

SHELTER/NFI SECTOR MEETING

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

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Luca Marten- Perociau	DRC
Matthew Todd	ASB	Zahir Ali	Muslim Aid
Rob Jones	UNOPS	Rachel Logel	World Vision
Dinesh Thal pawila	UNHCR	Niranjani Roland	Internews Network
Abdullah Kaikai	UNICEF	Uthpala Gunethilake	Internews Network
Fahim Wahab	Muslim Aid	Quen Gueter	Foundation for Goodness
Glenn Costes	NRC	Dilani Weerasuriya	Foundation for Goodness
Raga Alphonsus	ZOA	Kushil Gunsekara	Foundation for Goodness
Chaminda Perera	UMCOR	Samantha Wimalasuriya	HFHSL
R.Sivasuthan	OXFAM GB	P.Rubenthiran	FORUT
N. Amalraj	IOM	Jude James	UNHCR
Michelle Berman	UNHCR		

1. NFI Gaps

As requested by World Vision, UNHCR explained on the current gaps related NFIs. Further to an assessment conducted, UNHCR has currently launched a second round of Procurement to meet the needs of the remainders at Menik Farm and the Returnees.

It was suggested that all partners in the cluster could collaborate in this venture to overcome such gaps in the future and to incorporate a global pack for IDPs.

2. Current status and outcome of the Menik Farm in Vavuniya

As of 19 March an approximate figure of 185,127 individuals have been released and returned where as an approximate figure of 4,500 individuals were released last week.
A total of 88,350 persons (approximate) are still remaining in Camps.

The government has plans to maintain Camps/ welfare centers in Menik Farm, zones 0 & 1. If capacity is an issue they would utilize zone 03 too. The camps may continue till June or December of 2010.

Concerns continue to grow on the enhancement of support to the maintenance of the camps due to the lack of funds. There is a dire need to maintain tents and repair shelters. Due to the deficiency of funds for the second quarter of the year, a need to advocate with donors should continue for the support of camps, if not it would be unjust for the population staying back in camps/ welfare centers.

It was brought to notice that this is an excellent opportunity to practice the LRD policy. (Linking Relief and Development).

Also UNHCR requested all agencies to remain or return to Menik Farm to signify the interest and importance to the government and donors.

3. Sharing information related to PTF meetings with individual Agencies

- **UNHCR**

- A copy of the power point presentation was shared with the sector partners on the design and the current capacity of construction based on the availability of funds, which was prepared for the PTF.
- PTF remains on the decision of construction of either permanent or Semi- permanent shelters.
- UNHCR proposed two types of a transitional Shelter (Semi- permanent structure)

1) **Type 1-** 400 sq ft structure with two lockable rooms, inclusive of a living area and kitchen. Concrete floor and a roof, which a unit is costing roughly 300,000 rupees.

2) **Type 2 -** 200 sq ft structure with two rooms (which one is a lockable room), inclusive of a verandah. A mass concrete floor for the two rooms. Cost for unit is 130,000 rupees. (total structure is 400 sq ft)

- It was clearly stated that the PTF does not require a verandah/ Living area for the proposed shelter.
- Therefore, UNHCR requested the PTF to come up with design consulting with their technical officials and share officially their proposed design.

- **IOM**

- IOM confirmed that they have received the green light to go ahead with their transitional shelters. Approval received for both the transitional shelter design and the latrine design. (the design is as per the Musali shelter design)
- IOM to inform the Government Agent of this matter.

- **UNOPS**

- According to UNOPS the government/ PTF continues to request the semi permanent shelter

- **Muslim Aid**

- The shelter design submitted by Muslim Aid was of the NEHRP standards (unit costing LKR 300,000/-) , but with one room, flooring and the roof. No verandah area.

- **OXFAM GB**

- The PTF has shared an action plan with all agencies inclusive of the expectations for shelter and latrines, which would assist in coming up with a design.

Other issues rose during the discussions were:

- ❖ The PTF agreed on repairs of an average of LKR 150,000.
- ❖ Requested all agencies to share the finalized types/ designs and proposals of semi-permanent structured shelter with the cluster via cluster lead - UNHCR.
- ❖ It was also agreed to be prepared for the upcoming rainy season. Also a proper linkage between relief and development (LRD policy) could assist in overcoming situations in upgrading permanently (by the development team- in later stage) on a semi- permanent structure (done by the relief team).

4. Transitional Shelters

Further to the queries raised by ZOA and ASB, it was agreed on the fact that initiatives should be taken to put a permanent foundation for transitional shelters, so that the people could erect walls with their own funding at a later stage. While UNHCR agreed on this matter, IOM and UNOPS disagreed in principle as it would reduce the number of beneficiaries.

5. Unavailability of Latrines for shelter by UNICEF

As per the government request any shelter should accommodate with a latrine. But according to UNICEF, they would not be able to assist any agency on this matter due to the limitations of funds. This was to clear the miscommunication occurred regarding UNICEF meeting with all needs on latrines. Therefore the agencies involved in shelter activities are advised to build latrines, even though funds are tight. If such a case of funds prevail, the agencies were thus requested to get assistance from another member of the WASH cluster.

It was also requested from UNICEF to write and inform the GA of Jaffna of the inability of funding latrines.

UNHCR requested all agencies to inform the government of their funding status. It is seen as a joint responsibility of the UN, I/NGOs and the donor community to inform to the government of the prevailing situation of lack of donations.