

Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group

Kathmandu 29 April, 2015

Attendant list:

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Discussion notes:

Kits:

- Experience of August 2014
 - Erratic climate resulting problem of dew, humid, and cold or very high temperatures; Shelter kit should include insulating material for roof (foam, thatch, straw, etc.)
 - Inner partition with black plastics sheets (cheap ones) for protection and privacy. 1 sheet of 6 by 30 ft
- While adding the items in the kit, should be careful that too many contents may result on more cost, which the cluster members may not be able to follow. It was agreed the items above would be recommended, but not including in the minimum kit.
- The standard kit includes 2 blankets. However, the average family size is 5, and it is not acceptable for protection or dignity to force people to share blankets given the possible cold temperatures, especially at higher altitudes. . A minimum of 5 blankets should be provided in each kit. It was also noted that the size of many blankets is small; it is important that blankets are large enough.
- Considering temperature of the affected area agencies should consider adding flooring mats to the kits where appropriate.
- Cluster members to consider the quality of the materials in the kit for durability; standardizing the materials necessary
- Materials availability at local markets should be considered
- UNHCR shared the bamboo house approach they have done for Bhutanese refugee;
 - Cost: 20k approx. for each shelter which includes labour

- sandwich system for roof with Plastic and bamboos, walls/straws: bamboo, mud for walls
- approx. time to construct: 1/2 day (with skilled labour)
- It was noted that people in some areas are pooling resources and making bigger community shelters. This is a positive community response, but raises potentially serious protection concerns. Agencies should be very aware of this. Agencies should be distributing sufficient so people can have one shelter per household and are not forced to pool resources. The clothes in the kit do not seem to fulfill women's needs. Additionally, the kit includes cloth so people can make clothes (with the intention being that if clothes aren't needed the cloth can be used for other things). In areas with severe destruction having to make clothes will not be practical:
 - The cluster should assess whether the clothes are adequate to women's needs by consulting with women
 - Agencies should consider providing completed clothes, preferably distributed in a market-style distribution to allow choice, rather than just cloth.

Build back safer messages & IEC materials:

- Request NSET to produce one page summary, on structural assessment, recovery process/strategy to bounce back. This will inform understanding of the key messages needed.
- The cluster coordination team will compile existed IEC materials so the TWIG can select standard materials and approaches.

Tent working group:

- As many agencies have been extending their support for tents, this could be option for rural areas of affected districts where framing materials are not available.
- Technical group to discuss on the specification of tents. Guidelines necessary for the quality (water resistant). It was agreed in this group that a short note will be provided to provide guidance on the use of tents where they are used, but that tents should still be discouraged. It was also agreed that tents are not appropriate in urban areas.

AOB:

It was requested that the cluster ensures an environmental impact assessment will be carried out. If funding for this is needed the cluster should make a request to agencies.