

Shelter Coordination Group – Cyclone Aila

Meeting minutes, 07 July 2009

NEXT MEETING	
Scheduled for Tuesday, 14 July, at 15:00. Venue to be confirmed	
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ACTION ITEMS
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. All agencies are asked to continue forwarding distribution (both planned and undertaken) to the Information Manager (esc.aila.im1@gmail.com)2. Oxfam to forward through internal documents on plastic sheeting and other emergency shelter materials being distributed for Cyclone Aila3. UNDP and Cyclone Aila Coordination Team to liaise over announcement and invitations to the: Strategic Advisory Group (SAG), Emergency Shelter and Household NFI Technical Working Group, and the Early Recovery Working Group.

Organizations represented at this meeting		
BRAC Concern Worldwide Habitat for Humanity	IFRC IOM MSF	Oxfam Save the Children UK UNDP MDM Architects

1. Welcome and introductions

Gregg McDonald welcomes the group to the second meeting of the Aila specific shelter coordination group. Introductions are made.

2. Changes to the agenda

A discussion surrounding technical details for both emergency and transitional shelter assistance was added to AOB.

3. Review of previous

A review of the previous minutes was undertaken including action points. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting.

The Information Manager was to contact agencies regarding distribution data and assessments

- MSF: distribution details are forthcoming
- BRAC: distribution details are forthcoming

4. Operational updates from agencies

Agencies were asked to provide a brief update regarding any changes in operational situations or agency programming

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- UNDP are still awaiting the GoB announcement regarding a potential appeal for shelter and housing
- Oxfam have completed some activity for Aila. Ongoing funding will ensure their operations continue for approximately six months. A reminder to all was given to ensure good quality items need to be given to the affected persons.
- MSF require medical doctors. Agencies with any information are asked to forward it to Kristian Heen (msfocb-dhaka-log@brussels.msf.org)
- SCF UK will shortly be distributing Emergency Shelter kits (plastic sheeting, bamboo and rope) and Transitional Shelter kits (semi-permanent shelters are CI sheets and more robust materials. The designs are consistent with the SIDR designs)
- BRAC will forward their upcoming plans to the Information Manager
- Concern Worldwide will forward information on upcoming house construction and repair programmes.

Quality of plastic sheeting observed in the field was questioned. Locally procured tarp was said to be quite poor in quality. It was deemed very bad for load bearing purposes (wind, rain etc) but could possibly be appropriate to act as a ground sheet.

5. Information management update

The Information Manager asked all agencies to continue submitting distribution data, both planned and already undertaken.

Neil Brighton introduced the first figures of the 3W and explained the flexibility of the information it contains. The shelter coordination team are able to create any tables and graphs required by agencies relating to the information gathered. Agencies are encouraged to request further information if needed.

The coordination team is developing a data input form which can greatly improve the flexibility of the information gathered. Agencies in the meeting agreed that the provision of a standard data input form would benefit the response and would be used to report their data.

The question of 'which NFIs to track' is linked to the upcoming meetings of the Strategic Advisory Group and Technical Working Groups. Information Management products will become more focused once the wider group has accepted the direction of the response in terms of who will be targeted and what they will receive in terms of Shelter and NFIs.

The items to be tracked will be developed by a Technical Working Group (TWiG), which will collaborate with the UNDP group initiated soon after Cyclone Aila. Agencies interested in participating included: Oxfam, MDM Architects, Habitat for Humanity, IFRC, CARITAS Bangladesh and UNDP

The meeting for the Emergency Shelter and Household NFI TWG was agreed for Thursday, 9 July at 09:00 at the offices of MDM Architects.

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6. GoB meeting outcome

Gregg McDonald recently met with Director General of the Ministry for Food and Disaster Management (MoFDM). The outcomes were:

- Joint assessment: he was not opposed to a multi-sectoral assessment and offered suggestions on ways for this to proceed.
- The DMB encouraged agencies and any analysis should be focused in Khulna and Satkhira
- DMB wished to see a better utilisation of resources and was wary of wasting too much time.
- Distributed temporary housing drawings designed after the SIDR cyclone of 2007 for landless persons and asked agencies to consider this as an option
- The DG indicated that he would be willing to allow the SWG to use the DMB meeting room for future meetings and he would attend if possible

IOM expressed concern that if numerous agencies were speaking with the GoB might create some confusion, or misunderstanding. We, as a group, need to be careful that we don't cause this confusion.

Ensuring a coordinated interface with our Government of Bangladesh counterparts that includes the views of the wider cluster was seen as a priority by the group. The modalities of this could be included in future SAG discussions.

7. Assessments

The IFRC Shelter Delegate, returning from Satkhira District said the situation continues to be very bad for those displaced. Roughly 80% of people have returned to their land, however many remain on the embankments. For example, in Satkhira approximately 15,000 families remain on the embankments. It was expressed by the Shelter Delegate that relocating the displaced people might prove difficult.

IOM expressed concern that many people continue to remain in potentially dangerous situations and are at risk of further storms/tidal surges.

It was clear that the assessments undertaken by agencies have produced different results. It was agreed that the affected population information must be separated and analysed to assist the responding agencies in meeting the needs of the different groups. For example, the needs of those that have returned to their land are likely to differ from those that remain displaced and those displaced that may consider short term relocation would require a different level of assistance.

8. Strategic framework

The Strategic Advisory Group for the Cyclone Aila response will be convened by the SAG established by UNDP immediately following Cyclone Aila.

All agencies are invited to participate. Meeting details will be announced by UNDP.

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9. AOB

Technical designs, standards and specifications will be led by a Technical Working Group. UNDP is to announce the date and venue for this meeting.

All agencies are welcome to attend this Technical Working Group.

Agencies commented that many good designs resulted from the Cyclone Sidr response, and that, where appropriate, these designs should be used and the lessons learnt should be incorporated into the Aila response.

10. Date and venue for next meeting

Tuesday, 14 July, at 15:00

Meeting venue will be confirmed prior via general email to the group.