

ABACO SHELTER COORDINATION GROUP. ESF-3 and ESF-6

Meetings Minutes

Date: 02.10.2019

Venue: Government Complex Building, Marsh Harbour.

Time: 6.00 to 7.00 pm

Chair: Betisa Egea, IFRC and Nazif Aliu, IOM

Participants: IFRC, Samaritan's Purse, Mission of Hope, CORE.

Topics discussed:

- The Draft Shelter Strategy including feedback and comments for partners has been submitted to the Government. We will keep the shelter partners of Abaco updated on the response of the Government.
- We received information from Public Works stating that temporary shelters that are attached to the ground at owner's properties are not likely going to be authorized by the Government since they do not comply with the building code and they could be used as permanent houses. In that sense, we have to think about other alternatives to support temporary shelter solutions that do not involve the construction of temporary structures. We need to think about the possibility of supporting construction of permanent housing, once the revised building code is in place and the policy of the Government about construction permits and support methodologies is more clear.
- Regarding the support for repairs, we have identified two types: minor and major repairs. Minor repairs do not involve the structure and they cost is less than 25% of the construction cost of the house. For minor repairs, permits are not required, which allows us to start implementing them immediately. Support for minor repairs, such as roof repairs with plywood and shingle is already being provided by some organizations such as HARP, covering roof repairs for private houses and public buildings in Coopers Town, Headknowles starting in Marsh Harbour area, and Samaritans Purse. Major repairs involve structure and they will have to be regulated by the building code. Government inspectors will check those works. Some of the damaged houses do not comply with the building code and they have lost entirely the roofs. Possible solutions are retrofitting in order that the house complies with building code or to demolish and build a new house, whatever option is more economic. We agree that the best solution for repairs is through cash, however the situation in Abaco where markets are not functioning does not allow this methodology yet.

- Regarding the Damage Assessments that are being conducted by the Government, there are actually 3 assessments on going:
 - ✓ Social Services, household profile and property evaluation
 - ✓ Public Works individual houses structural damage assessment (with UNDP)
 - ✓ Public Works infrastructure damage assessment (with UNDP)

We have requested the shelter representative of Social Services in Abaco, to provide us with the results of the assessment, about level of damage of housing in Abaco. She has passed the request and she will come back to us when she gets more information.

At Nassau level, we are trying to get the results of the PW assessment through UNDP, but so far the results have not been shared.

- There will be a dedicated shelter coordinator from IFRC who will be roving between Nassau, Abaco and Grand Bahama. Next week the current IFRC Shelter Coordinator based in Nassau will chair the shelter coordination meeting in Abaco.

Action points:

- Partners will fill the matrix with their planned activities to provide shelter support and where they are willing to do so, so that as a group we can have an overall idea of our capacities to serve the affected population.
- The IFRC Shelter Coordinator will try to meet with Public Works in Nassau to get a better understanding on the policy of the Government regarding temporary and permanent houses possible support.
- The IFRC Shelter Coordinator will continue requesting the assessment results to Social Services and Public Works about number of partially and totally houses per location to be shared with the coordination group.

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday 9th of October after the General Meeting and the Intersectoral meeting at the Government Complex Building.