



**Minutes | Meeting of Shelter, Land, and Site Coordination Sector**  
**05th Mar 2026 | 1400 - 1500 hrs | Hybrid**

**Participants: Annex 1: List of Participants**

**Agenda:**

1. Updates on the team and way of working together
2. Visual tools for mapping sites (IM training snapshot)
3. Feedback from you: space to listen and exchange
4. Follow up actions on the safety center needs assessment
5. DTM presentation (Kandy, Badulla)
6. HLP WG announcement/interest
7. AOB

**Introduction**

The Tenth National Shelter, Land, and Settlements Coordination (SLSC) Sector Meeting was held virtually on 05th March 2026 to formalize a strategic shift in the humanitarian response following Cyclone Ditwa. Building on the foundations laid in previous sessions, this meeting served as a vital forum for aligning partner efforts as the response transitions from immediate emergency relief toward sustainable recovery and durable housing solutions.

The session was anchored by a significant leadership transition, officially introducing the new joint coordination team led by the IFRC and IOM. With a focus on decentralizing operations, the meeting established a roadmap for area-based coordination, specifically through the appointment of district focal points to streamline liaison with local authorities. Key objectives included the rollout of streamlined Information Management (IM) tools for real-time site monitoring and the presentation of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) findings for Kandy and Badulla. As displacement patterns evolve into long-term trends, the discussion prioritized addressing the "dual reality" of household returns balancing the urgent need for livelihood continuity with the critical necessity of safety clearances and land rights.

**1. Updates on the team and way of working together**

The meeting served as the formal introduction of the new coordination leadership following the conclusion of the missions for Ms. Narmin, Mr. Leandro, and Ms. Tekla. Ms. Sandra Jeanette D'Urzo (IFRC), a humanitarian architect with extensive experience in Sri Lanka's past recovery efforts, emphasized that the sector aims to function as a "safe space" for transparent information sharing between the UN, NGOs, and local government. Ms. Mamen Sancha (IOM) joined as a global support expert to alternate weekly coordination responsibilities, while Mr. Aeneas (IOM) was introduced as the Information Management (IM) Lead. The overarching goal is to move past the fragmented responses of previous years by building institutional trust and leveraging the collective subject matter expertise of all partners.



## **2. Visual tools for mapping sites (IM training snapshot)**

Aeneas presented two updated, simplified reporting tools designed to ease the data burden on field teams: the New Site Report for identifying unlisted spontaneous locations and the Update Existing Site Report for tracking the current status of known centers. These tools are intended to populate a centralized Partner Presence Map, which currently remains incomplete. Partners were urged to submit their active districts and intervention details via email or WhatsApp to finalize the coordination dashboard. This mapping effort is critical for visualizing the humanitarian footprint, reducing parallel visits, and enabling more strategic district-level engagement.

## **3. Feedback from you: space to listen and exchange**

During the partner updates, some partners reported the delivery of approximately 2,200 tarpaulins but flagged significant collaboration barriers in efficient delivery. Bottleneck in procurement pipelines were also mentioned, amidst the rising conflict in the Middle east and logistic hubs in the area experiencing delays.

They also highlighted a worrying trend of families returning to unsafe, high-risk zones due to privacy deficits in safety centers and a lack of support from plantation owners. Chrysalis shared that they have reached 25,000 individuals with shelter and WASH materials, though they noted that the rapid closure of centers makes infrastructure timing difficult. In response to these challenges, partners suggested incorporating shelter-related expenses into Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) and proposed that Chrysalis act as the focal coordination organization for the Kandy district to better manage localized service gaps.

## **4. Follow up actions on the safety center needs assessment**

The sector is transitioning toward an area-based coordination model to resolve localized gaps more effectively. A key outcome was the formal agreement for Chrysalis (represented by Baskaran Suthan) to serve as the Focal Organization for the Kandy District, tasked with gathering field data and liaising directly with local authorities. Meanwhile, IOM will maintain the coordination lead for the Badulla and possibly Nuwaraeliya districts, along with the local CSO Uva Shakti. This decentralized structure is intended to prevent the duplication of assessments and ensure that technical findings from safety center reports translate immediately into local assistance pathways and governmental decision-making.

## **5. DTM presentation (Kandy, Badulla)**

Drashti (IOM) presented findings from the [DTM for Kandy and Badulla](#), revealing where thousands remain displaced despite moderate return rates. In Kandy, roughly 39% of the peak displaced population (10,700 people) has not yet returned, largely due to structural housing damage. In Badulla, where 38,133 individuals remain displaced, 80% of homes are still only partially habitable. A critical observation was the emergence of "commuting returns," with over 3,400 individuals traveling daily back to high-risk areas of origin for work while sheltering elsewhere. The data confirms



that housing damage is the central barrier to permanent return, exacerbated by a normalization of fear and persistent psychological alertness during rainfall.

## 6. HLP WG announcement/interest

The sector is prioritizing a roadmap for monitoring informal settlements and ensuring durable solutions for displaced households. This includes addressing the critical service gaps identified in the safety center assessments, particularly in WASH and health. Leadership reaffirmed that the mandate extends to Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights, focusing on tenure security for those stuck between unsafe returns and temporary centers. The sector will facilitate a coordinated communication pathway, moving beyond the current ad-hoc reliance on Gram Niladhari officers toward a more systemic dissemination of risk information and relocation support. The coordinators, IFRC and UNHABITAT will be reaching out to partners for their expression of interest to join the WG next week.

## 7. AOB

The meeting concluded with a call for all partners to share their current and planned activity coverage with Aeneas to finalize the joint mapping effort. Key immediate actions include finalizing the role of Chrysalis as the Kandy focal point, while IOM continues to oversee Badulla and Nuwara Eliya. The coordination team will also follow up on specific inventory requests, such as the bedding kits flagged by ACTED. Partners were encouraged to maintain proactive communication via the WhatsApp group and email to ensure that gaps and challenges are identified and addressed before the next convening.



Join the WhatsApp group of the  
**SLSC Sector, Sri Lanka** for live  
communications and updates



## Annex 1: List of Participants

	Name and agency	In person / Virtual
1	SANCHA Maria Del Carmen, IOM, Sector Co-coordinator	Virtual
2	Aeneas VELU, IOM, Sector IM Associate	Virtual
3	Sandra Jeanette D'Urzo, IFRC, Sector co-coordinator	Virtual
4	Angela Osti, IOM	Virtual
5	Chamila SENAVERATHAN, ACTED	Virtual
6	Baskaran SUTHAN, Chrysalis	Virtual
7	Suranga Mallawa, UNOPS	Virtual
8	THAKKAR Drashti Rasesh	Virtual
9	Vivek, Antony, CRS	Virtual
10	Mahinda, ACTED	Virtual
11	Amr Saeed, Qatar Charity	Virtual
12	Rangitha Balasuriya, UN RCO	Virtual
13	Ludiyana Shelrine, UN RCO	Virtual
14	Dhanaraj, Institute of Social Development	Virtual