

SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 23 September 2010 at 15.00 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin	UNHCR	J. Stephanson	UMCOR
Ruwani Morawake	Malteser International	Ségolène de Beco	ECHO
Rishana Haniffa	CARE	Saja Aslam	ECHO
Avanti Coonghe	ICRC	Donald Sinclair	UNOPS
Aldous Silas	ADRA	Klaus Paulovits	IFRC
Michelle Berman	UNHCR	M. Balaramana	Save the children

1. Status Update on Menik Farm

- Population updates versus shelters in Menik Farm as at 20th September 2010 are;
 - A total of 27,956 individuals (8,395 families) are in Menik farm
 - A total of 13,862 shelters are in Menik Farm out of which 7,125 are occupied by families.
- Upon the initiatives taken by the Government agents/ and their officials to speak to the families in zones 4/2 to voluntarily move to other zones before the monsoon period, up-to-date a total number of 123 families have voluntarily moved to zones 0 & 1. It is said that shelters in several blocks (especially in Zone 2 and 4) are not in condition to survive in the monsoon period.
 - 250 Individuals (77 families) from Zone 4 were move to Zone 0 and 1.
 - 146 Individuals (46 families) from Zone 2 were move to Zone 0 and 1.
- Menik farm maintenance

ASB received PTF approval for shelter maintenance works in zones 0 and 1, work will hopefully commence within the coming week. Current maintenance activities include fixing and strengthening of Tin sheets on the roofs and sides of shelters. It is said that at this stage more man power is needed than equipment to commence maintenance.

- Menik farm drainage work

Since early September, UNHCR through DMC have accelerated drainage maintenance work giving priority to zones 0 and 1.

2. Update on house repairs – In return areas

- Tin Sheets

UNHCR is currently negotiating with the PTF in distributing other donations (other than the Indian donated Tin sheets) of tin sheets among the returnee population. Further to this point, ECHO stated that they are interested and are considering in procuring and distributing tin sheets. The required specifications related to Tin sheets are to be shared

among the sector group for easy procuring and maintaining a better standard. The specification would include areas such as; the thickness of the tin sheet (approx. 0.5 mm), Zinc Aluminium coated sheets etc.

It was also mentioned that there is a need to quicken the process of the distribution of these tin sheets prior to the monsoon rains.

- **Transitional Shelters**

In respond to the letter received from the PTF to many agencies regarding the need of immediate completion of transitional shelter, UNHCR volunteered to collate information on the time period required for construction of the same. According to UNHCR's interpretation the GoSL is not satisfied with the speed of the construction rate of these agencies and therefore needs to concentrate more on the speed. It was also reminded that partners have not provided inputs on the table the table showing the number and speed of construction as requested by partners.

- As a result of a small scale project implemented by UNHCR, initiatives were taken to distribute cement Moulds to returnee families to make cement blocks out of the 8 bags of cement provided by the government at the time of return. These moulds are continuously shared among the families and are used as a support rendered towards the community whilst utilizing the cement effectively for shelter construction.

3. Shelter Grant/ NFI Update

- The shelter grant distribution was disrupted due to the non availability of PTF approval for UNHCR Implementing agencies – SLF/RDF) in Vavuniya, Mullaithivu and Kilinochchi. But it was acknowledged that after receipt of the PTF approval in early September distribution of Shelter Grant has begun and currently has a capacity to distribute 1,000 Return forms per week. As of 09 September 2010, a total number of 56,272 Return forms/ Shelter Grants were distributed to returnees (October 2009 to 09 September 2010) in Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu, Mannar and Jaffna.
- A total of 96,000 NFI Kits were distributed among returnees in 2009 and 2010. It was also acknowledged that globally we still have a backlog for NFI kits for 12,000 families. Therefore, UNHCR as cluster lead encourages agencies to advocate among the donors to fulfill these coming gaps coming place in 2010 October. It was also advised to contact UNICEF to identify the gaps related to Hygiene kits.

4. Donor meeting in Collaboration with the Ministry of Resettlement (MoR)

The aim of this donor meeting was to advocate to the donors of the requirements (especially the requirements of the Shelter/NFI sector and the early recovery permanent housing group) of funds to enable facilitation for the returnees. The MoR was able to get

the consent on this matter from the PTF and the Ministry of Finance & Planning to proceed with the way forward in organizing the donor meeting. In order to do so, the sectors were requested to compile an informational table. The following information was requested by the Director General of the External Resources Department (ERD) under the Ministry of Finance and Planning to proceed with the donor meeting;

1. Specific resource requirements
2. Funds that have already been committed in cash or in kind as project/program type assistance
3. Information of any donors that have already expressed their willingness to commit funding to enable the ERD to seek the donors support

A table was shared among the sector agencies to fill in the required information and only few agencies had sent replies, therefore, a reminder to fill in this table was sent around.

5. Update from ZOA

Information was shared by ZOA, indicating that the Government Agents (GAs) are currently advocating with the PTF officials on the delegation of authenticating powers to the GAs. ZOA are planning to construct 500 transitional shelters in Kilinochchi & Mullaithivu.