

SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING
Thursday, 29 April 2010 at 15 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Mithsiri L S Dias	Caritas
Justin Bayard	UNHCR	Glen Costes	NRC
Sarah Wimaladharm	UNHCR	Jorike Looij	ZOA
Jude James	UNHCR	V. Arockians	Caritas
Mil Illangasinghe	IOM	Takuya Ono	IOM
J. Stephenson	UMCOR	Krummacher Andre	ACTED
L. Sasiharani	UMCOR	Donald	LEADS
P. Rubenthiran	FORUT	Sansonetti Jerome	ACTED
Nabeeha Siddique	UMCOR	Rishana Haniffa	Care International
Fahim Wahab	Muslim Aid	Shunsuke Yamamoto	Save the Children
Sulochana Peiris	ASB	Uthpala Gunethilake	Internews
Tanya Barnfield	ASB	Tamara Nanayakkara	UNOCHA

1. OCHA presentation on 3Ws (Who, What & Where) Data collection tool

The presentation's main objectives were to train the partners to fill in the data sheet which will be ultimately utilized to feed in data to the system. This data base began in 2005 (during the post tsunami period) to collect data on agencies and their respective activities. This data base can be used to create maps, reports or any queries and also be used as a planning tool for analysing and identifying gaps. This tool would be helpful in the fund raising initiatives with donors. OCHA is of the view that this database would assist in tracking organizations and its activities in the transition of phases from emergency/ humanitarian to early recovery and the increase of Humanitarian actors.

The excel Sheet represents the HL data collection sheets at two levels; which is at the field level and at the Colombo level, where OCHA, Colombo will compile this data and enter into the database and finally monitor it at the OCHA Headquarters. This data base is globally accessible. A few snap shots of the database were presented to the audience.

Main elements of the data collection sheet are,

1. Details of the Organization (Type of organization, Contact person details)
2. Each Project details according to each locations (According to DS/ GN and Village level)
3. Other Project details (Project Title/ description/ Status/ Duration)
4. Beneficiary details (beneficiary type and number)
5. Project implementation details (Implementing Partner details)
6. Funding source information

These projects do not necessarily need to be covered by CHAP and the projects should be currently operational and/ or proposed projects. Updates are expected monthly. This tool

is important because it could inter link with the other Humanitarian Information Management tools.

Therefore OCHA requested all partners of this cluster to complete the excel data collection sheet and forward it urgently to OCHA in order to carry out the updating of the system. The deadline was given as 30 April 2010

2. Funding status for 2010

OCHA again had sent in an e-mail requesting all agencies to send in the updates on the funding status for 2010 which is needed to be updated on the OCHA Financial Data Base. An e-mail had already been circulated among the partners on 27 April 2010. The financial tracking system (FTS) has started activating to capture the financial status and the projects out puts against the funding, thus requesting all Agencies/ Donors to give an update on this matter. Though the FTS has initiated the process seems to have slowed down due to the controversy on CHAP. OCHA encourages the agencies to report on their recent funding and financial status which have not been reflected in the FTS.

UNOCHA informed that they have unofficially launched the CHAP and handed over the CHAP projects and frameworks to the donors. And the donors have started funding through the CHAP to some projects. This reporting format had been shared and expected the following information.

Agency Details, if CHAP project the CHAP project code number, if Non CHAP related projects its relevant reference numbers, whether the funding was received or still on the pipeline. This report is urgent because the donors need to find out how far their funds have been utilized.

3. Briefing on the NFI meeting held on 22 April 2010

A NFI only meeting was organized to fulfil the following objectives;

- 1) Analyse the global gap of NFIs
- 2) Combine efforts of all NFI partners
- 3) To raise an effort to raise funds together
- 4) Discuss how as a cluster we could foresee the coming months/ year

But unfortunately only OXFAM GB participated this meeting. Several analysis/prediction documents were prepared for identifying the gaps for NFI for the coming months as well as the coming year. The meeting minutes and relevant annexes will be shared with all partners on Tuesday, 04 May 2010.

It was again reminded that certainly there would be gaps for NFIs this year (for the population currently returning, those in Menik Farm and the secondary movement of persons staying with host families); therefore encourage all agencies to get involved in NFI procurement and distribution to consider this fact. This information has been shared with the PTF.

4. Request from DMC

A formal request was made by the Director General of the DMC (Maj. General Gamini Hettiarachchi) to assist persons affected by high wind conditions in Ratnapura, Kandy, Anuradhapura, Badulla and Colombo districts. UNHCR took steps to donate 100 nos. of Kitchen sets out of the requested items of Zinc Sheets (500 Nos.), Asbestos Sheets (500 Nos.), Polythine (500 mts.). UNHCR mentioned to the DMC that this request would be shared among the Shelter/ NFI partners for further assistance. The request was laid on the open forum, but the agencies had difficulties meeting this extra amount of stocks due to the budgetary constraints faced at this moment. A letter will be written on this issue to the DMC. It was clearly stated to the DMC that the UN does not procure asbestos as it is cancerous.

5. Update from Vavuniya Shelter cluster by Justin Bayard, Shelter Coordinator in Vavuniya

There several issues prevailing in the terms of returns under the Vavuniya shelter cluster. They are;

- The exhausting of government supplied tin sheet –

These tin sheets are distributed to each family when returns take place (generally 12 tin sheets per family). The GA Mullaithivu informed that they have currently sufficient amount of tin sheets in stock for the returns expected till end of April, while the GA of Kilinochchi informed that they have already run out of tin sheets already. The needs of tin sheets were not fully granted to the 2,500 returnee families who had returned from mid of April to end of April. The only assistance the current returnees will receive are the NFI kit including the tarpaulin sheets and the immediate shelter assisting kit donated by IOM at the point of return. It is also a known fact that this shelter assisting kit is inadequate for long term shelter. The intention for this kit is to provide basic shelter for initial period of two weeks. This is still in the discussion stage due to the implications that could occur in the long run when the needs arise for maintenance of Menik Farm or return areas. It was also advised by the PTF not to distribute tents. Even the other partners are currently facing a shortfall in their stocks of tin sheets, tarpaulin sheets and other shelter materials. Therefore it's essential to seek options to overcome this issue.

Heavy rains have started. Inevitably returns will continue the coming month. There is no assurance on whether the shelters could stand the coming rainy season and whether the returnees could manage with the assistance received.

- Issue on the distribution of cement –

The government agreed to distribute eight bags of cement per family. Concerns on how this cement will be distributed and the time period of these families would take to use it, if not it could get wasted. Particularly how a returnee could store the cement donation if they would initially stay under a tarpaulin sheet under a rainy condition. The coverage of this consignment would be only for 15,000 families and the expected numbers of repairs for damaged houses are 162,000. There will also be a need to make initiatives to distribute sand to the beneficiaries who will receive the cement donation.

- Status of distribution of Shelter Assisting Kits –

DRC has been assisting IOM in distributing Shelter Assisting Kits. Also the Shelter Coordinator thanked OXFAM for handing over stockpiled timber to IOM to enable them to meet all the needs of the returned families. Further push is given to encourage other agencies to get approval on their transitional shelter design. Discussions are taking place with Government Agents to take initiatives to acknowledge these transitional shelter designs of various agencies to fasten the approval process. According to a question raised whether any other INGO (except IOM or UNOPS) had received approval for transitional shelters, CARE International responded stating that they had received a letter pertaining process of seeking approval but with conditions assigned. ZOA and FORUT, stated that they are awaiting PTF approval. It was also stated that all this would depend on the status of the Ministry of Resettlement.

- Comments on a common approach on labour payments and beneficiary contribution on shelter by the Shelter Coordinator -

As said there were complications on initiating labour payments when constructing transitional shelters in return areas. There were different interpretations when designing shelters in a beneficiary driven approach, as to highly vulnerable families were expected to assist with labour. According to the NERHP housing programme it was essential that the family to provide assistance with the labour. Given the selection process to many agencies is mainly based on vulnerability. The question had been who is vulnerable and who is not. There were even suggestions that all are vulnerable. Concerns were raised on creating a common approach when paying labourers as many agencies will begin construction as soon as approval is granted by the PTF.

- Care & Maintenance in Menik Farm

The numbers of agencies remaining to assist in the care & maintenance activities in Menik farm are decreasing by day. Since the Menik Farm would remain in existent for a period of time, it would be an ongoing issue. Currently a large number of tarpaulin sheets are been distributed due to the substantial deterioration of the quality of tents. Also they are advocating the families leaving Menik farm to carry with them these tarpaulin sheets as an additional assistance to the return shelter assistance.

6. Re-distribution of the Shelter Grant

The second phase of the distribution of the shelter grant will begin on the 30th of April in Mullaithivu. UNHCR has received two fresh contributions of funds, which will cover an additional of 20,000 numbers of returnee families (10,000 backlog families and 10,000 fresh returnee families). This phase will take place until end of June depending on the rate of the return process.