

TOPIC : Shelter / NFI Meeting
DATE : 18 June 2009
LOCATION : UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES :

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|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Cecilia Dahlgren | UNHCR | Programme Officer |
| Andre Naude | UNHCR | Project Control Officer |
| Suranga Mallawa | UNOPS | Project Development Officer |
| Matthew Todd | ASB | Country Director |
| Nikola Buljugic | UMCOR | Logistics & Procurement Coordinator |
| Avanthi Jayasinghe | WVL | Programme Officer |
| N. Amalraj | IOM | Project Assistant |
| Ingrid Quinn | UNOCHA | IASC Gender Advisor |
| Ramila Senanayake | Oxfam GB | Media & Communication Officer |
| Tahirih Qurratulaya | SCISL | Strategic Programme Advisor |
| Harin | SCISL | Logistics |
| Udayanga Waragoda | ZOA | Donor Account Management |
| Nilshan Fonseka | NRC | Project Officer |
| Nilkanthi Naranpanawa | UNHCR | Shelter Assistant |
| Michelle Berman | UNHCR | Senior Programme Clerk |

Following are the significant points discussed during the meeting:

1. Follow up action from the last meeting –

Minutes were amended as per attached revised final minutes. An update was provided by the participants on the action point related to the buffer zone that would have been created to isolate IDPs with diseases. It was mentioned that the creation of this buffer zone had been cancelled. Regarding the second action point to know more details related to Puvasakulam, no information had been obtained yet.

2. Update on NFI

- *NFI Update* – 99,188 family NFRI kit have been distributed so far in Sri Lanka through the NFRI coordination. General NFI distribution in Vavuniya has been completed except a few blocks in Zone 1. The future focus will be on specific gap analysis and to cover vulnerable groups' needs.

3. Update on Shelter

- *Decongestion* - The current focus is on decongestion of Menic Farm zones and schools.

1,423 tents have been erected in zone 5 and transfer has begun of IDPs from Zone 2 to Zone 5 on Thursday 18.06. The current authorities plan is to transfer IDPs to new sites as follows:

- from zone 1 (approximately 6,395 families) to zone 6.
- from zone 2 (approximately 7,000 families) to zones 5 & 6.
- from zone 3 (approximately 965 families) to zones 5& 6.

The initial plan to transfer from zone 0 (approximately 1,000 families) to zone 5 have been postponed by the authorities.

Block clearing and access roads are on-going by the military in zone 6. Some transfer occurred from school sites to the new created sites of Veerapuram and Sumathipuram. The current IDP population in these two sites is : Veerapuram (5,781) and Sumathipuram

(4,444). In the third site, 76 shelters have so far been erected but transfer of IDPs has not yet started (plan to start around 25.06).

Maintenance of shelters and tents – Another immediate priority is to maintain and repair shelters and tents. So far, 3,150 shelters have been repaired in Zone 3.

4. **Broad Parameters for return traditional shelters** – Draft minutes of the technical group meeting held in Mannar was shared. It contains draft broad technical parameters for return transitional shelters. It was agreed that each participant would look into these and provide feed-back by mail so that it could be discussed and agreed in the next shelter meeting.
5. **Shelter/ NFI stocks** - NFI formats will be distributed to all agencies to get their updates on stocks and pipelines.
6. **Any other issues**

A question was raised by Ms. Ingrid Quinn of UNOCHA, stating that there is a visible doubt on whether individuals were consulted when movements occurred in IDP camps and whether these movements are voluntary, as well as whether there was an involvement of the international community in this process. Further, according to her the IDPs were afraid, worried and unaware of the movements.

Ms. Cecilia Dahlgren of UNHCR replied that the authorities are doing the transfer. However, UNHCR has established field units and have allocated field officers at each camp to monitor the voluntary movements, stressing the importance to keep the family intact, and providing advice on PWSN.

It was also mentioned by the participants that the international community should advocate to obtain procedures for the decongestion of the zones.

Ms. Suranga Mallawa of UNOPS updated of some operational issues. They are;

- Problems in levelling land in the new sites at Mahakongaskada were encountered, and this resulted in the cutting down the number of emergency shelters initially planned.
- It was reported by various sources that there would be a reduction of the number of shelters from 3,500 to 1,200 in zone 5. This matter is being followed up by the HOSO Vavuniya, Snr Emergency Coordinator and by the shelter coordinator in Vavuniya.
- Discussions are being held in Vavuniya on the maintenance issue of shelters/ tents. There is a necessity to take a decision on the period of the resettling process at Vavuniya and Colombo level. UNOPS have replaced tarpaulin sheeting three time up to date. This is a common issue to all shelter agencies.

UMCOR official informed that they have materials available for 700 shelters for maintenance and repairs. UNHCR also could be approached for plastic sheeting.

It was known to the committee that the competent authority in Vavuniya has taken action to distribute 02 numbers of cement bags and sand in zones 0 and 3 for the flooring.

There was a consensus among shelter agencies that concrete platforms are not suitable for a variety of reasons for shelters and tents in the Menic Farm zones. The CA has expressed his intention to distribute cement and sand to IDPs for the platforms.

7. **Next meeting** - Next NFI/ Shelter meeting will be on 25 June 2009 at UNHCR. Ms. Ingrid Quinn of UNOCHA re-scheduled the presentation on the Emergency Regulation of Sri Lanka and its gender consideration, Rights of persons as well as the legal aspects of the International community's response on the current situation of displacement in Sri Lanka.

