

SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 21 October 2010 at 15.00 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	Nilusha Dissanayake	UNOPS
Reinout Pieneman	ZOA	David Evans	UN HABITAT
Giuseppe Loprete	IOM	Nicola Perera	UNOCHA
Krishanthu A.P	ICRC	Valerie Meilhaud	ICRC
Priya Jeyseelan	ASB	Ruwani Morawaka	Malteser International
Divya Martyn	HFHSL	Oyalood Kannan	ECHO
Mohamed Faslan	Muslim Aid	M. Balaramana	Save the children
Michelle Berman	UNHCR		

1. NFI Update

As of 08 October 2010, 61,038 NFI Kits were distributed among the returnees for the year of 2010, and a total of 98,584 NFI kits were distributed for the years of 2009 & 2010. After the contribution of World Vision of 3,000 NFI kits, a total of 12,000 Return kits, remain as the identified gap for the years 2010 and 2011. World vision has procured and begun distribution of these 3,000 NFI kits along side with UNHCR. Further, it was urged from all agencies to advocate within their organizations and its donors in fulfilling this gap in the coming weeks.

2. Briefing on Menik Farm in Vavuniya

Currently 23,524 individuals (7,091 families) are in Menik Farm zones 0,1,2,3 & 4. Out of a total of 13,364 Shelters 6,471 shelters are occupied by these 7,091 families. The reason for less occupied shelters than the number of the families in Menik Farm is that these families end up sharing these shelters due to less number of family members and their relationships.

Advocating continues by the GA offices of Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu to inform people of the incoming monsoon and its probabilities of flooding the zones and its dangerous effects. Since the returning process might take more time due to inability to clear the return areas quickly as a result of mine contamination a total of 402 individuals have voluntarily moved from zones 2,3 & 4 to zones 0 & 1 between August and October (as of 04th October) 2010.

It was discussed at the Vavuniya cluster meeting of a necessity of an assessment in the tent sites (zone-2 and 4) and to know the technical point of view of the strengths of those tents. General idea is that the warrantee periods for these tents have passed more than a year ago. Therefore upgrading these tents in a condition for safe living to stand during the monsoon period is dire urgency on the actors in Menik Farm. The sector lead appreciated ASB's initiatives to repair & maintain shelters (benefiting 3,500 families) in zones 0 & 1 Menik Farm. There is government information that some zones may remain until end April 2011. Therefore there would be possible funding shortages faced in 2011 for this

particular population in camps. It was brought to notice that CERF has funded only activities in Menik Farm.

3. Briefing on the UNHCR mission to the North

It was informed that UNHCR has reopened their Field Office in Kilinochchi. A planning mission was organized to cover and discuss activities pertaining to the return process in 2011 in the north, basically covering Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu districts. This meeting was held with a number of partners and Government counter parts. The Kilinochchi colleagues were happy that more and more agencies coming back to work there. Save the Children office informed that they too will open an office very soon.

The Government Agent of Kilinochchi presented her sincere appreciation and informed that more focus will be given to both Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu districts in the future. Therefore, during the meeting it was suggested that the coordination mechanisms should shift from Vavuniya to Kilinochchi as most focus will be brought within Kilinochchi District.

4. Discussion on the Advocacy paper on the Monsoon

After a brief study on the advocacy paper prepared on the upcoming monsoon which was compiled by the colleagues in the Vavuniya shelter sector. The following comments were given by the sector partners;

- The document was found broad rather than specific
- It seems a documents which propose actions which currently many of the actors are already doing
- It seems that document may have to be reviewed once again and made more practical
- Need to indicate the prevailing gaps and how the actors could assist in filling in these gaps
- There is a need to rephrase certain parts of the document as it may need to be more accurate in writing

5. Discussion on the Core Housing concept

There had been many e-mail exchanges on the meeting convened by the PTF officials and the granting of approval to construct core houses. As a result many agencies are considering construction of these core houses with their availability of funds. UNHCR had taken initiatives to develop a core housing model during the first quarter of this year and have shared it with the highest officials of the PTF for their approvals. This core housing structure is a transit model between the transitional shelter and the permanent housing. The basic characteristics of the UNHCR core house model are;

- 400 Sq.ft of roof with a veranda.
- 200 Sq.Ft of two rooms including one lockable room.
- Tiled roof
- Concrete floor for two rooms.
- Cost – 130,000 – 160,000 Rupees.
- Construction period 1 to 2 months.

- Further expansions and developments could be attended by the owner itself

Although unseen dilemmas are to be expected with inequality of the housing standards, the NERHP, permanent housing and the transitional standards and the Indian housing standards etc, it was confirmed and agreed that the core housing standards should be promoted as the returnees need urgent requirements of shelter. It was also stated that many core houses had already been constructed in Jaffna and the east.

6. AOB

Indian Contribution

A discussion was held around the Indian government housing contribution. The sector awaits official confirmation of the Indian contribution and their plans for 50,000 houses.

Indian permanent housing standards may cause possible conflicts between beneficiaries and agencies providing other shelter assistance, but the GAs have indicated that they would intervene when needed and advocate to the beneficiaries to take any assistance as the Indian donation cannot cover all the needs. It was further said to avoid areas of NERHP to ensure equity in return areas. It was restated the importance of maintaining the NERPH standards plus the cost of construction.

NERHP is considering whether asbestos roofing could be a good cost cutting mechanism, but UN agencies would not support this matter due to health hazards (cancerous) found in these asbestos and that according to UN standards it is discouraged to use them.

A representative from the Malteser International informed that they are interested in the Core housing and awaiting PTF approval. Further the cluster shared its views on the importance of continuous support in constructing transitional shelters, core houses in providing assistance to the returnees their dire needs for shelter. It was also reminded that a gap of 30,000 families is found in need for shelter assistance apart from the Indian donation. Concentration should be given to the most vulnerable beneficiaries with disabilities and women headed house holds etc, while avoiding duplications at every instances. Therefore it would be vital to advocate this issue among the donors find funding for the coming months.

UNHCR suggested to partners to implement vocational training in enhancing carpentry and masonry skills etc among the returnees, in order to employ their skills in construction activities (labour could be utilized even during the Indian housing scheme.)

IOM informed that they are planning additionally to construct 5,000 transitional shelters in Kilinochchi & Mullaithivu while UNOPS will construct 2,000 transitional shelters. Both agencies informed that they have insufficient funds for 2011.

Tin Sheets for the Monsoon Preparedness

A reminder on the importance of continuous advocating for Tin Sheets in preparation for the Monsoon period was replied by ECHO who has considered procuring tin sheets and

by Save the Children indicating that they will distribute Japanese donated Tin sheets to 400 families in Kilinochchi.

Wooden Poles with the Tin Sheets

In the process of preparing for the upcoming monsoon period it was brought forward by ZOA the importance of distributing wooden poles to avoid difficulties under taken by the IDPs. It was reported of a mine incident of an IDP who had gone in search of wood outside the village area. It was stated the possible protection concerns on vulnerable parties looking for wood/ timber in jungles (such as women, Children and PWSNs etc).

Joint Plan for 2011

The funding appeal for 2011 will take the form of a joint plan, as agreed at initial discussions with the PTF. It is envisaged that the document is likely to consist of an introduction chapter, priorities including immediate and short-medium term (generic and by sector) for 2011, followed by a second chapter on immediate needs and a third chapter on short and medium term needs encompassing Early Recovery / Recovery activities.

The first joint meeting of UN / Partners with PTF and other government stake-holders on the 2011 joint plan, is tentatively scheduled for 25 October, at which point the process will be further clarified and relevant time-lines agreed on the process. This process is to be completed by end of December 2010. It is expected to launch this Joint plan for 2011 on the 10th of December 2010. It was notified that a consultation meeting with higher ranking officials of the UN and the PTF was taking place on the same date (21 October 2010).