

JOINT PERMANENT HOUSING, SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 18 August 2011 at 15.00 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	David Evans	UN HABITAT
Elilini Hoole	ZOA	Sarath Wasala	UNICEF
Aziza Usoof	Practical Action	Charmalee Jayasinghe	UN HABITAT
T. Amunthan	SLF	ACM Razik	Ministry of Resettlement
M. Faslan	Muslim Aid	Tony Seneviratne	HFHSL
Nigel V Napawela	CPA	Satoko Noguchi	HFH Japan
Rob Jones	UNOPS	Wathsala Jayamanna	UN OCHA
Carrie Howard	UN OCHA	Yukako Niimi Arti	UNICEF
Mithsiri Dias	Caritas	Dulani Sirisena	AUSAID
Vaweesearan	Caritas	Lorena Lando	IOM
AZAD	DRC	M. Balaramana	Save the Children
Pauline Laooix	ACTED	Andre Krummacher	ACTED
Ralf N Thill	ASB	Bharat Pathak	UMCOR
Michelle Berman	UNHCR	Jackson Selliah	UNHCR

1. Briefing on Menik Farm

Total of Persons in Menik Farm which is 7,515 individuals (2,099 families) are divided as follows among both zones (0/ 1);

- Zone 0 – 3,392 Individuals (1,038 families)
- Zone 1 – 4,123 Individuals (1,261 families)

Out of 3,896 shelters in Menik farm zones 0 & 1, 3,123 shelters are occupied by these remaining IDPs and another 773 are unoccupied and are to be decommissioned. UNHCR continues to maintain drainage until closure of Menik Farm, where 8,106 meters of road drain were cleaned in Zone 0 and 9,706 meters of road drain were cleaned in Zone 1 in the month of July in order to prepare for the forthcoming rainy season in September/ October.

It was shared as an observation that many returnee families take many tin sheets with them while returning and leave back many other tin sheet pieces lying. Therefore UNHCR had requested its implementing partners OHRD and UNOPS with their funds a cleaning up of zones.

2. Relocation to Kombavil, PTK

Currently de mining activities are been finalized and cleared in order to prepare land for the future site in Kombavil. It is said that surveys have already begun by several governmental entities such as the Electricity Board, Road Development Authority, Water Boards where as accordingly plots will be made. Therefore, the possibility of consolidating zones 0 and 1 in Menik farm is not considered further as this new relocation may happen shortly, where decommissioning of shelters could be done as a concluding task.

According to OCHA representative, there is no precise official UN position yet on the relocation. But currently there are discussions held at high levels on this issue. But its positive elements of this relocation were discussed.

It was shared that the Protection working group had prepared an advocacy paper which has been already shared with the UN HC/RC.

3. Briefing on the Return Process

According to the return statistics a total of New and old IDP movements are as below;

- Total IDPs in Welfare Centres/ Camps – 5,168 Families (17,747 persons)
- Total IDPs with Host Communities – 39,011 Families (147,418 persons)
- Total IDPs in Transit Situations – 1,621 Families (5,366 persons)
- Total IDP Returnees to area of origin (since April 2009) – 114,940 Families (386,504 persons)

The breakdowns of new IDPs (IDPs who have returned after April 2009) are;

- Total IDPs in Welfare Centres/ Camps – 2,849 Families (9,371 persons)
- Total IDPs with Host Communities – 22,754 Families (65,007 persons)
- Total IDPs in Transit Situations – 376 Families (1,364 persons)
- Total IDP Returnees to area of origin (since April 2009) – 66,702 Families (212,413 persons)

According to the summary of the shelter Matrix, maintained by UNHCR Vavuniya, they have calculated additional shelters in Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu & Mannar. It was reminded that many agencies should contribute further in Mannar.

4. Briefing on Permanent Housing

As part of a mission visit to Menik Farm Laurent Raguin noticed that there were several houses been put up between zones 4 & 5 as part of the pilot project of the Indian housing scheme. For this purpose they had cleared the forested areas, which was a disappointing event.

Since the last update there is no change in the commitments. But it was shared that a big portion of the commitments are from the government. No changes in the donor front where EU, AUSAID and Red Cross remain as large funding agencies.

Issues still persist with regard to the cost of cement, Timber and sand.

5. Empty Transitional Shelters in Mannar

According to observations done, it was brought up that there are many transitional shelters vacant in the Mannar area and the sector lead inquired whether partners face similar problems in Mannar or in other locations and why could this be occurring. Possible implications are foreseen by donors and implementing partners.

6. Briefing on the Sri Lankan Voluntary Refugee Repatriation

Informed that a new ferry service has been opened from Tuticorin to Colombo, and would enable to begin the process of transporting Indian refugees to Sri Lanka. The vessel has a capacity of 1,000 persons. This is a very complex process which is time consuming as the Port is situated in the High Security Zone (HSZ) area. To leave the Port, buses transport them outside of the HSZ. This ferry will operate twice a week. UNHCR will rent a reception area outside the Port area. This system is more preferred as the returnees could bring along their belongings, luggages upto 150 Kgs. As of end of June, 1,200 persons have returned in 2011. There is a planning figure of an additional 2,000 persons for the rest of the year. There are estimated figures of 15,000 to 20,000 persons planning to return next year. This figure may vary as UNHCR has no access to Camps in India.

7. Shelter Needs Assessment

UNHCR proposed to undertake a shelter needs assessment in the north, similar to the two assessments done by WFP. This assessment hopes to be conducted in a more in depth manner on shelter matter. An open invitation was put forward to the sector partners requesting for support financially and technically to assistance in implementing the needs assessment. This assessment will enable the different sectors (Permanent Housing/ Shelter/ NFI) to identify vulnerable groups, their living conditions and assist in the design of the project. Proposals were made to conduct a household level survey which will be worthwhile.

The shelter sector group was lukewarm to the proposal. However UMCOR, IOM & UNOPS agreed to provide Human resources for this assessment. Needs for funds were also highlighted. UNOCHA agreed to discuss this matter at the next Inter Sector Meeting to gather more support.

8. NFI Gap Analysis

Currently UNHCR is calculating the gaps for NFIs for the remaining period of the year and the next year.

9. AOB

Briefing on the new Land Circular

A Briefing on the new land circular will be held on Thursday, 25th of August 2011 at 2.00 pm at the UNHCR Conference room in coordination with the IDP protection working group and the HLP Working group. UNHABITAT informed that they will be advocating on these new regulation on land with the different levels of government institutes.

Poonthottam Camp

The government has reduced facilities and the GA is requesting the remaining families move from this camp to an allocated land.