

**TOPIC** : Shelter and NFI Meeting  
**DATE** : 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
**LOCATION** : UNHCR Conference Room

**ATTENDEES :**

Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Snr. Programme Officer (Chair)
Gareth Price Jones	UMCOR	Share Program Manager
Christopher Randeniya	SCiSL	Logistics Assistant
Ramila Senanayake	Oxfam GB	Media & Communication Officer
Wanher Reith	ADRA	Programs Officer
Sisse Kristensen	DRC	EPC
Donald	UNOPS	Project Engineer
Thirusa Abeyewardene	UNOPS	Project Reporting Associate
Charmain Mohamed	NRC	Protection & Advocacy Advisor
Rob Delaney	NRC	Shelter Manager
Giovanni Cassani	IOM	Emergency Project Manager
Amenthi Jasinghe	WVL	Programme Officer
Nilkanthi Naranpanawe	UNHCR	Shelter Assistant
Babar Baloch	UNHCR	Public Information Officer

Significant points discussed at the shelter meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009

1. Government of Sri Lanka's initial 180 days plan for returns started 30 days ago. Presidential Office is coordinating this plan. The head of the Task Force on returns had a meeting with UN agencies detailing the plan and expectations. No NGO was invited at this stage.
2. Each government ministry is working on their respective areas of the return planning. Some of the ministries have shared plans. Nothing shared with UNHCR from the Resettlement ministry on their plan contributions. A meeting is scheduled with the ministry on Friday, feed back will be shared with the shelter-NFI coordination meeting.
3. The initial 180 days plan has four phases:  
  
Phase 1: 3000 families to return to the east, return to Jaffna (numbers not specified)  
Phase 2: Return to 35 villages in Vavuniya (Vavuniya North, Vavuniya South and Cheddikulam DS divisions); Kilinochchi 2 AGAs (5,172 families/19,000 ind.); Mannar  
Phase 3: Remaining Vavuniya; remaining Mannar; Kilinochchi 3 AGAs (except Pachchilaipallai); 3 AGAs in Mullaitivu (Thunukai, Manthai East, Oddusudan)  
Phase 4: Remaining Kilinochchi (1 AGA); remaining Mullaitivu (2 AGAs)
4. The return process will consist of new and the old caseload. Basic principles of engagement are to be agreed.
5. Minimum standards to be discussed at the highest level. Voluntary nature, access to information, safety and security are the major premises of the return process.
6. Expected that large number of people will remain in camps. Though returns will have a psychological impact the people in camp.

Working assumptions of return not finalized.

7. Returnees will not be allowed to take camp shelters with them to allow decongestion while [people are being returned. UNHCR has given guidelines to the government asking them to make sure people return to the places of origin and to avoid transit conditions/situations.

8. UNHCR has been requested by the government to assist in providing Shelter, NFI, transport and QIPs.

9. The Technical Working Group to prepare a document on the return policy and discuss it at the higher level.

10. Go and see visits are among the basic principles of return as it is linked with the voluntary nature of the return itself. The Task Force has specifically requested UNHCR help with the Go and See visits.

#### 11. Return NFI Kit

Items of the NFI return kit were reviewed. Estimated cost of the return kit to be shared with the meeting participants. UNHCR was also specifically asked to provide return tool kits for returnees. Discussions have taken place with IDPs on return tool kits.

Mosquito nets in return kit will be re-checked with UNICEF.

UNHCR is trying to replace Plastic Basins with metallic basins. Agencies were asked to help with metallic basins.

12. UNHCR has in stock NFIs for immediate return, to cover 20-30,000 returnees with the return kits. Support was sought from partners for care and maintenance, replacement and return process.

13. Indian NFIs received by the government will be channeled through UNHCR including cloths, core NFI items, bed sheets, towels, plastic mats and food items. Earlier these were desired to be distributed in camps but Indian Government agreed now this could also be used for returnees.

14. DRC, NRC requested to look into supporting the relocation of old IDPs in Vavuniya.

15. Drainage for raining seasons was discussed. Priorities are drainage, surface drainage, care and maintenance of the shelter and rain NFIs. A paper on rain scenarios and possibilities of flooding will be developed and shared with the group.