

Shelter Cluster Tonga – Meeting Notes

Meeting:	Shelter Cluster Preparedness Meeting		
Date:	17 th December 2019	Time:	2pm – 4pm
Meeting Facilitator:	Carrie Vaea	Location:	National Emergency Management Office (NEMO)

Agenda

Attendance:

Name	Organisation	Role	Email Address
Carrie Vaea	NEMO	Shelter Cluster Lead	carreylvaea@gmail.com
Suresh Pokharell	NEMO	DRM Specialist	pkhsuresh@gmail.com
Robert Dodds	IFRC	Pacific Regional Shelter Coordinator	Robert.DODDS@ifrc.org
Filipe Waqabitu	IFRC	Pacific Regional Shelter Officer	Filipe.Waqabitu@ifrc.org
Malialosa Tapueluelu	CARITAS TONGA	CARITAS rep	stapueluelu86@gmail.com
Mausa Halahala	TNYC	TNYC Rep	-
Corfan Pomana	MORDI	MORDI Rep	l.pomana@morditonga.to
Silongo Samani	LDS Charities	LDS Rep	samanist@churchofjesuschrist.org
Lavinia Taumoepeau - Latu	MIA – Local Government	Safety and Protection Cluster Lead	laviniatmplatu@gmail.com
Paul De Launay	NEMO	Structural Engineer	deLaunay@bigpond.com
Ve'a Auiseko	NEMO	Logistics Officer	veatamatalaheu@gmail.com



Photo credit NEMO:

[NEMO Tonga Facebook page](#)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Cyclone season preparedness
3. Agency updates
4. Shelter Cluster Workplan update and next steps
5. Any Other Business
6. Reference – Minimum Standards for emergency shelter

Notes, Decisions, Issues

Topic

1. Welcome and Introduction

Participants were officially welcomed to this Shelter Cluster Preparedness Meeting and introductions made.

2. Cyclone Season Preparedness

Refer to the PowerPoint presentation.

A summary of the emergency shelter and household items stockpiles in Tonga was presented. Refer to the PowerPoint presentation and PALM website for further details:

<https://palm.logcluster.org/#/public/home>

Several of the attendees were not aware of the existence of this palm platform, so this was an introduction for most of them.

Overall number of stocks were presented, and agencies asked to verify if these numbers are correct. It was emphasized that the coordination team relies on these numbers to determine how many individuals and families can be reached during an emergency response operation, so the efforts of agencies to keep the information up to date is useful, and much appreciated.

The Logistics Cluster held a training on the PALM Platform. Those agencies that attended the training were registered and have since populated the platform with information on available stocks of emergency shelter and NFI items. Other members/ partners that do not have their stocks listed (such as LDS Charities & MORDI) are encouraged to request access from the logistics cluster – please contact the NEMO logistics team (Vea) for support.

3. Agency Updates

Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation (MORDI) Update:

After Cyclone Gita, MORDI worked actively for the reconstruction & rebuilding on the houses that were damaged and destroyed by the cyclone.

The following are a few of the activities that MORDI was involved in after Cyclone Gita:

- Six (6) houses were rebuilt in 'Eua and eighteen (18) houses in Members. Fallen timber trees were used for reconstruction.
- Build Back Better / Safer awareness and training was conducted in eighteen (18) communities in Members and fifteen (15) communities in 'Eua.
- There was an assessment conducted by MORDI in the aftermath of Cyclone Gita to ascertain the type of building materials that was needed by the affected people for reconstruction. This was conducted from household to household. Based on this survey MORDI then conducted a major procurement of building materials. These items were then given out to the community.
- Some WASH activities such as fixing of the house gutters.

Moving Forward:

- MORDI would like to go straight into rebuilding cyclone-proof houses after the next cyclone.
- There were IEC materials that were being used by MORDI for the rebuilding the houses and for BBS, they need the support of the cluster for their endorsement. (see workplan)

Comment:

To increase resilience of affected communities, MORDI has offered training to local youths to rebuild houses in accordance with the building codes. This knowledge is therefore instilled in these youths and they can use these techniques in building stronger houses.

Another initiative by MORDI was the translation of the 8 Key BBS Messages IEC materials into Tongan language (this document was originally drafted by the Shelter Cluster Philippines during the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan Response) and drafting of the "Cyclone Proofing Your Home" document. MORDI expressed interest in having the latter endorsed

by the Shelter Cluster, and will require the support of the coordination team, NEMO and Mol, and members to do so. This has been highlighted as a priority action on the workplan. The [“8 key messages for BBS”](#) in Tongan language have already been published to the SCT website as a draft, and feedback from partners is welcome.

CARITAS Update:

The following are a few of the activities that have been conducted by CARITAS:

- CARITAS has just recently completed repairing 426 houses across 33 villages. This was done in two stages in partnership with Habitat for Humanity (HfH) New Zealand, CARITAS Tonga and CARITAS New Zealand.
- The first stage was repair of 350 houses.
- The second was repairing 76 houses which included special assistance such as construction of ramps for persons with disabilities. This went together with WASH assistance. This second stage concluded in December 2019.
- CARITAS Tonga have yet to update their stocks on the PALM platform as they rely on the Logistics Officer in CARITAS New Zealand for this. This will be updated soon.
- The CARITAS rep is trained to use the PALM platform but does not have the log in details to carry out the task of updating their stocks.
- CARITAS Tonga has been trained up in the Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) training of trainers facilitated by Habitat for Humanity and IFRC in 2018 post TC Gita.

TNYC Update:

- TNYC is not implementing any shelter activities currently.
- One asset of the TNYC is that they have a lot of volunteers that can aid in rebuilding and construction. They have involved their youth in the activities that have been conducted by CARITAS.
- They have an MOU with CARITAS to look after the prepositioned stocks in their warehouse.

LDS Charities update:

- The Chapels of the LDS church are always available for shelter in the event of a cyclone/ natural disaster.
- They have built some temporary shelters. These materials were donated from members of their church in the US, New Zealand and from local members of the church.
- They focus not only in the building of temporary shelters, but also to help improve the skills of school leavers in gaining some important skills in construction. Each of the participants involved in rebuilding the temporary houses and shelters received a certificate. This was a Certificate Level 2 in Carpentry from TIST (Tonga Institute of Science and Technology). TIST can offer the same program to other Shelter Cluster partners and NGO's.
- Water tanks were also provided by LDS to those affected by Cyclone Gita.
- LDS Charities has worked with MORDI in the reconstruction of houses in 'Eua, by providing the timber.

Lessons learnt and going forward:

The LDS Charities had come across a lot of challenges when they tried to rebuild houses, particularly around approvals for construction. Further guidance from Mol would help to streamline this process.

For future responses, a 4W document could help to enhance coordination of the recovery phase which is led by Mol.

The efforts by the LDSS church in providing temporary shelters and giving their chapels for shelter was highly commended in this meeting.

Tonga Red Cross Society (TRCS) Update:

- All their emergency stocks have been replenished
- TRCS also has a few new warehouses and storage locations.

NEMO Update:

- NEMO does not stock a large number of emergency shelter items, now only some tents in stock.
- There was a recent coordination call between NEMO and FRANZ partners during which the current status of emergency shelter and NFI's was discussed.

- TNYC, CARITAS and TRCS all work closely together for the warehousing and storage of items.

IFRC update:

- The IFRC Pacific shelter coordination team (Robbie and Filipe) are based in Suva and remains available to support the Shelter Cluster in Tonga with preparedness and response activities at any time. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

4. Shelter Cluster Workplan update and next steps

Refer to PowerPoint presentation for the workplan.

This workplan was drafted by the cluster post-TC Gita and has been updated to highlight achievements since.

Priority 1: The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Shelter Cluster.

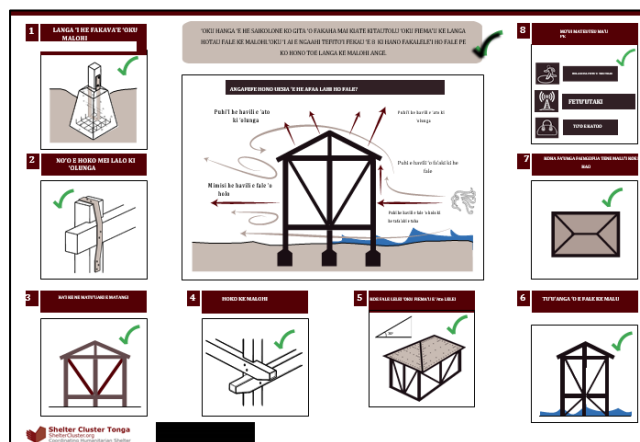
The revision of this was done at the end of last year. There are Two TORs:

- One is for the Emergency Shelter and NFI cluster, led by NEMO.
- The other is for the Reconstruction cluster, led by MoI.
- There is also a common Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document which defines how these 2 clusters work together throughout the preparedness, emergency response, recovery and reconstruction phases.

These documents will be shared again with cluster members in early 2020 as part of a revision process.

Priority 2: Two key Build back better/safer (BBB/S) and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) documents

The first document is the "8 BBS Key Messages", translated into Tongan language. A snippet of this document is shown below:



This document was originally developed in the aftermath of 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. After Cyclone Gita, this document was adopted by Shelter Cluster Tonga (SCT) and was translated to the Tongan language and has been published as a draft onto the SCT website:

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/tonga/documents/8-build-back-safer-mey-messages-tongan-0>

During the meeting, a comment was made on this document - green ticks and red crosses help to more easily understand the messages, which ones are safe and which ones are not safe.

This document provides simple guidance that householders can use, to gradually increase the strength of the shelter over time, according to the resources available to them.

The second document, "Cyclone Proofing Your Home", was developed by MORDI in cooperation with an engineering firm. This document has been used by MORDI in their own capacity in rebuilding numerous houses that have been affected by Cyclone Gita, both in Tongatapu and 'Eua. A snippet of this document is shown below:

There was some work done in this area during and after Cyclone Gita by the Shelter and Safety and Protection clusters. MIA kindly requested to provide further information on what has been developed.

Priority 10: Detailed Shelter Response Profile for Tonga

- A draft has been produced with the input of CARE, Tonga Red Cross, MoI, and IFRC under the leadership of CRATERRE. This was shared with shelter cluster agencies present during the meeting for their review. After a round of in-country consultations, it is hoped this can be endorsed by the cluster and shared more widely. It is valuable document which can help to inform development of shelter strategies appropriate for current-day Tonga.

Suggestions for additional items to be added to the workplan

- NEMO suggested that the 8 BBS Key Messages can be used as the basis to develop shelter awareness materials for radio and television.

5. Any other business

Housing Policy:

It is understood that MoI is currently working on a Housing Policy. Cluster members would welcome the change to be consulted on this policy.

**** Reference – Minimum Standards for Emergency Shelter**

This short presentation illustrates minimum standards for emergency shelter, based on the 2018 Sphere Standards for Protection and Shelter and Settlements. Members are encouraged to refer to this information when developing future shelter programs. This information may also support the development of *Priority 4: Standardise Shelter relief package and Non-Food items (NFIs)*. Any feedback from members is most welcome.

Action Items

Action	Owner	Due Date
1. Continue with 3 priority actions on cluster workplan	See workplan	See workplan
2. Agencies to update the PALM Platform	Members / NEMO	Monthly
3. 4W mapping to be developed by NEMO for preparedness. NEMO to develop template. Agencies to provide information once template is ready	NEMO, members	Jan 2020
4. Share new IDA form with members	NEMO	Jan 2020
5. MIA kindly requested to provide further information on work completed on the vulnerability prioritisation criteria	MIA	Jan 2020
6. CARITAS Tonga kindly requested to share Building Back Safer (BBS) training resources developed with Habitat for Humanity (HfH) New Zealand.	CARITAS Tonga	Jan 2020

Next Meeting

Date:	March 2020	Time:	TBC	Location:	National Emergency Management Office
Comment:					