

Rakhine Shelter Cluster Coordination Meeting with the RSSC, Rakhine State

Minutes

Venue: Office of the State Minister of Transport and Communication, Rakhine State Government (RSG)

Date: Friday, 15th May 2015

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Chair: Rakhine State Government (RSG) - U Hla Han State Minister for Transport and Communications & Chairman of the Sub Committee for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (SCRR)

Co-Chair: Wilfredo Jr. Tiangco (Boyet), Site Engineer/Shelter Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR

Minutes: Zaw Min Htet, Field Coordination Officer, UNOCHA

Participants: RSG/RRSC, DRD, UNHCR, UNOCHA, LWF, ICRC, MRF & UNICEF

Meeting Minutes:

Agency	Update
RSG (Rakhine State Government)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minister greeted the participants and introduced himself. ▪ RRSC is resuming relocation and rehabilitation works. The works have been discussed in every shelter and WaSH coordination meeting for the last three months ago. ▪ IDPs returns are taking place in Kyauktaw, Mrauk U, Rathedaung, Minbya and some locations of Pauktaw Townships. ▪ Repair and maintenance activities will be implemented in Sittwe IDPs camps. ▪ Plans for IDPs in Kyauk Phyu and Myebon will depend on the results of verification process. ▪ RSG is providing in low profile construction materials packages for 2,000 families costing 1 million kyats per house with the budget of the Union Government in Kyauktaw, Mrauk U and Minbya Townships. RSG requested the Union Government 12 billion kyats and they received 2 billion which will be used for 2,000 families. If RSG receives more funds they will continue the assistance. ▪ Similarly, it was planned returns to take place in Nget Chaung-1 and Nget Chaung-2 IDP camps, Pauktaw Township. ▪ Construction materials packages were provided by Township Administrator, Pauktaw Township for 116 fire victim families in Kyein Ni Pyin IDP camp, Pauktaw Township and the project was complete. ▪ There are about 1,900 temporary shelters in Sittwe that need repair and maintenance. ▪ Permanent houses will be provided to the people who became citizens after citizenship verification process. Provision of packages is just a temporary solution. ▪ For instance, 100 permanent houses will be provided by MRF in Myebon Township. The plan is 40 houses for Rakhine and 60 for Bengalis. ▪ Chief Minister used the word “returns” during his visit to US because IDPs from Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk U and Nget Chaung-1 are returning to their places of origins. Returns may not be smooth in some returns. The Rakhine community did not make any comments regarding provision of packages. ▪ Today, the Minister received Australia mission and he was asked if there are any challenges when implementing provision of packages. He replied that there was no objection from Rakhine side because packages were provided to Rakhines and Muslims. There is some instigation from outside, so some Muslims don't accept materials packages. This is the situation and what is happening in Nget Chaung-2 IDP Camp. Some returns may be slow.

Returns will be arranged to happen before the rainy season.

- RSG will issue tenders in May for repairs and maintenance activities and it will be implemented at the end of May.
- RSG will use kyats 332,400,000 for Baw Du Ba-1, Baw Du Ba-2, Dar Paing, Set Yoe Kya, Ohn Taw Gyi (North), Say Tha Mar Gyi and Ohn Taw Chay IDP Camps, namely Sittwe rural area for repairs and maintenance. Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing, Myanmar Peace Centre contacted State Security and Border Affairs Minister for repairs and maintenance. Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing suggested to contract Islamic groups based in Yangon to support smooth implementation. State level officials and Islamic groups will meet next week. If the agencies are interested to contact the groups, State Security and Border Affairs Minister can assist. Respective Government departments managing the camps and Muslim groups will decide themselves. There will be audits because this concerns government budgets/funds. There will be three instalments (50%, 30% and 20%).
- The plans presented by the agencies are good but it will depend on the locations. There were problems before when the CMC was implementing the activities. The agencies should make decisions to avoid problems.
- DRD Deputy Director suggested splitting the contract into two parts: labour mobilization and collection of materials. Labour mobilization should be managed by the CMC and collection of materials by contractors. If the CMC is not able to manage, then contractors should be given the work.
- Regarding queries of distribution of tool kits, the Minister suggested to submit the plan of the agencies to the ECC. The Minister said that it will be fine because the situations are not the same as before.
- RSG will provide only packages of construction materials to avoid displeasure from the Rakhine community. RSG requested that all agencies should use the materials package assistance only and not individual houses. RSG will not construct temporary shelters again. International community is also pointing out the bad and deteriorating condition of the temporary shelters.
- Temporary shelters in Nget Chaung and other camps already reached their life span and are in a very bad condition. If they are repaired, the cost will be the same as new construction.
- The Minister said that they contacted IDP from Sin Tet Maw to know the shelter situation and the reply is that shelters are in good conditions. In Ah Nauk Ywe, it is difficult to find available land. So, it was planned to implement repairs and maintenance in these camps.
- In Sittwe, returns are difficult to take place. Repairs and maintenance will be prioritized.
- If returns could not take place, repairs and maintenance will be considered.
- International community is suggesting returns to happen.
- Relocation and implementation of citizenship verification exercise are part of Rakhine Action Plan (RAP) and they are currently under implementation. If the agencies start development projects, they will complement RAP.
- Regarding the plans for Nget Chaung-2 Camp, the Minister replied that Rakhine community is not saying anything on provision of shelter packages and the IDPs will have to accept the interest provided by RSG or the international community. The Minister is aware of the situations in that camp and his opinion it is that the government will need to encourage them to make it happen. IDPs are staying in the shelters in very congested conditions. If they do not accept better conditions, the government will have to encourage them.
- RSG is planning to provide shelter packages in the suitable areas or nearby areas to avoid future problems. IDPs need to cooperate with the Government. International community need to understand the situation. It needs to consider who will take responsibility if there are problems in the future.
- RSG provided shelter packages without using any designs to keep a low profile.
- IDPs have to come to trust RSG.
- If they want to live in permanent houses, they have to participate in citizenship verification process. If they become citizens, they will get permanent houses. There are people who are ready to provide permanent houses. Rakhine community accepted that process. If IDPs do not participate, they will get temporary assistance.
- Returns to plots of origins are related to current political situations. The government is not

	<p>blocking returns but it is necessary to consider the reaction of the Rakhine community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is not always helpful to ask things that are currently not possible, timing <i>is</i> a factor. ▪ It is difficult for the Government to give commitment to IDPs when they can be back to their places of origin. The Minister said that joint visit to Nget Chaung-2 can be organized in reply to UNHCR invite. ▪ The RSG will receive the remaining budget soon. It will be used for the remaining 3,000 HHs. If the agencies have funding, they can also contribute. ▪ RSG initially planned to provide houses costing 2.4 million kyats using international standards however shelter packages costing one million were provided depending on the budget. ▪ In reply to UNHCR's query, the Minister said that it is <i>not</i> necessary to request the RC/HC to follow-up with Union finance and revenue department for the release the budget for the planned 3,000 HHs.
<p>Cluster Lead/UNHCR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Following the shelter and WaSH Cluster coordination meeting with the RRSC 22nd April, there were three other meetings regarding repair and maintenance (R&M) activities for shelter and WaSH facilities: two chaired by the State Security and Border Affairs Minister and one chaired by the State Planning and Economic Minister. ▪ During the meetings, the Shelter Cluster shared that approximately 131 million kyats had been secured from UNHCR and ICRC funding (35 million under UNHCR direct implementation, 16 million through partner DRC, 20 million through partner LWF and 50 million by ICRC) for shelter R&M activities. In addition to the 20 million LWF fund from UNHCR, LWF will also contribute a sizeable amount of their own funding to shelter R&M in <i>all</i> the camps they manage. ▪ ICRC fund of 50 million kyats will cover shelter R&M in Sin Tet Maw IDP camp, Pauktaw Township. ▪ Shelter Cluster member agencies aim to convert into a BoQ the shelter assessment document provided by the Government but needed more details and clarity on the scope of works, unit cost, targeted shelter and IDP beneficiary of the R&M and other bid requirements. The Cluster member agencies started detailed assessment last Tuesday and hope to tender and implement activities, soonest. ▪ Last year, the Shelter Cluster focused on roof repairs and partly on walls and floors. About 1,023 shelters were repaired in Sittwe, Pauktaw and Myebon IDP camps by UNHCR, DRC and LWF with an expenditure of about 300,000 million kyats. ▪ Last Wednesday, the Shelter Cluster contacted the Pauktaw Deputy Township Administrator to get R&M assessment for IDP camps in Pauktaw. The assessment document was received that day includes shelter R&M and proposed construction of 166 new shelters (32 in Nget Chaung, 64 in Kyein Ni Pyin, 20 in Ah Nauk Ywe and 50 in Sin Tet Maw). The estimated cost for the construction of new shelters alone is about 1.6 billion kyats. The Pauktaw GAD assessment document was not yet circulated to Cluster members. Needs to be clarified that it is in-line with the RRSC plans. It is necessary for each agency covering Pauktaw camps to make their own detailed assessment according to their agency procurement requirements. ▪ Shelter R&M coverage in Nget Chaung and Ah Nauk Ywe by LWF, Sin Tet Maw by ICRC and if Kyein Ni Pyin is still has no actor yet, UNHCR may support as there are recent positive signs regarding funding. ▪ ICRC started assessment in Sin Tet Maw early this week and data entry is underway. ▪ LWF started their assessment previous week. ▪ UNHCR will directly implement the R&M works in TKP and MTN in rural Sittwe. The shelter roofs in these camps were repaired by UNHCR late last year and shelter condition is not <i>as</i> bad compared to other camps. The detailed assessment is done jointly in coordination with Save the Children (Camp Management focal point). Hopefully, bidding starts soon and implementation by early/mid-June. ▪ Aside from direct implementation by UNHCR, as part of Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), progress of road no.2 in Myebon is about 50 per cent complete. The use of heavy machinery/equipment is needed for cutting the hills. Construction of 72 houses in Set Yone Su-3 is 80 per cent completed. Target completion for all remaining Dis/QIPs hopefully by end of May. ▪ CCCM Cluster commented that the RSG plan to implement R&M activities is a "good approach". To avoid conflicts, the Cluster member agencies should follow the same approach

	<p>when procuring materials and engaging skilled/unskilled labours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regarding regular R&M, the CCCM and Shelter Clusters are wondering whether tool kits can be provided to the camps. ▪ Most of the shelters in Nget Chaung-2 are about to collapse and rainy/cyclone season is fast approaching. It is considered to be the worst camp and the international community is very attentive to the camp's miserable conditions. Though the Government offered materials package, still the IDPs refused and decided to stay in the temporary shelters. Cluster Lead/UNHCR was keen to know the RSG's plan for that camp. ▪ Cluster Lead/UNHCR understands the current situation. IDPs worried that if they take shelter packages they will have to live in the camp location permanently. ▪ UNHCR suggested organizing a joint visit (the Government and the agencies) for the trip to Nget Chaung-2 next week. ▪ In Zone 1 (Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw and Minbya), there are still about 899 IDP HHs that are yet to receive material packages from the RSG planned 2,000 HHs list. Following the advice from the authorities, these IDPs dismantled the temporary shelters and moved back to their places of origins or near the point of origin. They are now living in makeshift shelters pending the material/cash assistance from the government. ▪ Cluster/Lead UNHCR presented comprehensive shelter strategy to RSG and donors in February/March 2015, called <i>Shelter Options for Rakhine State</i>. After two years, it is necessary to get out of humanitarian assistance and to approach development assistance. The agencies will support the Government by advocating donors. If necessary, the UN can assist the RSG to follow up with the Union finance and revenue department to release the budget for the remaining 3,000 HHs.
LWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LWF appreciated the information shared by the Minister and DRD Deputy Director. ▪ After meeting last week with State Security and Border Affairs Minister, plus the State Planning and Economic Minister last week, LWF met with different departments of RSG and started assessments. The Government's information was useful for budgetary purposes. ▪ Since early this week, LWF started assessments in Pautkaw and it was found that the assessment provided by Pautkaw General Administration Department needs more verification. ▪ LWF will have a clear picture by next week. Then, tenders will follow and LWF will meet with Cluster Lead UNHCR to get technical support. Based on that, contractors will be selected and repair and maintenance will start in mid-June. The process is time consuming as it has to follow financial procedures, rules and regulations. ▪ There are 36 suppliers in Sittwe and there will be competition.
MRF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MRF will start to implement 25 per cent of construction of 100 permanent houses in Myebon at the end of May.
ICRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ICRC conducted assessment in Sin Tet Maw IDP camp, Pautkaw this week. They visited each shelter and each room to collect information. They will start data entry next week to analyse for the needs of construction materials. ICRC will discuss procedures for purchasing materials and delivery to camps. It will be implemented by CMC or individual contractor. It was not yet clear. ICRC is considering repairs and maintenance to be a priority and they are working intensively. ▪ ICRC shared that there will be two options to implement repairs and maintenance in Sin Tet Maw. First option is that all works will be managed by CMC and they will organize the skilled labour. Second option is that the contracts will have to engage with IDPs and the labourers from nearby villages. However, first option may be too demanding for the CMC.
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Camp Management Agencies will implement repairs and maintenance of WaSH facilities in their managed camps. UNICEF (as Cluster Lead) will take responsibility for unmanaged camps.

Participants List

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No.	Name	Title	Organization	Email Phone #
1.	U Hla Han	State Minister	T/C	
2.	U Aung Han	D-D	D.R.D, Rakhine	09-49640125
3.	Lae Yee Win	WASH Cluster	Unicef	pannkaephyu7@gmail.com
4.	Olivier Moquet	UNHCR Site Field Coordinator	UNHCR	moquet@unhcr.org
5.	Kyar Kyar Sam	FA (CCCM)	UNHCR	0942105362
6.	Sandra Eigenheer	Water & Habitat Engineer	ICRC	seigenheer@icrc.org 09420281442
7.	RICHARD WARREN	CCCM/NA CC	UNHCR	warren@unhcr.org
8.	Soe Thein	Engineer	LWF	patsicksoethein22@gmail.com
9.	Soe Win	FCD	MRF	09421757355 09421715461
10.	Saw Hai Bin	Field Associate (Cohort)	UNHCR	09-252306199
11.	Bhoj Raj Khanal	Project Coordinator	LWF	093-612-24428
12.	Boyet	Site Engr.	UNHCR	