



Minutes | Meeting of Shelter, Land, and Site Coordination Sector
19th Mar 2026 | 1400 – 1500 hrs | Hybrid: Colombo (SLRC) & Online (MS Teams)

Participants: Annex 1: List of Participants

Agenda:

1. Welcome to participants
2. Validation of Advocacy Messages / Call to Action
3. Environmental Considerations in Recovery – Kelly (Global Shelter Cluster)
4. Transitional Shelter Lessons Learned – Aziza (UN-Habitat)
5. Information Management (IM) Updates
6. Partner & District Updates
7. AOB

Introduction

The meeting was opened by Ms. Sandra (IFRC), who welcomed all participants. She noted that due to fuel shortages, most participants joined online. She acknowledged the hybrid format, with a small in-person group in Colombo, and expressed appreciation for the punctuality of attendees. She introduced Mr. Muhammad Maaji, who will be joining IOM as the co-lead counterpart, and welcomed him to the forum.

Ms. Sandra outlined the agenda, which focused on validating the sector's advocacy messages, integrating environmental considerations into recovery planning, learning from past transitional shelter programs, and receiving partner updates.

1. Validation of Advocacy Messages / Call to Action

Ms. Sandra presented a 12-point "Call to Action" document developed jointly by the co-leads and informed by DTM data, safety centre needs assessments, and field visits across six districts.

Key Highlights:

Current Conditions: 45 operational safety centres host 4,729 individuals. Over 48% are women and girls, and 57 sites host persons with disabilities. Overcrowding, lack of privacy, deteriorated sanitation, and insufficient NFIs remain critical gaps.

Displacement Patterns: Return barriers vary by district. Badulla and Kandy face landslide risks and housing instability. Kegalle and Nuwara Eliya report high displacement with new spontaneous settlements.

12-Point Call to Action: The document calls for:

1. Transition to durable solutions (safe return, rental assistance, transitional shelter).
2. Ensure habitability and protection standards in safety centres.
3. Strengthen site management with clear authority roles.



4. Advance planning on closures and strengthen referral systems.
5. Prioritize displaced households in dual-use schools for timely transition.
6. Design sustainable rental assistance with monitoring and exit strategies.
7. Accelerate shelter repair assistance with technical and legal support.
8. Strengthen hazard verification for safe return and relocation decisions.
9. Address land tenure barriers with flexible eligibility criteria.
10. Prioritize safe, serviced land for households unable to return.
11. Integrate shelter with site planning and basic infrastructure.
12. Strengthen community engagement and feedback mechanisms.

Decision: The document was validated unanimously and adopted by the group. It will be presented to the Resident Coordination Office as key sector asks.

2. Environmental Considerations in Recovery

Mr. Kelly provided an overview of environmental obligations and opportunities for integrating nature-based solutions into the recovery phase. He highlighted that donors such as European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) require environmental screening, while sphere standards also mandate environmental reviews for shelter and settlement activities. He recommended the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+), a simple, fast, and freely available online tool for assessing environmental impacts and identifying practical solutions. He noted that Sri Lanka has extensive experience in nature-based solutions for landslide and flood stabilization, which are often cheaper and more sustainable than hard infrastructure. Finally, he emphasized that key partners such as the Central Environmental Authority (CEA) and the National Building Research Institute (NBRI) should be engaged early in planning for relocation and reconstruction.

3. Transitional Shelter Lessons Learned – [2017 Floods Response](#)

Ms. Aziza presented a case study from the 2017 floods response in Kalutara, Galle, and Matara districts, highlighting a community-driven transitional shelter program. She explained that 16 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) were selected to manage implementation, with UN-Habitat acting as a facilitator and cash transfers made through local banks. The project prioritized female-headed households, families with infants, elderly members, and persons with disabilities, and integrated disaster risk reduction features into shelter designs to ensure resilience during the reconstruction period. Challenges included slow internal processes, CBO capacity limitations, limited funding, and difficulty identifying safe land for relocation. She emphasized that lessons on community ownership, flexible funding, and collaboration with NBRI remain highly applicable to the current response.

4. Information Management (IM) Updates

Mr. Aeneas provided updates on data collection and the sector dashboard. He noted that the DMC is finalizing a site master list, and once available, the sector will support with additional data collection tools. He encouraged partners interested in supporting data collection in specific districts



to come forward. He also highlighted that the Nuwara Eliya DTM report was recently published and provides valuable insights on displacement trends and return barriers.

5. Partner & District Updates

Updates Provided:

- Nuwara Eliya: The next coordination meeting is tentatively planned to be held in Nuwara Eliya, pending confirmation from IOM on hosting arrangements.
- DTM Products: The [Nuwara Eliya DTM report](#) was highlighted as a key resource for area-based planning.
- Partner Engagement: Partners were reminded to utilize the inter-sectoral referral tool for flagging needs beyond the shelter sector.

6. AOB

Ms. Sandra noted that the next coordination meeting is planned on Thursday 2:00 PM to take place in Nuwara Eliya to bring the conversation closer to the field. Confirmation will be shared once IOM confirms availability to organise as leading the DS level together with CSO Uva Shakti.



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



Annex 1: List of Participants

	Name and Organization	In person / Virtual
1	SANCHA Maria Del Carmen, IOM, Sector Co-coordinator	Virtual
2	Aeneas VELU, IOM, Sector IM Associate	In Person
3	Sandra Jeanette D'Urzo, IFRC, Sector co-coordinator	In Person
4	Rinas, IOM	Virtual
5	Mr. Muhammad Maaji, Upcoming Sector Co-coordinator	Virtual
6	Angela Osti, IOM (Emergency Coordinator)	Virtual
7	Aziza, UN- Habitat	Virtual
8	Kelly, Global Shelter Cluster Environment Focal Point	Virtual
9	A. Jude Nishanthan, WVJ	Virtual
10	Chamila SENAVERATHAN, ACTED	Virtual
11	Baskaran SUTHAN, Chrysalis	Virtual
12	Suranga Mallawa, UNOPS	Virtual
13	THAKKAR Drashti Rasesh, DTM/IOM	Virtual
14	Vivek, Antony, CRS	Virtual
15	Mahinda, ACTED	Virtual
16	Amr Saeed, Qatar Charity	Virtual
17	Rangitha Balasuriya, UN RCO	Virtual
18	Ludiyana Shelrine, UN RCO	Virtual
19	Dhanaraj, Institute of Social Development	Virtual
20	Mohanlal Peiris - WASH cluster coordinator	Virtual
21	Thamil, UNOPS	Virtual
22	Harshini Halangode, UN-Habitat	Virtual
23	Lazarus, Andrew, Save the Children	Virtual
24	Chaminda Piyasekara, ECDIC Ratnapura	Virtual
25	POUDEL Sushil	Virtual
26	Vincika, UN RCO	In person

