

Shelter and Household NFIs TWiG – Cyclone Aila

Background document, 09 July 2009

Organizations represented in the TWiG		
IFRC CARITAS Bangladesh	MDM Architects UNDP	World Vision

1. Background

As agreed at the Shelter Coordination Group meeting on the 7th July, a Technical Working Group (TWiG) was convened to discuss the Emergency Shelter and Household NFI needs of the affected population.

As an overarching strategy had yet to be formalised with respect to which of the affected population are most vulnerable, and how best to support them, the TWiG decided to look at possible Emergency Shelter and Household NFIs packages which may be appropriate, given the current locations of the affected population.

The group looked that the needs of:

- Support to those displaced to the embankments
- Support to those on their land – cumulative build
- Support to those in Collective Centres and Host families

It was noted by the group that supporting the families on the embankments could be potentially harmful as they are at risk from any subsequent cyclones or storm surges.

The TWiG will be looking to the Strategic Advisory Group, with the Government of Bangladesh, to best decide how those on the embankments should be supported.

The TWiG also asks the SAG to prioritise the return, or temporary relocation, of those living in Collective Centres, as the situations are reported to be quite dire.

2. Support to those displaced to the embankments

Where possible, the materials given should be useful towards the shelter activities to be undertaken in the Early Recovery stage, however the shelters being built on the embankments differ significantly from those designed for flat ground.

Note: the plastic sheeting should be of the quality stipulated in the 'Plastic Sheeting Guidelines' (IFRC/Oxfam, 2007)

Note: the TWiG would like to hear field reports concerning how the fuel supply is being maintained, and if there are potential environmental problems with it.

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3. Support to those on their land – cumulative build

Where possible, the materials given should be useful towards the shelter activities to be undertaken in the Early Recovery stage.

The TWiG felt that introduction of a quality mud-plinth would be effective. This would allow households to raise themselves above immediate floods and surges, and to protect their emergency shelter and belongings.

The design of this plinth would be consistent with the plans for the Early Recovery shelters, thus allowing for a cumulative build.

Instructions and tools would be distributed to help households build their plinths. It is hoped that teams would be available to provide technical guidance and information.

4. Support to Collective Centres and Host families

The TWiG recognised that those in Collective Centres and Host families will at some point be returning to their land. At that stage, they will require assistance as outlined in section 3.

In the interim, the TWiG is awaiting field reports to ascertain what, if any, Shelter and Household NFIs are required to support those in Collective Centres or Host families.