

SHELTER/NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 25 January 2010 at 15 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Donald Sinclair	UNOPS
Tamara Nanayakkara	UNOCHA	S. Srikantharajah	UNOPS
Mil Illangasinghe	IOM	N D Donald	LEADS
Ellie Salkeld	IOM	Malcolm Rodgers	OXFAM
Rob Drowen	NRC	Wondwossen D	SCISL
Glenn Costes	NRC	Justin Bayard	UNHCR
Rasika Mendis	COHRE	David Evans	UN Habitat
J Stephenson	UMCOR	Julian Jones	ICRC
K Vyasah	Internews	Tony Seneviratne	Habitat for Humanity
Kaushalya Navaratne	Sewa Lanka	Dibraveka Pem	World Vision
Jorine Looy	ZOA		
Uthpala Gunathilake	Internews		
Jude James	UNHCR		
Michelle Berman	UNHCR		

1. Introduction and NFI Gap Analysis

During the last meeting UNHCR invited agencies to support in regard of NFI distribution, some agencies came forward with a list of NFIs available with them and some agencies showed willingness to distribute NFIs. UNHCR wanted to know whether any other agencies have any new thinking on supporting NFIs. No feed back was received.

ZOA stated that they have done an assessment in Menik Farm and have found out IDPs priority needs and came up with list of NFIs which are not included in the standards NFI packs. Furthermore ZOA went on to say that different people have different needs and the standard pack doesn't cater everyone, so they have come up with concept of having a NFI shop in each camp so the IDPs can choose and buy whatever they need. Every family will be given a voucher for a certain amount and ZOA believes that this move will enhance ownership and dignity.

UNHCR answered to questions raised from the agencies about the coconut scrapers/ jungle knife and stated that some of these listed items which were mentioned are being delivered in their return kits. Further to this UNHCR stated that a NFI shop concept would be considered.

DRC stated that there are rumours that the camps will be closed by end of March so there is no point in opening up shops in Menik Farm, also there is a rumour that Menik Farm IDPs will be moved to new transit site in their respective districts to which UNHCR stated if the IDPs are moved to another transit site UNHCR wouldn't be able to help because of funds. However UNHCR will continue to support Menik Farm IDPs till the last man leaves the camp.

Action Point – The concept which was presented by ZOA will be shared to UNHCR Vavuniya Office and the outcome will be briefed in the next meeting.

2. CHAP Reporting 2009

It was stated that the deadline to handover inputs for CHAP is postponed till March 05th and agencies which have not submitted inputs should respect this deadline.

3. Update on the discussion with the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services. (MRDRS)

UNHCR met with MRDRS and briefed the meeting Transitional shelters can be built for any family who are living in their own lands or not in their lands; however permanent houses can only be built in their own lands. Further more MRDRS wants to know how NGOs will implement their projects in constructions of transitional shelters- they are keen to know whether the materials will be just handed over to the community and then the community will build it themselves or the agency will build it for them. UNHCR stated the women headed families and other venerable people will be identified separately and helped. Monitoring will have to be done by the agencies themselves if needed technical expertise will be provided.

MRDRS would like to know how many shelters can each NGO build, all agencies who wish to build transitional shelters should submit a project proposal to MRDRS- Mr. Haldeen with all the details such as what type of transitional shelters they would build which area, BOQ etc.

Agencies must make a request letter to MRDRS if they wish to work in return areas, then MRDRS will make a recommendation to the presidential task force so the agencies can work in the return areas.

800,000 bags of cement have been donated by the Indian government and each family (IDPs) will get 8 bags of cement. 21 container loads of tin sheets have also been sent to Vavuniya.

IOM stated that IOM doesn't have the funds transport all the cement because most of their funds were used to transport tin sheets. Also IOM have got permission from the Presidential Task Force to take their implementing partner like sewalanka, sarvodaya and DRC, DRC stated that they will use this opportunity to carry out their mandate.

MRDRS requested the international community to assist around 1500 families with disabled persons. UNHCR asked whether other agencies would be ready to put together a project proposal to cover these needs.

UN Habitat stated not to build permanent toilets because it will cost 75 percent of the actual cost of the transitional shelter.

World vision questioned the chair whether the request letter should be sent to MRDRS and PTF, UNHCR stated that there seems to be devolution of power from PTF and MRDRS will be handling most in the future.

4. Brief on the shelter situation of Vavuniya by Justin Bayard, shelter Coordinator

UNHCR should push the government to get access for additional players to build shelters, at the moment only IOM and UNOPS have access which will leaves far behind with shelter sector. Also there around 100000 people which means it's about 30,000 families and with this accelerated phase of return we will fall far behind in building up shelters.

There are requests from government agencies to build shelter however the agencies that are coming forward should have the PTF approval. DRC stated that it would be better if there is support letter from the respective GA it would be easy to get access and PTF approval quicker.

There aren't any major gaps in the zones as UNHCR is bringing local partners to do care and maintenance. Some tents will collapse however we have stocks and we will be able to maintain these for another 3 to 4 months.

Drainages systems have to be maintained till October otherwise it will be problem.

Transitional shelters to host families, GA of Vavuniya doesn't want any transitional shelters in Vavuniya and the GA wants all the IDPs to go back to their respective districts. In Mannar and Jaffna host families get transitional for their people they are hosting.

5. Transitional Shelter Design

UNHCR stated that if we build something long-lasting we can attract donors also PTF will have better response to this. IOM stated that they will continue with their own way of building transitional shelters.

World Vision stated that there are some donors who want to build transitional shelter not semi permanent type.

UNHCR and UHABITAT will be going to meet ECHO within two weeks to have meeting them to advocate bringing some funds.

Jude P. James
February 26, 2010.