCR	Shelter Liaison Officer
Michelle Berman	UNHCR	Senior Programme Clerk
Nilkanthi Naranpanawe	UNHCR	Shelter Assistant

Significant points discussed at the meeting:

- (1) It was suggested to amend the following minutes of the Shelter & NFI Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 as given below :
  3. Paragraph 2 - Emergency Shelters have been constructed for a period of 3 months and might not be strong enough to weather the coming monsoon rains and strong winds. Technical Working Group Meetings are being held Vavuniya for being prepared with proper contingency planning in place to overcome this situation.
  3. Paragraph 3 – It is being discussed at the Vavuniya Shelter Meetings to replace the roofs and walls of the emergency shelters with Zinc / Al sheets before the monsoon rains. However it was agreed that the agencies would not make any changes to the shelters but would continue to abide by the Guidance Note.
  3. Paragraph 5 – The best option when decongesting the camps would be to relocate IDPs with host families and for return of IDPs to their places of origin. Even though this has been identified and prioritised by the GoSL there are lot of constraints and practical difficulties being experienced. UNHCR confirmed that the Protection Unit along with Protection Cluster is also advocating on the host family option.
- (2) Plastic Sheeting that is presently being used for shelters / tents are of superior quality and the agencies were requested to ensure that proper fixing of these sheets with good quality nails and timber is being done to withhold the rain and wind.

(3) UNOCHA briefed the participants on the review of the Humanitarian Operations Group.

- The Humanitarian Operations Group will be replaced by an Inter Cluster / Cluster Leads Group in Colombo, chaired by HC or his designated Representative. This group will link up with the Inter Cluster Group established in Vavuniya that meets weekly on Tuesday to provide strategic guidance on policy and cross cutting issues.
- Participation – The Cluster Leads will be members of the Group. The selection of additional members would be representatives nominated by the INGOs and NGOs in the sector. However a balance is required between the INGOs and the local NGOs. Total number of participants would be limited to 12-14 persons.
- Issues that will be discussed – Cross cutting issues and provide advise / recommendations to HCT on policy discussions. To help streamline and make the HCT more effective, cluster updates will be provided by cluster leads at Inter Cluster Meeting.
- The Inter Cluster Meeting in Colombo will be able to take up issues from the Inter Cluster Meeting in Vavuniya and seek to provide policy guidance / make Recommendations to the HCT on issues that need to be resolved at that level.
- Frequency – These meetings will be held every fortnight and the timing will be in consistent with the HCT, so as to ensure that issues can be easily directed to the HCT for resolution when needed.

UNHCR Conference Room could be made available- if given prior notice - for the agencies to meet and select the INGO / NGO Representatives for participation of the Inter Cluster Meetings.

(4) Update on Vavuniya –

Zone 2 – The GoSL has decided to divide this zone into 4 parts for better control and security reasons. Emergency Shelters / tents will have to be dismantled and reconstructed. This will cause damage to the shelters and these shelters would then have to be repaired / replaced. The agencies indicated that this will not be viable as the donors will not agree to funding of such a project.

At a meeting held in Vavuniya it was suggested to have a large tent to accommodate IDPs in case of emergency due shelters being damaged by rain / wind. The participants were reluctant to agree to this as this might lead to further problems.

All agencies should advocate to erect emergency shelters and to hold on to their stock of tents to be used for emergencies due to natural disasters.

Zone 6 – Some agencies are experiencing problems with hiring of labour as certain Agencies are paying higher wages.

- (5) A meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 to address the issue of drainage in Menic Farm. UNHCR, UNDP, UNOPS, Land Reclamation Development Corporation and other agencies participated at this meeting. Impressive plans have been drawn up for which approximately USD 100,000 is required.

As drainage is linked to decongestion and to avoid accommodation on IDP returns / host families priority will be given to Zones 2 and 3, then 1 and 4 and then 5 and others.

- (6) Update on Trincomalee –  
422 Shelters have been completed in Pulmoddai by ZOA and IOM.  
With the co-operation of the DS of Trinco maintenance and repair of shelters are being attended to by the agencies.  
Loss of shelter materials was reported by IOM.  
500 people have been released from hospital and have been accommodated in 50 shelters constructed by PIN.  
Elderly IDPs have been released from the Pulmoddai Camp and reuniting of IDPs is being considered,
- (7) Update on Jaffna –  
GoSL has identified 3 camps. One site – Palmyrah C demining of the land has been completed. GoSL will initiate drainage and clearing of this site as well.  
160 -170 shelters could be constructed on this site.  
Shelter agencies have shelter materials in stock to construct nearly 1000 Emergency Shelters.  
GoSL return plan for the IDPs have not been shared but UNHCR will continue to advocate.
- (8) Main priorities of the Shelter Sector –
- Completion of Shelters in Zone 5-8 and MKK Site.
  - Survey on shelter repairs and maintenance
  - Drainage Issue
  - Survey on NFI situation – Replacements / Special Needs
  - Return Shelters
- (9) Comments were given on the Transitional Shelters / returns discussed at the Mannar Meeting , minutes of which were shared at previous meetings in Colombo.  
Agencies request the final decision on the shelter design and the BOQ to be shared with them.