

JOINT PERMANENT HOUSING, SHELTER/ NFI SECTOR MEETING

Thursday, 21 June 2012 at 15.00 hrs, UNHCR Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
Laurent Raguin: Co-Chair	UNHCR	David Evans : Co-Chair	UN-Habitat
Katherine Davis	PIA	Angeline Adler	ICRC
Michala Lander	PIA	Jacquie Anilanandam	ZOA
Kristina Butler	PIA	Faslan	Muslim Aid
N. Amalraj	IOM	Donald Sinclair	UNOPS
Eva Gutjahr	IOM	Laxman Perera	UNHABITAT
Nimmi Ariyaratne	SDC	Tim McNair	UNHABITAT
K. Weerakoon	UNOCHA	Imran Sabdeen	ASB
Elilini Hoole	ZOA	Rasika Mendis	LST
Aziza Usoof	Practical Action	Dulani Sirirena	AusAID
Tony Senewiratna	Habitat for Humanity	Kannan	ECHO
Ruwani Hettiarachchi	UNHCR		

Agenda points:

1. Presentation by Planning Institute Australia on physical planning in the Northern Province.
2. Update on the Survey on Permanent Housing and Shelter situation in the Northern Province, and briefing on the meeting with the Ministry of Economic Development.
3. Permanent Housing Update.
4. Study on protracted IDPs.
5. Assessment of nutritional status of the Northern Province.

Agenda point suggested by UNOPS.

Situation of Menik Farm beyond June.

Agenda point suggested by ECHO.

Return movements. Cash grant and NFI status.

1. Presentation by Planning Institute Australia (PIA) on physical planning in the Northern Province. *(please refer to Annex 1 - power point presentation)*

Presentation was done by representatives of the Planning Institute Australia (Professional association for Australian town planners). PIA has been working in Sri Lanka since Tsunami and the first regional plan was done for the Uva province of Sri Lanka. PIA is currently working in partnership with National Physical Planning Department of the Ministry for Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities on a regional plan for the Northern Province. The project is funded by AusAID.

The role of this programme is to develop a National Plan to be adopted at the regional level and local levels. The programme encompasses such broad areas as transportation, environment, agriculture, water & sanitation, economic development and settlement etc. There will however be a specific focus on the

land use as well. In order for the plan to be adopted at regional and local levels, it needs to be endorsed by the PTF.

Six (6) strategies of the Plan are as follows and these were explained in detail (*please refer to Annex 1*);

- a. Healthy society
- b. Sustainable growth
- c. Liveable settlements
- d. Connecting the region
- e. Water and sanitation for all
- f. Environmental harmony

It was pointed out that the current Plan developed by PIA has been based on the hierarchy of cities, which was done six years back, whereas the urban structure has changed drastically over the years. This will change further, should there be future link between India and Sri Lanka. There is more up-to-date demographic data, which needs to be investigated further. It was suggested that the *State of Asian Cities* report could be a useful reference for this purpose.

There is no evident planning in the construction of houses for the returnees which could have an impact on the overall plan. PIA noted that the Plan is a Regional Plan and not for specific locations. The important element is to find out means to optimize the utilization of the resources in the areas, despite the demographic changes.

There is extensive planning that happens at the local level. The broader guidelines of the National/Regional plan are adopted by these local level planners whose plans could be designed around the broader plans.

It was noted that the metro cities and special administrative cities have been designed in the National and Regional plans are based in the National Physical Plan, which was gazetted a few of years ago. It was also pointed out that based on the feedback received during meetings held with the Northern Governor, the Chief Secretary, GAs and other officials from line Ministries, the signals of accepting the plan as part of their structure are positive. PTF's acknowledgement will further validate this before submitting to the Regional Planning Committee who approves the plan before the National Committee.

2. Update on the Survey on Permanent Housing and Shelter situation in the Northern Province, and briefing on the meeting with the Ministry of Economic Development. (*please refer to Annex 2*)

Concept Note was revised once again taking into account the feedback from UNOPS and other agencies. Subsequent to the discussion with donors, UNHCR met with the Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Development whose response was also to revert back after consulting the PTF. Comments from the Ministry of Resettlement on the Concept Note are still pending.

3. Study on Protracted IDP.

This survey is also still on hold. It has been agreed to organize a briefing to the PTF next week.

4. Nutritional Survey (*please refer to attached Annex 3 or visit <http://www.hpsl.lk/Catalogues.aspx?catID=9>*)

This survey contains a number of questions linked to other sectors as well. Some questions related to PH and Shelter are on household, quality of flooring, walls and roofing. The sample size of the survey

is 1,200 families who resettled from various camps, out of which 55% people have walls with cement blocks, 73% flooring is cement, and 35% with tiled roofs.

The report is available on the HPSL website: <http://www.hpsl.lk/Catalogues.aspx?catID=9> and cluster members were encouraged to visit the website as many new products have been recently added.

5. Permanent Housing Update (*please refer to attached Annex 4*).

Total damage in the North is 162,000, minus 40% who will not return or who may have self-recovered. The total comes down to 100,000, which is quite similar to the number used by the Government for the region. Since May 2009, approximately 42,000 houses have been committed by various agencies, including Government projects, AUSAID, EU, and the Red Cross and other latest commitments for 2012.

With the large Indian Housing project, total actual needs gap comes down to about 10,000. The breakdown of the Indian housing project is as follows:

- 40,000 home-owner driven houses for the North;
- 3,000 home-owner driven houses for the East;
- 6,000 houses will be for hill country;
- 1,000 house pilot project for landless families already underway.

These housing projects are on a *house for house* basis and the demographic changes will not be taken into account. Landless issue will continue be a major issue.

In terms of the supplies, there is a significant inflation anticipated, as more donors move into funding projects for the area. The prices of materials and skilled/unskilled labour will hike, as the demand increases. In addition to the high demand, there is also a cultural aspect (cast system) to being employed as masons and day labours, as opposed to being a farmer or a fisherman, therefore the training programmes have not been very successful. For instance, day labourers' costs increased from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 1,800 excluding breakfast and lunch per day, while a 50% increase in the prices of tiles.

There is a small government project where the National Housing Development Authority gives a grant of Rs. 200,000 and that gets topped by MoR by Rs. 100,000. There is a delay in the MoR fund flow which needs to be raised with the Ministry at Colombo level.

6. Situation of Menik Farm beyond June. (*please refer to the attached Annex 5*)

It was confirmed that UNHCR will continue to look after Menik Farm in terms of shelter and protection. The numbers in MF will however be very small. As the families will take the shelter materials when they leave the camp, the maintenance work will soon be over. Due to on-going demining activities, there will probably still be a few families left in MF towards end of the year.

7. Return movement.

47 families will be moved next Saturday to Oddusudan. These families are going back to their places of origin. They will be provided with the NFI Kit and the Shelter Grant (Rs. 25,000). It was confirmed that the families will not be in a transitional set up.