



Minutes | Meeting of Shelter, Land, and Site Coordination Sector
26th Mar 2026 | 1400 – 1500 hrs | Hybrid: Colombo (IOM), Kandy & Online (Ms Teams)

Participants: Annex 1: List of Participants

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks from Nuwara Eliya District Authorities
2. Nuwaraeliya – Displacement sites status update
3. Nuwaraeliya – Safety Centres needs assessment update
4. Cash Working Group (CWG) – Update on cash interventions
5. IOM – CBI in Shelter/NFI update
6. Partners' updates
7. Any other business (AOB)

Introduction

The 13th meeting of the Shelter, Land, and Site Coordination Sector was held on 26 March 2026 in hybrid format, with an in-person group convening in Nuwaraeliya and other participants joining online via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was opened by Ms. Maria Del Carmen Sancha (IOM), who welcomed all participants and acknowledged the delay to allow participants in the Nuwaraeliya room to fully connect. She announced her departure from the coordination role and introduced Mr. Mohamed Maaji as the incoming sector coordinator from IOM, noting that he was in transit and unable to join the meeting. Ms. Angela (IOM) then presented the agenda, which was adopted by the group.

1. Opening remarks from Nuwara Eliya District Authorities

Col Nisantha Bandara, Assistant Director of the Disaster Management Center (DMC) in Nuwaraeliya, delivered the opening remarks on behalf of the district authorities. He reported that the district currently has a requirement for 198 temporary houses, with 10 locations hosting displaced persons under basic conditions requiring infrastructure improvements, particularly noting that some facilities lack proper concrete flooring. He confirmed that three safety centers remain operational in the district, hosting 224 families totaling 705 individuals. Col Bandara expressed appreciation for the sector's ongoing efforts and emphasized the need for continued support to enhance living conditions in displacement sites.

2. Nuwaraeliya – Displacement sites status update

Ms. Drashti (IOM/DTM) presented key findings from the recently published DTM assessment report for Nuwaraeliya district. She reported a district-wide return rate of 98 percent, with the lowest return recorded in Nuwaraeliya DS Division at 92 percent. Priority needs identified included cash assistance, relocation support, protection services, and legal aid related to land tenure and documentation. Barriers to return comprised structural damage to houses, fear of recurring hazards, limited ownership documents, and reliance on word-of-mouth early warning systems. Livelihood



disruption was significant, with destruction of cultivation land and irrigation infrastructure leading to a shift toward irregular daily wage labor. Ms. Thakkar noted a discrepancy in displacement figures, with the DMC reporting approximately 60,000 persons displaced under red zone categorization while DTM reported approximately 1,000 actively displaced at the time of data collection. She also observed that safety centers had reduced from seven to three since data collection, reflecting the volatile and rapidly evolving situation on the ground.

3. Nuwaraeliya – Safety Centres needs assessment update

Mr. Aeneas (IOM) presented findings from the safety centre needs assessment conducted in early February. He reported that three operating sites had a total capacity of 1,475 individuals, with 850 IDPs accommodated at the time of data collection, though this number had reduced to 105 by the date of the meeting. Vulnerable groups identified included 11 disabled IDPs, with pregnant and lactating mothers present in two sites. In terms of WASH facilities, the sites had a total of 22 toilets, of which only 16 were gender-segregated, and no modified toilets were available for disabled persons. Regarding non-food items, some sites reported receiving no cooking items, while 33 percent received only partial bedding items. Accessibility challenges were noted for disabled IDPs, who faced difficulties accessing sleeping areas, entry points, and exit points. Regarding site sustainability, one site faced imminent closure, while two sites reported planned closure within three months. The sector and DTM committed to sharing raw data on safety centers with partners to facilitate targeted support.

4. Cash Working Group (CWG) – Update on cash interventions

The representative from the Cash Working Group was unable to join the meeting, and the agenda proceeded directly to the IOM presentation on cash-based interventions.

5. IOM – CBI in Shelter/NFI update

Mr. Sushil (IOM) presented IOM's Cash-Based Intervention approach for shelter repair, outlining the project cycle from internal capacity assessment through post-distribution monitoring. He explained that the intervention targets partially damaged houses classified under first, second, and third grade damage, with fully damaged houses excluded from the scope. The objective is to support extremely vulnerable households in returning to repaired homes, complementing rather than replacing government assistance. The process involved market assessments, government coordination, and endorsement prior to implementation. To support beneficiaries, IOM developed non-technical guidance materials in Sinhala and Tamil covering roof repairs, wall repairs, and multi-hazard considerations such as landslide risks. Post-distribution monitoring is planned following cash transfers to assess effectiveness and accountability. During discussion, Ms. Aziza (UN-Habitat) inquired about alignment with government repair grants, and Mr. Poudel clarified that IOM assistance serves as a top-up for extremely vulnerable groups rather than a replacement. Ms. Angela noted that the modality is cash rather than vouchers, with sensitization activities planned to ensure funds are used for intended shelter repairs.

6. Partners' updates



Mr. Ganesh, representing the Social Institution for Development of Plantation Sector, raised concerns regarding plantation communities in Nuwaraeliya, Matale, and Kandy. He reported that these communities remain largely unsupported four months after Cyclone Ditwa, with limited government engagement in plantation areas due to estate management by private companies. Displaced families face land tenure issues, lack of relocation options, and continue living in high-risk areas, while those who relocated independently have not received rent payments. He noted that a meeting with the Prime Minister was scheduled to present specific cases from affected communities. In response, Mr. Rinas (IOM) encouraged the CSO to provide detailed, case-specific information to enable targeted advocacy through sector forums.

7. AoB

Ms. Angela facilitated the any other business segment, addressing several critical items. Regarding unmet needs advocacy, she noted that the Humanitarian Priorities Plan concludes at the end of April while significant needs persist, and requested partners to submit specific data on unmet needs by 30 March to support intersector advocacy. On the fuel crisis, she indicated that a template would be circulated to collect information on planned fuel requirements and any activities paused due to the shortage, with the same deadline. Partners were also requested to share any After Action Reviews conducted or planned, including workshops with local authorities and lessons learned, also by 30 March. Regarding information management, training on Kobo tools for site updates and referral mechanisms will be held the following week, and partners interested in supporting data collection in specific districts were encouraged to indicate availability. Finally, Ms. Drashti offered to organize a separate meeting for partners interested in a detailed discussion on DTM qualitative and quantitative data.



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	In person (Colombo)
3	Sandra Jeanette D'Urzo, IFRC, Sector co-coordinator	Virtual
4	Rinas, IOM	In person (Nuwaraeliya)
5	Mr. Mohamed Maaji, Upcoming Sector Co-coordinator	Virtual
6	Angela Osti, IOM (Emergency Coordinator)	In person (Colombo)
7	Aziza, UN- Habitat	Virtual
8	Baskaran SUTHAN, Chrysalis	Virtual
9	Drashti, IOM/DTM	Virtual
10	Vivek, Antony, CRS	Virtual
11	Baskaran SUTHAN, Chrysalis	Virtual
12	Col Nisantha Bandara	Inperson (Nuwaraeliya)
13	POUDEL Sushil	Inperson (Nuwaraeliya)
14	Vivek, Antony, CRS	Virtual
15	Aziza Usoof, UN Habitat	Virtual
16	Jayasiri, Caritas	Virtual
17	Ganesh, Social Institution for Development of Plantation Sector	Inperson (Nuwaraeliya)
18	Ms. Niranjali, NDRASC	Inperson (Nuwaraeliya)
19	Mr. Udayakumara, UNICEF	Inperson (Nuwaraeliya)
20	Mahesh, Technical Officer (IOM)	Inperson (Nuwaraeliya)