

Rakhine Shelter Cluster Coordination Meeting

Minutes

Venue: Office of the State Minister of Transport and Communication

Date: Friday 6th December 2013

Time: 9:45 am to 11:15 am

Chair: Richard Tracey, Shelter Cluster Coordinator

Minutes: Zaw Min Htet, UNHCR Shelter Associate

Participants: Rehabilitation and Relocation Sub Committee, OCHA, ICRC, DRC, MAUK, UNICEF & UNHCR

Updates:

Agency	Update
Rakhine State Govt	<p>a) State Minister of Transport and Communication went to Thandwe on 29th November for preparations of visit of Commander-in-Chief Senior General to Rakhine State. The Minister observed that progress of construction of houses was about 95% and the rest was under construction. In Shwe Hlay Pauktaw Village, only walling works for (42) houses was remaining. Initial design of house was 15'x16' however some families extended theirs up to around 30'x30' by their own costs. Some were two stories. Chief Minister was satisfied to see the completion and extensions of houses. In Tha Byu Chaing Village, the contractors constructed (11) houses for affected Rakhine families. They were complete and the design was as initial designs. However, they did not occupy them yet. They were waiting instructions from Rakhine State Government (RSG). RSG wanted them to occupy the houses so that the images/status of IDPs can be reduced. Some affected families were farmers and they will occupy in their houses after finishing their works. In Tha Byu Chaing Village, (41) houses for Kaman affected families were constructed by themselves and some were by contractors. All were complete, some were a bit small. After harvesting season, some families will collect bamboo and jungle wood to extend their houses. All (112) houses in the affected areas of Thandwe Township were almost complete. Now there was no big need for Rakhine and Kaman affected families. RSG distributed rice, cooking oil and bean/peas to the affected families. For their livelihoods they can do farming works and fishing works freely. The families can travel to Thandwe and other surrounding villages freely. In Shwe Hlay Pauktaw Village and Tha Byu Chaing Village, interaction between Rakhine and Kaman's was reported without incident. However, security forces were still there. Some Muslim NGOs provided cash, food and clothes to the affected families. The conditions of houses of Kamans were better than before but for Rakhine houses there was no more change because contractors constructed them. The wife of Commander-in-Chief Senior General made donations in "Zee Kyun" Village. On the way to that village, they noticed that Rakhine and Kaman were working in the paddy fields. There was no hate between these two communities in the past. Thandwe situation is stable now. About 70-80 people were arrested and they were not released yet. A curfew in Thandwe remains. Hopefully, the curfew might be lifted somewhat in January 2014. However, there is no curfew at Ngapali Beach. More tourists are coming to the beach. Foreigners' staying in hotels in Thandwe was not recommended.</p> <p>b) Chief Minister was concerned for the maintenance for temporary shelters in IDP camps.</p>

	c) The Minister shared the list of distribution of modular houses donated by China.
Danish Refugee Council	a) DRC was constructing warehouses, camp management offices, multipurpose building (large) and multipurpose building (small) in A Nauk Ywe IDP Camp and Sin Tet Maw IDP Camp, Pauktaw Township. The Minister was requested by DRC to send administrative instructions to village administrators (VAs) of A Nauk Ywe and Sin Tet Maw because VAs were requesting approval letters from DRC although the projects had been approved by the RSG.
MAUK	a) MAUK was trying to get agreement from Nay Pyi Taw so that they can construct (22) temporary shelters in Kyein Ni Pyin IDP Camp, Pauktaw Township.
UNHCR	<p>a) With regards to tender updates for construction of walkways and camp infrastructure, tenders were released mid-November and closed on 28th November. Evaluations were done in Sittwe, now submitted to the UNHCR Yangon office for an LCC meeting and then those will be sent to Geneva HQ this afternoon for approval.</p> <p>b) UNHCR distributed some carpentry tools to the leaders of IDPs in Nget Chaung IDP Camp to dismantle the most damaged parts of the existing walkways but the leaders were worried for the access to their rooms before constructing new earthen walkways there. They said they can wait.</p> <p>c) To avoid flood, IDPs from Nget Chaung-1 requested UNHCR to propose to the RSG that they construct earthen embankments. The Irrigation Department had already constructed earthen embankments in Nget Chaung-2 IDP camp. This was noted by the Minister.</p> <p>d) UNHCR visited Kyein Ni Pyin IDP Camp, Pauktaw Township last week. Some IDPs shared that they did not receive any compensation from the Government, yet. UNHCR brought that issue to the attention of the Minister. The Minister said that it will be checked with Land Records Department and the Township Administrator.</p>
Cluster Coordinator	<p>a) In previous shelter coordination meetings, it was discussed that the State Director of Department of Rural Development (DRD) will take a lead in Technical Working Group (TWiG) in developing minimum standards for individual houses. A TWiG workshop will be organized in Sittwe in January 2014.</p> <p>b) On queries of the Minister about the plan of UNOPS for emergency repair for the roads to IDP camps in Rakhine State, the update was that Japan Government was planning to fund that project.</p> <p>c) In 2014, maintenance and repair activities for temporary shelters were a priority. It was learnt that DRD was conducting carpentry trainings in IDP camps. DRD requested UNHCR to provide about (100) tools kits to be used in their/these trainings.</p> <p>d) The Cluster will take care of structural issues of temporary shelters. Minor repairs will be taken care by IDPs. Damaged roofs in the camps will be looked at around April 2014.</p>

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