

Rakhine Shelter Cluster Coordination Meeting

Minutes

Venue: Office of the State Minister of Transport and Communication

Date: Wednesday, 7th January 2015

Time: 4:10 pm to 5:10 pm

Chair: Rakhine State Government (RSG)

Co-Chair: Shelter Cluster Lead (UNHCR)

Participants: RSG/SCRR, UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA & MRCS

1. Discussion of Potential Individual Shelter Options in Rakhine State, 2015

- Minister opened the meeting by stating that in 2015, the Shelter Cluster will need to maintain and repair temporary shelters but that other individual shelter options may arise in accordance with the Rakhine State Action Plan. Currently the RSG does not have funding for individual shelter options but is considering the funding of maintenance and repair of temporary shelters. The Minister talked of the proposed construction by UNHCR of 72 individual houses for Maramargyi IDPs in Set Yone Su but stated that there were no plans to construct individual houses for unverified 'Bengali' IDPs.
- Minister informed participants that following State Cabinet discussions, the Sub-Committee for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (SCRR) would like to approve the *construction of individual shelter options for all IDPs living in Mrauk U, Minbya and Kyawtaw townships (2662 HH)*. The Minister suggested that the 63 Rakhine and Maramargyi IDP households in Mrauk U and Minbya should receive individual houses of the same design as proposed for Set Yone Su in urban Sittwe while Muslim IDPs would receive a package of materials and labour costs to construct on the original household plots. The Minister then opened the floor for discussion.
- UNHCR explained that although Cluster partners welcome the approval as a step closer to providing durable shelter solutions, limited shelter budgets are currently available and consequently it is not possible for partners to immediately respond to RSG requests. Publication of the Rakhine State Action Plan continues to be requested from across the international community.
- The Cluster Lead shared the estimated costs for the construction of individual shelter options proposed by the RSG which will total almost \$3 million and requested the RSG to share the implementation plan.

Township	Households	Ethnicity				Maintenance & Repair		Individual Shelter Options		Total Direct Costs
		Rakhine	Maramargyi	Kaman	Other Muslim	Temporary 8-unit Shelters	Maintenance and Repair [\$ 750]	Individual [@ \$4,000]	Transitional [@ \$1,000]	
Mrauk U	680	31	11		638			\$ 168,000	\$ 638,000	\$ 806,000
Minbya	935	21			914	84	\$ 63,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 914,000	\$ 1,061,000
Kyawtaw	1,047				1,047	111	\$ 83,250		\$ 1,047,000	\$ 1,130,250
	2,662	52	11		2,599	195	\$146,250	\$252,000	\$2,599,000	\$ 2,997,250

- The Minister explained that the RSG has not yet completed a detailed work plan for shelter activities in 2015 but stated that it would be available soon. He continued explaining that until the Rakhine State Action Plan is formally shared, it was not possible for the RSG to share either the plan or a budget.
- Cluster Lead reminded participants of the close collaboration that Cluster partners have had with the RSG throughout the Rakhine response. Attention was drawn to the 2013 partnership when temporary shelters were constructed for all IDPs across Rakhine State and how during this phase the RSG funded and constructed almost half of all shelters. In 2014, despite good intentions, the partnership was less than equal as the RSG was unable to fulfil commitments to provide maintenance and repair to temporary shelters in townships outside of Sittwe, Pauktaw and Myebon Townships due to insufficient funding. In 2014, a budget was not allocated by the RSG to shelter activities. In 2015, Cluster partners expect the RSG to actively lead the shelter response and advocate for the allocation of appropriate funding for the proposed shelter activities.
- Following a short technical discussion on minimum technical standards for the materials package that might be offered to Muslim IDPs awaiting verification to construct transitional housing on the original household plots, it was agreed that the design and BoQs used by the RSG for the Thandwe response (approx. \$1,000) should form the basis of a technical working group (TWiG) to propose minimum technical standards for these transitional shelters. It was agreed that the package could be adapted to different local contexts. For example, in Minbya and Kyawtaw, few houses have CGI or zinc aluminium roofing and therefore thatch roofing would be more appropriate and conflict sensitive.
- Participants agreed that if the proposed shelter activities were to be implemented in 2015, it would be necessary to adopt a staggered approach where shelter was constructed in Mrauk U prior to the rainy season, before scaling-up in Minbya and Kyawtaw after the rainy season. In Mrauk U, there are only two Muslim IDP villages as well as less opposition from the local communities. The staged approach would also provide sufficient time for the RSG to sensitize communities in Minbya and Kyawtaw.
- When asked how the RSG plan to fund the proposed activities, the Minister reiterated that the RSG was unable to request funding until the Rakhine State Action Plan is shared and therefore was looking to Shelter cluster partners for support.
- Cluster Lead explained that if a two-phased approach was taken to shelter options in the 3 proposed Townships, Cluster partners would be required to raise approximately \$1 million dollars in early 2015 to provide individual housing to 680 IDP households in Mrauk U as well as maintaining and repairing the 195 temporary shelters in Minbya and Kyawtaw. When asked which components the RSG could commit to implementing, the Minister said that it may be possible to fund the maintenance and repair of temporary shelters and to contribute some materials to the materials package proposed for transitional shelter. The Minister said he would take the proposal to the Cabinet before commenting further.
- The Cluster Lead welcomed the RSG's suggestion of providing materials to the transitional shelter package. This approach was taken in the construction of individual housing in Maungdaw where NaTaLa provided high quality CGI roofing sheets
- MRCS stated that although currently not secure and of an unspecified amount, it may possible to raise funds for shelter activities from a participating national society (PNS). MRCS encouraged the RSG to develop a plan so that Cluster partners could see how they could support the plan. MRCS also said that if they were to implement shelter activities in Mrauk U, Minbya or Kyawtaw that they would require technical assistance and support from UNHCR for site planning and other Cluster related services.
- UNICEF invited the Minister to present key relevant sections of the Rakhine State Action Plan at the WaSH strategic workshop on 15th January 2015. The Minister accepted.
- The meeting concluded with some stressing that it would be very hard for Shelter Cluster partners to raise funds for shelter activities until the RSG outlines a shelter plan for 2015. The Minister acknowledged this and stated that the plan would be shared with Shelter Cluster partners in the very near future.

Participants List

Name	Title	Organization	Email	Contact #
U Hla Han	State Transport and Communications Minister	RSG	N/A	N/A
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