

Gaza Shelter Cluster Meeting Minutes

September 29 2024

Attending:

OCHA ,ACTED, PUI, PEF, IOM, UNRWA, NRC, CRS, PHC, Save the Children, GEM, BLDA, HEKS/EPER, UNDP, Maan, IRW, BLDA, SMWG, PARC, Bayader, CISS,

Actions From pervious meeting:

Action: SC to arrange a presentation with SMWG - done

Action: SC can work on better targeting guidance -ongoing, working on targeting map

Action: SC to work on coordination in the North of Gaza in order to understand where needs are most - ongoing

SC to look at rolling out a market assessment among partners. - ongoing

SC to investigate Jordan to FR on JHCO: not possible currently

SC to continue advocacy for borders re-opening, and in turn encouraged partners to do the same with their organisations. – press release shared NRC/Shelter Cluster

Minutes:

- SC coordination updates were shared by the cluster team – in powerpoint attached, key points here:
 - Flood taskforce led by OCHA; members are shelter, WASH, and SMWG. Hosting technical workshop to be held on Thursday for SMWG/WASH/Shelter – keeping it to one attendee per organisation.
 - UNICEF have brought in a few thousand tarps – originally for WASH, but partners distributed for shelter due to needs. There will be more in the next weeks, cluster is working with them to plan distributions of these.
 - KS – Please let us know if you have items at KS for the LC to try and uplift
 - IM shared that around 7000 families on the coast in KY and DeB were assessed to be at risk of flooding - from BLDA/CRS assessments
 - Fence Road – please continue to share your items you want to come in on the FR with the Shelter Cluster and Logs Cluster on a Tuesday. The prioritisation meeting happens on a Thursday for items entering the w/c the following Sunday. We managed to prioritise 30 trucks last week.
- Damage Assessment discussion:
 - Cluster was asked to have this discussion due to the collapse of a damaged building due to weather conditions. Cluster explained the conversations that had been had by the TWG on damage assessments:
 - a. Self-Assessment – not practical because of lack of knowledge in population
 - b. Planned assessments – not practical because of access, prioritisation, etc, also raising expectations
 - c. So therefore to produce basic IEC/Awareness materials was the action decided
 - The floor was then opened for discussion:
 - we cant avoid the fact that people are returning to homes and they might not be safe particularly East KY but also Gaza and the North
 - This covers shelters and schools, not just homes – UNRWA doing assessments alongside UNMAS

At the moment, we don't have the information to say it's safe or not safe and we don't have the people to go and do the assessments

Any assessment It must be done in coordination with UNMAS because of the huge risk of ERW. But noted that in UNMAS mission to check schools they can only do 5 a day. So to ERW assess the caseload of damaged buildings would be huge.

A damage assessment is purely engineering – the person doing must have engineering background to do it safely.

We need to decide with whom we will go and coordinate with actors who have the skills and background for example MoPWH already did it. We have municipality and engineering syndicate who can probably provide limited support

For assessments we must start with already occupied locations

If neighbourhood is targeted, issues will be wider so a good place to start rather than isolated building.

SC work would ordinarily be rehab and light repairs – which would need an assessment first. SOKs would also need assessments first (maybe not detailed HH assessment in this context)

Is it right to do assessments when we can't give people anything afterwards? We tell people they're not safe and then what do they do? They have nowhere to go, no other option.

we can't as technical people not tell people their houses are not safe. We have the moral responsibility to do so.

We can't tell them to leave

We either do nothing at all, or we go on to do it well and properly

SC expresses surprise the conversation had focussed purely on assessments because they were challenging, access was difficult, capacity was difficult, and not fast.

Suggestions to develop awareness materials/IEC materials to help people assess their own HUs, others disagreed and said that this was a bad approach because of "hidden faults" and people might think they are safe because of IEC materials but really they weren't

Even if we go down the Assessment route, that will not reach everyone quickly or before winter so what should be do in the meantime?

Disagreement between those who felt we had the moral imperative to do something to alert people to the risks, and those who felt that if we can't do a full assessment we shouldn't do anything.

SC suggested that two discussions were taken forward in different forums: assessment and IEC. Just because we have the discussions, doesn't mean we need to produce something at the end

Actions:

-SC to start a "satellite TWiG" in Gaza to discuss IEC materials.

-SC to invite partners to a discussion on damage assessments

- SMWG presentation (also attached)

Rahul SWMG coordinator presented on the work of the SMWG, particularly the SMWG baseline Assessment, explaining how this can be used to map and coordinate the response.

The Unique Site ID was introduced; this an ID that can be used to reference where partners are working to avoid different names, spellings, GPS points. SC confirmed that in the next 5ws we will add a column for Site ID, which would not be compulsory yet but would help us map who is where.

There is an online dashboard for information.

Questions on sharing more than just the online dashboard – SMWG to check the Info Sharing Protocol:

UPDATE after meeting, SMWG can share but with the following notes:

1) Due to the sensitive nature of the site master list [SML] and to ensure data security, SMWG would appreciate if shelter cluster partners can confirm to non-disclosure i.e., not to further share the dataset and the dataset remains only with PM/ IM focal points of the organization. We will return to you on the non-disclosure document at the earliest.

2) We have the list of shelter cluster partners; we would do a one last check of the implementing partners [with your IM] and issue the dataset along with non-disclosure document with you and other cluster colleagues in Cc.

3) We are editing the consent permission of the site level focal points so that we can include their contact information in the site master list.

Rahul also presented the Kobo for incident reporting, to standardise reporting of shocks in sites.

LINKS:

SMWG Baseline Assessment Dashboard – will be shared in whatsapp group for those in Gaza

[SMWG Site Typologies](#)

[Site Incident Reporting Kobo](#)

[Shelter Cluster Website:](#)

<https://sheltercluster.org/> - then go to “Palestine” on the left hand side, at the top of the page

or direct to <https://sheltercluster.org/response/palestine>

then find “Gaza Cluster meetings” down the left side

or direct to <https://sheltercluster.org/palestine/pages/gaza-cluster-meetings> - choose the meeting and then you will find the ppt, the minutes, and any other slides.

On Palestine response page you can also find our dashboard, documents, updates, and other information.