

**Shelter & NFI Coordination Meeting
Held at UNHCR on 24th September at 3 p.m**

Participants:

Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Senior Programme Officer
R.Ramesh	RI	Finance Manager
Jacobo Quintanilla	INTERNEWS	Project Director
Rob Drouen	DRC	Country Representative
Lisa Luginbuhl	SAH / SOLIDAR	Project Development Assistant
Charmain Mohamed	NRC	Protection / Advocacy Assistant
Alejandro Ruiz-Acevedo	UNOPS	Project Development Officer
Julian Jones	ICRC	Wat-Hab Coordinator
Giovanni Cassani	IOM	Head of Emergency
Nicola Perera	UNOCHA	Reporter Associate
Matthew Todd	ASB	Country Director
Jan Pavelka	PIN	Head of Mission
Kaushalya Navaratne	SEWALANKA	Director – Programs
K. Vyasa	INTERNEWS	Presenter / Producer
Samantha Wimalasuriya	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	Project Manager
Nilkanthi Naranpanawe	UNHCR	Shelter Assistant

**1. Mr. Lynn Pascoe (Under Secretary General for Political Affairs –United Nations)
Mission to Sri Lanka :**

- Mr. Pascoe was able to visit Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya. The key issues that were addressed by him were :-
 - The IDPs in the Camps and the Return Process
 - Political Reconciliation
 - Human Rights Accountability
 - United Nations and Sri Lanka

2. Mr. Walter Keilin (Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights – United Nations) Mission to Sri Lanka :

- Mr. Keilin will address the Legal Rights of the IDPs held in closed camps and will advise the GoSL

3. Minister Samarasinghe's meeting with the High Commissioner of UNHCR :

- The Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights met the High Commissioner of UNHCR in Geneva. UNHCR confirmed that they will assist the GoSL in the Return process of the IDPs by ways of Shelter Cash Grants for the North and other Shelter Programmes in the East. However UNHCR is not in a position to assist the IDPs that are transferred from closed camps to closed camps in areas of origin.

4. Trincomalee – Pullmodai Camp :

- PIN indicated that there is speculation that IDPs from Menic Farm will be relocated in Trincomalee – Pullmodai Camp.

5. Shelter Cash Grant :

- A shelter grant of LKR 25,000 will be given to each returning family
- The system of disseminating the shelter grant at the point of return will be i.e. a Return Form with several self-carbon copies will be given to the IDP family when boarding the bus. In order to prepare/print this Return Form, information with regard to the IDPs will have to be acquired from the GoSL.
- UNHCR will work closely with IOM who will also assist in the transportation of IDPs
- The distribution of the grant will be through the state banks: Bank of Ceylon, People's Bank and the Sanasa Development bank
- In the areas where either of these banks are not present, a mobile bank by one of these banks will be organised to distribute the funding
- The objective of this activity was to have access to the IDPs in the form of monitoring the distribution of the shelter grant.
- The modus operandi for the shelter grant has been approved verbally by the GoSL but UNHCR is awaiting the approval in writing.
- UNHCR has requested the GoSL to provide the data base of the IDPs that are presently in the camps.
- Equity with grants and other assistance would be adhered to as much as possible

6. Assistance to IDPs in Mannar :

- The President's Task Force (P.T.F) has restricted access to allow Agencies to work in the Mannar District. The Agencies have requested to be permitted to Mannar to continue with the Shelter programmes that were commenced before May 2009.
- UNHCR confirmed that they too have written to the PTF to differentiate areas to their partners and agencies to enable them to continue with their humanitarian work.

7. Contingency Planning :

- It was indicated that some Agencies have been asked to handover contingency stocks of NFI to the Military to be used at a time of a natural disaster.
- If there is flooding in the camps the Military will assist the IDPs by moving them to safe areas and the Agencies will assist to rehabilitate the shelters, for IDPs to return to camps or places of origin.
- The same assistance would be provided in the case of Host Families : IDPs accommodated by family, relatives or friends.
- UNHCR Protection Group together with the other agencies are in the process of categorising the needs of the IDPs. Once this is ready a table will be prepared to specify the type of assistance that will be given to these IDPs.

8. NFI Kits :

- It was confirmed that all the IDPs have been provided with the same NFI Kits. However an analysis would be carried out to ascertain if there are any gaps or if any replacements are needed by the IDPs.
- Transportation of NFIs to Jaffna is pending as approval has not been granted by the GoSL

UNHCR

Colombo.

24th September 2009.