

## Kachin Shelter Partners Technical Working Group (TWiG)

Venue: UNHCR Office in Myitkyina

Date: Friday 13 December 2013

Time: 11:35 AM to 12:20 PM

### Meeting Participants:

- UNHCR
- KMSS-MYT
- Plan Myanmar
- KBC
- DRC
- MRCS

## Discussion

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action / Actor / Date
<p><b>Shelter Cluster updates:</b></p> <p><b>KBC &amp; KMSS-MTY</b></p>	<p>This meeting followed immediately the preceding NFI and CCCM meeting pertaining to this Cluster's other two sectors/areas responsibility. It was chaired by the UNHCR Shelter Expert.</p> <p>KBC &amp; KMSS confirmed that they will provide temporary shelters in 2014. The shelters should not be barrack type, rather separate building/one family-unit per building. To explain, for the camps that are on hills/mountain ranges, it is not feasible to allocate five family-unit buildings due to lack of available flat land. Also the current existing foundation design should be reconsidered due to the hard rock</p>	

surface, where column footings are problematic. Also none of the construction materials are likely to be available in the local area so the projected cost of shelters should be revised for each specific camp, depending on availability of resources. Responding, the Shelter Expert explained that the design of five family-unit barrack type shelter to the international basic standard of space covering for 5 person average per family. The dimensions for each family-unit are one of the critical points, whether five-unit blocks can be built or not.

Noting the minutes of the Cluster meeting held at the UNHCR office November 26, the Shelter Expert explained that clearly there had been some misunderstandings by partners or the Cluster Lead failing to communicate properly that Cluster approved designs were there as a guide but there was and should be space for flexibility, reflecting the local context various constraints . However, the need for standards is evident when one considers, for example, the Lana Zup Ja Camp. *There*, IDP families are staying in 12'× 10'rooms and around two-years old. They have minimal privacy, are not providing enough shelter from the cold and as DRC had mentioned, the lack of privacy seems to be having some negative psycho-social consequences.

Noting this meeting the previous month, November 26, the Shelter Expert recalled the four main objectives for the Shelter Cluster in 2014:

- 1<sup>st</sup> objective: provide shelter to the estimated 20,000 IDPs who do not yet have any/adequate shelter;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> objective: upgrade shelters to meet standards (security, size, privacy, etc);
- 3<sup>rd</sup> objective: camp infrastructure;
- 4<sup>th</sup> objective: durable solutions in case people can return back home or resettle elsewhere.

Again citing the minutes of the aforementioned meeting and the words of the the National Cluster Coordinator (CC) who was present last month, 'yes while the Cluster is aware of the challenges of the land, standards remain important. The number of units can be flexible but donors want to be sure that shelters respect basic standards such as size/person ratio and shelters are sufficiently safe'. The Shelter Expert stressed that partners need to sit together to discuss these technical issues with a view to finding consensual positions, notably through the TWiG. Following, the Shelter Expert explained that technical designs and structural drawings could be done after the TWiG but for project cost

	<p>calculations there would need to be rate/cost preliminary-surveying, such as an analysis of construction materials where/as available, including transporting and loading/unloading and labor charges. The shelter expense projection should be as precise as possible, scoping the cheapest ways, cause and effect plus adherence to agreed specifications.</p> <p>In conclusion and consistent with Kachin's Cluster Coordinator's commitment, the TWiG will recommence soon and as discussed, it is hoped Cluster partners shall actively and positively participate.</p>	<p><u>Action Point:</u></p> <p><i>Shelter Expert to confirm date of next TWiG and send agenda and advanced notice at least one-week before the meeting date.</i></p>
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