

SHELTER/NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 11 March 2010 at 15 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Luca Marten- Perociau	DRC
Justin Bayard	UNHCR	Rob Delaney	NRC
Dinesh Talphawila	UNHCR	Jorike Looij	ZOA
Jude James	UNHCR	Amenthi Jasinghe	World Vision
Mil Illangasinghe	IOM	Julian Jones	ICRC
J. Stephenson	UMCOR	Kaushalya Navarathne	Sewa Lanka
David Evans	UN- HABITAT	Alejandro Ruiz-Acevedo	UNOPS
P. Rubenthiran	FORUT	Anuradha	ACTED
D.N Jayaweera	PIN	Tony Senewiratne	HFHSL
Michelle Berman	UNHCR		

Proposal of ZOA on NFI distribution

UNHCR consulted Vavuniya and received feed back and they have stated that this is a good idea in general but not appropriate in the context of Menik farm as it would look like we're establishing a permanent system when the government intends to close down the camps.

New Parameter introduced by the Presidential Task Force (PTF).

Agencies should only build semi permanent and permanent structures in the north if they wish to continue their shelter effort. Access will be given only to a certain number of Ingo's and NGO's.

UNOPS stated that Mr. Divaratne visited the north after the PTF meeting and have given verbally the go ahead to UNOPS to continue with their transitional shelters. (However UNOPS is currently waiting written confirmation).

Update on the emergency shelter sector.

PTF are stating that Semi Permanent is 400 sq ft = 2 rooms + sitting room and all walls of masonry or block, it is considered that the cost to do this will be quite limiting with regard to the expected output and number that can be delivered to beneficiaries given agency and funding limitations.

It is proposed a housing unit under a 400sq ft roof line be proposed whereby possibly only 1 (or 2) secure rooms are provided thus lowering the initial cost of structure and enabling the limited funding to be spread to more beneficiaries.

A couple of designs were provided by agencies similar to the Core house concept.

A design of approx cost Rs.130, 000 while still maintaining a 400 sq ft roof cover is also to be prepared. To do this means a 1 secure room (100ft sq) complete and possibly one room (100sq ft) with a low height perimeter wall. The other 200 sq ft would be an open verandah type structure.

UNHCR stated that the MRDRS did not know anything about the parameters which were set by the PTF.

Action Point- A power point is prepared for presentation to the PTF covering the following points in order to highlight the need and the shelter interventions that could be considered.

1. No of return families to the Vanni is approximately by Number.
2. Amount of damaged houses. Numbers
3. Permanent housing assistance programs (NEHRP / UN Habitat) who will be assisted.
4. Estimate of funding availability.
5. If PTF housing is minimum housing criteria we can assist.
6. If reduced standard as above is followed we can assist.
7. If transitional Shelter is provided at Rs. 70, 000 assistance can be provided to (Numbers).
8. Amount of funding
9. Based on Basic transitional model this will assist Numbers.

The main purpose is to PowerPoint presentation is to ensure the PTF is fully aware of the implications of the strategy they propose. Whatever strategy they insist upon from that point is therefore done with the knowledge of the impact, PTF position, and there consideration of the plight of the returnee families should therefore be quite clear. It would then have to be seen whether any alternate steps are made from there.

Justin of UNHCR presented the views and concerns raised by the Vavuniya Cluster members about the implications of the PTF design particularly on the number of beneficiaries that will receive assistance similar views were confirmed by other agencies too.

ZOA added to this stating that beneficiaries should be informed of what type of a house they are getting otherwise equity issues will raise as some of the beneficiaries are getting completed houses.

It was also stated that many families will miss out of getting a permanent house because they are living with host families and some will they will miss because they don't have proper land deeds with them. Even if they have everything the beneficiaries will have wait at least four months before the agency could complete their house. Donors will not wait for this long.

Action point – a separate meeting will take place on Friday the 12th of March to decide on various structures with the limited funding available.

UNHCR stated that they would have to have several proposals before they go before the donors and the PTF.

Jaffna Shelter Issues

IOM stated that shelters in Jaffna have different standards which are costing them too much. It was suggested that it should be standardized because people will not stay there longer in Transitional shelters.

Update on the cash grant details of this was not in hand but will be shared.

Jude P. James
March 12th, 2010.