

Shelter Cluster Coordination Minutes
held on Thursday, 22nd October 2009,
at the UNHCR Conference Hall

1. CHAP Process:

- GoSL objectives to be incorporated into the submission
- Confidentiality of the project sheets and information of certain I/NGOs provided vis-à-vis the GoSL was perused. It was also felt, however, due to the fact that the GoSL's review and the involvement of the CHAP process made maintaining confidentiality rather challenging. Agencies felt that they should have the flexibility to address this issue. Agencies were informed that the PTF meeting (16th October 2009) indicated that working with I/NGOs is not possible in the initial stage in the northern districts. Encouragement was made to take into consideration these sentiments of the GoSL in the developing of the programmes. A progressive approach incorporating these opinions, it was felt was an approach to adopt in the planning.
- The types of shelter to be included were discussed briefly: the approach provided by IOM in this process was reiterated. Core shelter (going into the immediate early recovery phase) was to be adopted in the CHAP submission to the GoSL. Proposals should stand parallel to the IOM shelters that were presented.
- The absence of a clear indication of an operational and logistical process as well as a list of options stating the types and costs of shelters made the development of the project sheets challenging. For instance, wood availability in the areas of returns; provision of wood by the agencies; and GoSL pre-positioning the wood in the cooperative shops further challenged the process.

2. Types of Shelter to be incorporated in the CHAP:

- It was agreed that the shelter types presented by IOM during the previous weeks meeting were considered the basic shelter model to be adopted for the CHAP;
- Additionally all agencies agreed to include core shelter proposals into the CHAP 2010 in order to raise funds of donors accordingly in order to move towards the immediate early recovery;
- The need to adopt a clear logical process as well as prioritisation of activities was noted;
- A list of options on shelter types and costs, it was also felt, was needed;
- The pre-positioning of wood and cement by the GoSL in the cooperative shops in the areas of return enabling returnees to procure material was discussed;
- Participants felt that the provision of wood by certain agencies ran contrary to the GoSL approach of pre-positioning wood;

3. Cash Grant:

- UNHCR discussed that historically the agency funds a number NGOs to do a range of shelters. For this particular CHAP process, it was foreseen that UNHCR will do the same as all times making the case to the donors. However, UNHCR stated that with the current provision of the shelter cash grant, UNHCR capacity to involve I/NGOs with their programs will somehow be affected.
- Various shelter sector participants felt that UNHCR did not share the procedures adopted for the entire shelter grant, as well as it was not consulted neither participated the IDPs in the process. Agencies felt that the program was an ineffective and inefficient that barred agencies from having access to the return areas;
- UNHCR stated that the grant would be an enhancement towards anchoring return predominantly in assisting returnees to procure shelter material or contribute towards their livelihood opportunities. UNHCR agrees that the shelter grant will not be enough to support returning families with their shelter needs, and it will use more as a cash grant than specifically for shelter. Internationally the cash grant has supported all returnees to return back to their lifestyles, as in the cases of Cambodia and Afghanistan.
- Certain agencies that had previous experience in the united assistance scheme of 2003 stated the effectiveness that the grant contributed in anchoring return. It was felt returnees having with them LKR 25,000 to be utilised in anyway could strength IDPs capacity for their own, however did not cover the essential shelter needs.
- UNHCR stated that the Presidential Task Force (PTF) requested the distribution of the shelter cash grant. While accepting the fact that it was insufficient, UNHCR felt that it was obliged to support the GoSL in this request. UNHCR indicated that it has signed a MoU with the Ministry of Resettlement; another is being negotiated with the Ministry of Finance and Planning and an agreement is underway with the Bank of Ceylon as the distributing agency.
- For the operation of the grant, UNHCR stated that they will use the transport manifest by the SLA/GoSL together with IOM for the identification of returnees that will receive the shelter cash grant. The MRDRS data base will be utilised to its fullest extent in the monitoring process.
- The caseload that will be covered through this cash grant will be the new as well as old caseloads; however, UNHCR stated that a full-fledge discussion on the involvement of the latter caseload has been addressed with the GoSL.
- Certain participating agencies felt that the shelter cluster had to endorse the shelter grant procedure; it was felt that the cluster could not endorse a GoSL decision and procedure;
- Certain participating agencies felt that a vote (show of hands) was required to display that they did not endorse the shelter grant process. Only 6 out of xx participating agencies agreed on the need for such a voting process.
- Agencies that had had previous experiences (i.e. the united assistance scheme of 2003) understood the need to assist IDPs with cash grants and understood that this grant is not intended to replace any shelter assistance. UNHCR will request the GoSL

to include into the return package a basic shelter assistance to the returnees, in order to assure the provision of shelters in addition to the NFIs and cash grant.

4. Update on the Return Process:

- It was indicated that the GoSL has taken steps to return 21,000 families to the northern districts;
- PTF has indicated the return of 2,000 families to Mannar and 500 to Mullaitivu districts.

5. NFIs:

- Agencies were requested to report on the stocks: in the warehouses as well as in the pipeline in order to analyse the needs and availability of NFIs;