

SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING
Thursday, 17 June 2010 at 15 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Jennifer Joseph	NRC
Justin Bayard	UNHCR	N D Donald	LEADS
Carrie Horward	UN OCHA	Fahim Wahab	Muslim Aid
Colin Godbarge	ACTED	Nilusha Dissanayake	UNOPS
N. Amalraj	IOM	Ikram Ishak	Muslim Aid
Thirusa Abeywardene	UNOPS	Tony Senewiratne	Habitat for Humanity
Amenthi Jasinghe	World Vision	Oyalood	ECHO
Ines Pankiath	SAH	Abdulai Kaikai	UNICEF
Jehannara Mohideen	COHRE	Priya Jeyseelan	ASB
David Evans	UN HABITAT	Michelle Berman	UNHCR

1. NFI Update and briefing on the evaluation on NFIs

A reminder was conveyed during the meeting of the need of more assistance in filling the identified gaps in NFIs. It is vital to approach donors in order to receive sufficient assistance in terms to NFIs. It was recommended that the sector partners could utilize the tables UNHCR had shared regarding these gaps for donor briefings. It was also mentioned that UNHCR had further discussed this issue with the Ministry of Resettlement, as an action of incorporating the GoSL assistance to approach the donors. Thus the government is planning a fund raising event with donors/ International communities and the UN and I/NGOs.

UNHCR has taken initiatives to conduct a survey on NFIs as per a request made by the contract committee of UNHCR. The main objective of this survey is to find out how effective/ useful and appropriate the NFI package is. It will also be a tool to assess the need and adjust the current NFI package and the standard of these non food items. The target is to interview about 1,500 families (i.e. 4,500 persons) in one month to categories set according to returnee locations in a gender sensitive manner. The categories are;

- Coastal areas
- Isolated villages with difficult access
- Villages with easy access (along main roads)
- Urban/semi-urban areas (close to towns - Jaffna, Kilinochchi etc)

A team has left to Vavuniya on the 17 of June to test the process and would later expand to Jaffna, Mannar and other locations. This survey will also be conscious of the factor cost effectiveness. It was also discussed the need to warn donors beforehand of this survey and its ability to adopt changes to NFI package considering a possibility of increase of 15% to 20 %. The outcome will be shared with cluster.

2. Update on Menik Farm – Maintenance concern & decommissioning

Due to the high winds and bad weather conditions the shelters are in bad condition. Many of the roofs of the shelters have been blown away, and needs to be replaced urgently. Also tents are eight months to one year old and need to be replaced. A total of 3,230 tents in Zone 2 and 1,800 tents in zone 4 are in needed of replacement. There are insufficient tents available to implement displacement, a tarpaulin is being provided to all families currently in zone 2 and 4.

Since the return process is moving swiftly there are many empty shelter structures to be decommissioned. Following are the estimated number of repairs to shelters;

- Zone 0 – 2125 shelters to be repaired (Approx \$30,000)
- Zone 1 – 3850 shelters to be repaired (Approx \$130,000)

A rough estimate of 25,000 tin sheets and 1,000 bags of cement would be needed for these repairs. It is proposed as populations decrease to consolidate remaining IDPs to zones 0 to 1 with any overflow of IDPs accommodated in zone 3. There are 1,385 shelters to be decommissioned in Zone 3. Decisions pertaining to repairs required to Menik Farm shelters and the consolidation of zones will need to be made soon. UNHCR is currently facing funding shortfalls and we are not aware of any other agencies present in Menik Farm that have the sufficient capacity or funding to attend these repairs.

3. Presentation from OCHA on Evaluation and lessons learned on the coordination mechanism from other countries.

A presentation was presented on the evaluation and lessons learned on the coordination mechanism from other countries. It was thought useful at a time of transition in Sri Lanka to gain knowledge on the clusters changing role. The focal point in this regard would be Ms. Carrie Horward of UN OCHA. The cluster system was introduced to Sri Lanka in 2009. The main objective of the cluster system is to create appropriate responses to emergencies while recognizing needs of all partners. The second review of the cluster approach evaluation at a global level was carried out by high level consultants. The following are the recommendations given;

- Strengthen cluster management and implementation modalities.
- Enhance the focus on strengthening the quality of humanitarian response in cluster operations and activities.
- Increase the focus of resources for the cluster approach on the local level.
- Provide sufficient funding and define adequate ways for linking clusters and financing mechanisms.
- Resolve out standing policy issues at the global level via,
 - i) links to peacekeeping and political missions and humanitarian space
 - ii) Institutional issues
- Identify existing preparedness, response & coordination mechanisms and capacities and link with support, complement them where appropriate.
- Full details of the Cluster Assessment can be found at www.humanitarianinfo.org

4. Update on the Early Recovery - Permanent Housing Sector.

A briefing on the early recovery group meeting was held where stated that UNHCR had presented the advanced shelter models at this meeting. Also discussions had taken place on the standards, quality and government standard on the NERHP housing structure valued LKR 325,000.

UN HABITAT has met with the PTF last week. According to David Evans core houses have been a mechanism considered by the PTF and suggestions made that if funds are inadequate, consideration may be given to the construction of Core Housing on the condition that they are able to be easily extended to a permanent house in future

Currently the Ministry of Resettlement is giving high priority for shelter and housing needs. UNHCR had compiled a matrix on the capacities of all shelter partners. It was agreed that 160,000 numbers of shelters are the need of the northern district. This figure was driven according to the number of vulnerable families living in Menik Farm and other camps and the rest of the population will be assisted through repairs to their houses.

It was said that a presentation of the last five years of progress of the NEHRP housing project would be shared among the cluster members for their information. In summary NERHP (in collaboration of the World Bank and GoSL) has constructed 35,000 houses the past 5 years and are currently constructing 7,000 houses. Also it was mentioned that there is available funds for 7,000 additional houses. It is estimated that a sum of LKR 325,000 to LKR 425,000 would be the cost for the basic structure of the NERHP house and could exceed LKR 600,000 with the contribution of the family for the complete finished house.

Estimates of the numbers of houses to be constructed with external latrines are;

- 14,000 nos. by World Bank
- 4,000 nos. by UN HABITAT
- 2,000 nos. by other partners
- It was also mentioned that 50,000 houses would be constructed with the Indian Donation.

A position paper to the GoSL is to be circulated among the cluster members by David Evans. The next Early Recovery Working Group Meeting to be held on the 6 of July, 2010 at 10.00am and venue to be confirmed. A request was made to hold it in Vavuniya.

It was also mentioned that there is a possibility of a project by the European Commission to construct 5,000 nos. of houses.

5. Feedback from Vavuniya Shelter Cluster.

- Cement distribution and use.

According to the prioritization of beneficiaries, the DS offices are distributing 8 bags to each family returning. With access to sand in Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu and the availability of the cement, initiatives could be taken to build cement blocks.

- **Tin Sheet distribution.**

Since the exhaustion of Tin Sheets in mid April, it is estimated that at the end of July 18,000 families will have returned to the Vanni without any shelter assistance other than Tarpaulins. Due to the low number of shelter actors implementing shelter programs, the majority of return families will be required to construct their own shelter. The up coming rainy season and the number of families living under tarpaulin sheets should be an advocacy point to raise funds.

- **Update of Shelter and Housing actors.**

The Matrix compiled by Vavuniya on the needs of each districts and the capacities of each shelter agencies was shared among the cluster partners and if there is any change it was requested to correct the information and accordingly inform the Vavuniya Shelter Coordinator.

6. PTF Approval.

Muslim Aid shared that they have received the PTF approval for 25 NERHP model houses for construction in Manthai West.