

Typhoon Haiyan
Shelter Cluster Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday 21st Nov 2013, 17:00

The purpose of the special meeting was to call together donors and heads of agencies to discuss two main issues:

1. Why the shelter sector is receiving such low funding
2. What capacity does shelter need

An overview was given by Anna Pont (the new national coordinator) and Richard Luff (the new coordinator for Tacloban) – see power point presentation.

Additional points raised by presenters

(in addition to those on the power point presentation)

- Need to establish what the 'end game' is – permanent housing with a degree of security of tenure for all?
- Need to minimise the amount of times people have to move and try and work towards a permanent durable solution as soon as possible.
- Need to encourage a focus on land/relocation as this can often become a blockage.
- Need to be aware of scale and market capabilities – how do we get sufficient quality gauge for 4 million CGI sheets (**question over whether 10 sheets per household was correct?**)
- Shelter strategy will represent all cross-cutting issues and ensure that it is clear that we want to complement and not compete with what is being done at the Provincial/Barangay level.

Questions raised by participants:

1. What do we mean by displaced? Government says that those who live outside their homes are displaced – which is at odds to that used by the humanitarian community.
2. What is the cluster's view on tents? Answer was given that we should be looking to wind it down now and agencies should not be placing orders for any more. **HOWEVER, we need to make a decision on it.**
3. Need to question whether the figures that we are talking about are accurate given the speed of recovery and also how targeting is derived.
4. Need to get a better understanding of what Government reconstruction plans are – for instance Iloilo is supposedly only looking at cash transfers only.
5. Should we look at putting materials in to the markets – as capacity doesn't exist to produce everything that is required?
6. Need more information around no build zones and where they are to be and how they will be enforced, what does the Government plan to do around the issue.

7. OFDA raised an issue around data – it is very difficult to know which data is accurate – NDRMC vs DROMIC data. Numbers need to be classified.
8. We should focus on self-recovery but need to ask ourselves ‘self-recovery to what?’

Statements made by participants:

- Terminology overall – we need to ensure complementarity amongst all actors
- A suggestion from the Health Cluster was around the need to map vulnerabilities of all the sectors and see where they converge and use that as a way of ascertaining where focussed assistance is provided
- A priority for the shelter sector should be that every family has received one plastic sheet by the end of December.
- Point raised by the Protection Cluster that HLP should now sit within the shelter cluster and they will support this, regardless of the Geneva politics.
- Protection Cluster also asked for consideration to be given to pregnant women and children in the shelter strategy.
- Early Recovery cluster suggested pooling resources so as to avoid the silo’d approach, we need to work differently.
- Pull other countries into provide materials – have discussions with DTI, DPM and World Bank.
- Look to the private sector through traditional donors for materials such as chain saws.
- UN-Habitat raised that we should be looking at our lessons learnt from previous Philippines’ disasters. We also need to be building capacity of local authorities so that they are stronger next time.
- Need to be aware of unskilled labourers who aren’t used to using certain materials (CGI sheeting for instance). Need to ensure training and technical oversight.
- Take in to account handicapped people and accessibility of shelters for them – they have capacity to advise.
- In self-recovery programmes need to ensure that materials can be used by both men and women.
- Need to be very careful about securing the market and then excluding the beneficiaries themselves.
- Should look to implement a pilot around CGI and how to use it.
- Need to look to a ‘bottom up’ approach and initiate training of artisans etc and see what alternatives there are out there.

Information provided from participants

- A Senator from District 1 has said that there is enough coco lumber for 500,000 shelters.
- 48 hour cash/market assessment is currently ongoing.
- EMMA would give a good indication – this is planned but is three weeks away.