

Shelter / NFI / CCCM Bhamo Cluster Meeting Minutes

14:00 to 16:30, January 23, 2015

UNHCR Office, Bhamo

Attendees: UNHCR (including protection), CESVI, KMSS-BMO, Shalom, DRC, Metta, SI & KBC

Advanced notification not attending meeting: UNICEF WaSH & Metta

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action / Actor / Date |
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| Welcome & Introductions | <p>Cluster Coordinator Kachin and Northern Shan State (CCK) welcomed participants, which included some new persons who partook in a round of self-introductions.</p> <p>Following-up action points from the November meeting, UNHCR Engineer provided feedback to the group regarding the possible relocation of IDPs to Ei Myaing, close to Lashio, Northern Shan, 50HH and 280 individuals. Some land was allocated, but sufficient only for a portion of this population (about 35HH). Currently the community is awaiting information on more land so all group can move at once. People have been promised some form of land ownership and reportedly voiced they wish to relocate permanently. Note, the Cluster team was able to visit the possible relocation site but did not get an opportunity to speak with IDPs. Follow-up will be done by the UNHCR protection team during its trip (first week of February). MDCG is closely following-up and getting ready to provide individual housing (similar to what has been provided in Galeng camps).</p> | |
| Cluster Updates IOM & NRC CCCM Capacity Building Support | <p>IOM capacity building specialist has arrived in YGN, expected to reach Myitkyina (MTY) within 1/2 weeks of this meeting. Aim of the program is to provide additional capacity-building to all CCCM agencies, not only in the form of trainings, but also on day-to-day issues, as a form of continuous mentoring. Upon her arrival, CCK and UNHCR CCCM Officer will brief her. Following, she will meet all CCCM partners to define best approach. She has done a similar mission in Rakhine and feedback was very positive.</p> | |

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| <p>New Temporary Solutions</p> | <p>NRC is also proposing to provide CCCM trainings (<i>document produced by NRC detailing which trainings and how they can be provided were distributed and general oral translation provided</i>). For the time being, NRC can only provide in English, but is in the process of completing its team and translating key documents. During the second quarter, NRC plans to be able to provide trainings in local languages. Cluster can support CCCM agencies in requesting these trainings to NRC if interested.</p> <p>Participants asked if it would be possible to meet NRC in MTY and/or BMO to discuss the subject. CCK informed that NRC was in the process of opening an office in the North, but such process takes quite a bit of time, and therefore an actual office from NRC will probably not eventuate until mid-year. However, NRC team from YGN is readily available to come to MTY and BMO as needed/requested.</p> <p>With this additional support, CCCM agencies will be able to receive different kind of trainings/capacity building/mentoring, better adapted to specific needs. Support will also be aimed at the camp management committee and authorities in charge.</p> <p>CCK presented the matter of IDPs being requested to move from their current location by the owner of the land. This has happened a few times in 2014, but in the last few months this pattern has accelerated exponentially, and it can be expected to continue increasing as the situation continues being protracted. In previous cases, new temporary shelters were built in a new location, but this is often not a very good solutions, first because it means IDPs have to move again without a more sustainable solution, and second because in terms of funding continuing investing in still non-sustainable and temporary situations will not be always possible.</p> <p>Cluster strongly encourages assessment of each situation in detail before considering construction of shelters in a new place. Cluster Lead encourages several steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consultations with communities are necessary ahead of any decision to move IDPs. 2) Apart from specific cases where movements allows for a clearly more sustainable solution wished by the IDPs, CCCM agencies, if necessary supported by protection, | <p><u>Action point:</u></p> <p>All cluster members, CCCM and shelter actors, to assess thoroughly any request of movement of IDPs form a temporary site to another. This Cluster and protection sector to provide support as needed/requested.</p> |
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| | <p>should push any possible advocacy with the landowners (and/or local authorities as relevant) before considering displacing again people. Role of local authorities in providing sustainable land should also be considered.</p> <p>3) Land tenure conditions at the new place <i>must</i> be thoroughly assessed.</p> <p>4) When CCCM agencies face such cases they can approach the UNHCR protection team for support in assessing the situation and what is best for IDPs, in close coordination with CCCM.</p> <p>5) CCCM and protection will work closely together to define best approaches.</p> <p>6) If deemed a good solution for IDPs and/or a very last resort one, Shelter Cluster will get involved to consider supporting construction of new shelters. Then, discussions on re-using of materials, closure/de-commissioning of camps, disposal of materials, etc. will need to happen.</p> <p>In summary, in such cases, shelter construction on a new land should be the last step of a process. The same points have been presented at the Protection Working Group. Participants did not have comments on this agenda item.</p> | |
| Shelter Remaining Needs, Repairs & New Construction | <p>CCK explained the good reception of donors for the care and maintenance program, which will likely be possible to expand in second part of 2015 but needs to receive strong requests/good needs assessments. Indeed, presenting shelter construction needs is reasonably feasible even when data is not perfect, but when it comes to repairs/improvements it is on a more case-by-case basis and therefore without exact data and assessment it makes it difficult.</p> <p>At national meeting in YGN, CCK also presented the remaining needs for new shelters. Unfortunately, the full needs assessment had not been completed, but based on available data CCK presented a likely remaining need for about 2,000 new units to be built in 2015. Participants had little comment on this point but generally speaking felt it was a good representation.</p> <p>CCK explained that the Cluster Lead is communicating in/to all relevant forums about the issue of land, which will make construction of a lot of the remaining needed shelter challenging, if</p> | |

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| <p>Ongoing & Future Projects</p> | <p>not impossible. Participants enquired if UNHCR can consider renting or buying land for the IDPs. CCK explained this was not feasible. The responsibility for providing land for displaced people is with the authorities.</p> <p>In November's Cluster meeting in MTY in November, participants discussed the option of building standard temporary shelters but of smaller sizes. CCK has started consulting with the Global Shelter Cluster and some donors, but wanted to know the position of the participants. After some discussions, participants confirmed that it could be an option in some cases and requested CCK to continue assessing it with relevant stakeholders. CCK concluded on this point underlining that if donors are approached for projects within "under-sized" shelters, it would need to be very well justified and supported by data.</p> <p>CESVI gave a short oral presentation of its shelter project. Hard copies of documents presenting the intervention camp by camp were distributed. This includes new construction in Maing Khaung KBC, where new land has been made available.</p> <p>Shalom informed that for information about its shelter projects, ongoing or future, the question had to be directed to the MTY office</p> <p>KBC is currently only working on its plan in Loi Je to move people from their current temporary camp to another one (following request from the local Church as it is planning to build a large celebration hall). CCK re-explained the issue of moving people from a temporary solution to a temporary solution and encouraged KBC to look for any other possibilities than moving people again. Also, carry a thorough protection assessment, including communication with concerned IDPs. UNHCR protection stands ready to help.</p> <p>KMSS-BMO: Will take part in the care and maintenance, but do not sure where yet, mostly in GCA. Will consider shelter construction only in case of emergencies.</p> <p>DRC: 174 units complete on January 10, finished in Pa Kha Taung, twin shelters. DRC: Construction of 188 units in Je Yang in partnership with KMSS-MTY on-going. DRC: Plan to build 36 units in Border Post 6, 18 twin shelters, in partnership with KMSS-MTY.</p> | <p><u>Action points:</u> CCK to pursue/intensify discussions with Global Shelter Cluster on issue of slightly smaller shelter units where land size is the issue. All cluster members to start assessing case where such intervention would be relevant</p> |
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| | <p>CCK renewed the offer of the Cluster Lead to support the assessment for development of the repair and maintenance program where access is possible.</p> <p>Cluster lead team inquired about other outstanding priority gaps in BMO area, requesting mostly CCCM agencies if they knew of specific unmet needs in the camps they managed.</p> <p>SI informed that they are trying to access so-called “grey areas” of Shwegu from where unattended needs for IDPs have been reported but data is very limited, and promised to inform the Shelter Cluster if any shelter related needs are noticed.</p> | |
| Fire Prevention | <p>Fire prevention needs and interventions have already been discussed in this forum, and some steps have been taken by CCCM agencies and camp management. However, this remains uneven depending on camps and overall the coverage is insufficient. CCK inquired from the members what could be done. The following ideas were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Having fire extinguishers</u> and additional water tanks in camps <p>CCK said that fire extinguishers would be difficult because it needs not only training to use it, but also regular maintenance, re-filling, replacement. That would be difficult to do for many camps. Agreed that fire extinguishers were not likely to be feasible. However, some measures such as having small reserve of water and sand at each shelter unit could be an easily applicable mitigation measure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Impose specific time for cooking/use of fires</u> <p>This has proven efficient in some camps, but the group thought it would be difficult to extend to larger camps and could lead to an uncomfortable atmosphere for IDPs of living in a very controlled environment. Could be discussed in each camp, presented by CCCM agencies as an option to the population and decide with agreement from the community, but should not be considered as an overall policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Using less flammable material for kitchen construction</u> (such as zinc/aluminum instead of bamboo) <p>This is already encouraged as part of the standard designs, but the cluster could put more emphasis on it.</p> | |

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| | <p>➤ Avoid having <u>motorbike, and especially motorbike gasoline</u> stored amongst shelters</p> <p>➤ Create <u>awareness communication materials</u>, including posters to be attached to kitchens and living units of shelters.</p> <p>CCK thanked everyone for active participation and promised that the Cluster will consider the different avenues, including good practices from fire prevention activities in IDP camps in Rakhine State. He also encouraged CCCM agencies not to forget about the importance of awareness. It is important to think about solutions to reduce fire risk through the materials used or fire consequences by having means in place to quickly stop fires, but most fire problems, all over the world, are generally created by human behavior/error/carelessness, so awareness seems the first action to take. For example, by visiting a few camps the day before this meeting, CCK noticed a few things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly flammable waste around, or even under, the shelters; • Large quantities of dry wood stored around and under the shelters, or even in the kitchen within close proximity of open fires; • Open fires in kitchen with children playing close to them and no adult supervising; • Unprotected electric wiring in direct contact with flammable materials and/or shelters; • Spaces between barracks blocked by motorbikes, piles of woods, sometimes furniture, making emergency evacuation, if needed, extremely difficult. <p>CCK strongly encouraged CCCM agencies to regularly tour the camps when they visit, along with the camp committee, to help the camp committee notice such things and that it becomes a habit for all to be more aware of dangerous practices.</p> | <p><u>Action points:</u> CCK to inquire with Rakhine CCCM Cluster about fire prevention /good practices and start the development of posters/visual communication material.</p> <p>Cluster Lead to review the kitchen design and assess if more can be done.</p> <p>All CCCM agencies to approach the camp committees under their responsibilities and discuss the subject/raise awareness, as a first mitigation step</p> |
| AoB | <p>CESVI inquired about blanket distributions/UNHCR stocks of such items. CCK gave a short wrap-up of previous blanket distributions (either as part of full NFI distributions, or more specifically as part of winter items distributions, carried out twice in 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 winters). While small gaps are always a possibility, available data shows good coverage of this item. In case of remaining/identified and assessed gaps, UNHCR would still have some stocks of blanket available, as/if required.</p> <p>Next quarterly Shelter/NFI/CCCM and WaSH meeting will be held in BMO, February 25-26, in-</p> | |

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| | keeping with the rotation of locations between MTY and BMO. Agenda, details and exact venue will be communicated in due course. | |
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Documents shared in hard copy:

- CESVI shelter construction and repair project
- Minutes from previous meetings
- NRC Camp management training document