

Tri-Cluster

Mission Report - Shelter Cluster Coordinator

On the 14th November, the Shelter Cluster Coordinator attended a Tri-Cluster Coordination meeting in Mogadishu chaired by the Hodan DC and facilitated by OCHA. Following the meeting, a field visit was conducted to Zona K to visit finished shelter units by NRC and DRC. In addition, meetings were held separately with DRC, NRC, UN-Habitat and UNHCR field staff.

The following summaries main conclusions:

1. The new corrugated galvanised iron (CGI) shelter units have significantly changed the environment of Zona K. The units coupled with the site planning has enabled structure to be brought to the settlement. There are clear primary and secondary access ways and areas of public space. The units themselves provide a safer and more secure core housing unit which has addressed the principal concern of IDPs: physical protection.
2. There is evidence of the integration of services with latrines and water points located in the newly created space. There is currently space for more services such as child friendly spaces, community meeting areas, markets, kindergarten schools etc.
3. The units have provided a foundation. With the introduction of the Protection and Education Cluster projects in 2013 there is the opportunity to create a settlement of an acceptable standard despite the challenges of plot size and covered area¹.
4. There is evidence that the communal public spaces are being eroded as newly arrived IDPs construct buuls or erect tents in these spaces. They want a new CGI, however as they were not resident at the time of registration, technically they are not entitled. If this trend continues to be unchecked then the opportunity to create a liveable settlement will be lost.
5. Committees formed during construction² at street or sub-zone level offer a good entry point to provide better protection, enhance the services and understand more the dynamics of the settlement. This opportunity should not be lost. The question of settlement management needs to be addressed now.
6. The Tri-Cluster Coordinator left in early September and OCHA took on the role of coordinating the 14 partners and their 16 projects and other non-CHF funded agencies working in Zona K. Although some meetings of the partners have taken place since then, there is evidence to suggest that coordination in the field has broken-down. The recent issue over the Hijira latrines highlights this.
7. To maximise the impact of an integrated approach between different sectors, field coordination is needed by a dedicated OCHA staff member. Monthly high level meetings are insufficient. Coordination at zone level (in the field) is needed especially as an extra Shelter partner and the Protection and Education clusters will join in 2013.

¹ With 16m² of covered space the shelters are smaller than the SPHERE indicator of 3.5m² per person which for a family of 6 is 21m²

² DRC formed 20 committees from the 24 sub-settlements in Sections 1 & 2