

MINUTES OF MEETING

TOPIC: Emergency Shelter Coordination Meeting

DATE: 26th May 2008 at 3.00 p.m.

LOCATION: UNHCR Meeting Room, Colombo

ATTENDEES:

Charles Campbell (Chair)	SCC / UNHCR	Shelter Coordinator /SCC Coordinator (National)
Marc Bonnet	Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)	Country Program Manager
Kamalini	NRC	Programme Coordinator
Rajee Clark	FORUT	Programme Assistant
Thirusa Abeyewardene	UNOPS	Project Reporting Associate
Thushanti Selvarajah	UNOPS	Project Coordinator
Julie Pharand	ICRC	Water & Habitat Coordinator
Axel Bisschop	UNHCR	Senior Programme Officer
Dawn Dahlke	UMCOR	Program Development Officer
Leslie Cumming	UNHCR	Associate Programme Officer
Horst Indorf	HELP from Germany	Head of Mission
David Evans	UN-HABITAT	Chief Technical Advisor
Annelise De Bruin	ZOA	Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator
Nilkanthi Naranpanawe	UNHCR	Shelter Assistant

APOLOGIES:

P. Rubenthiram	FORUT	National Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance
----------------	-------	--

REF	ITEM / DETAIL	ACTION
1.0	Acceptance Of Previous Meeting's Minutes	
1.1	The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th April 2008 were accepted without any amendments.	

In partnership with



2.0 Action Items From Previous Minutes

- 2.1 The discrepancy in provision of shelter assistance in Trincomalee (Core shelters) and Batticaloa (emergency shelter kits) was again highlighted and as proposed at the last ESCM it was agreed that a TWG meeting would be called to discuss what the possibilities for a strategy could be. A date would be defined and communicated to agencies. **See also Item 5.3** SCC/UNHCR
- 2.2 As the Chief Technical Advisor of UN Habitat was not initially present it was agreed the update on the status of the policy Guidelines for Early Recovery shelter assistance would be discussed later. **See Item 6.1**
- 2.3 Initial comments on the proposed handbook have been received from shelter agencies and SCC Coordinators from the Field. These comments have largely been incorporated and a draft was produced. The SCC/UNHCR is making some changes and as soon as it is finished it will be sent around again to agencies for input Then a TWG meeting would be called to finalise the draft. SCC/UNHCR
- 2.4 SCC 2008 first quarter brochure has already been sent out to the UNHCR Offices, Shelter Agencies and Embassies. Within the course of this week more brochures will be sent out to Government Offices and UNHCR Head Quarters. Agencies were encouraged to send the brochures out to their donors and partner agencies and government contacts. There are still some extra copies for distribution on request. The brochure should be used as a tool for promoting the SCC and information sharing about work of the SCC both within the country and outside the country. Agencies
- 2.5 A strategy for consolidation had been developed by the UNHCR Office in Batticaloa and was being discussed by shelter agencies in the district. Some reservations were made by agencies as to the practicality of such a move now but it will be further discussed before the strategy is finalised. The GoSL and the pace of the return process will largely determine the success of any consolidation efforts. **See also Item 4.16** Agencies
- 2.6 The proposed letter to the GA Mannar/Vavuniya prepared by the SCC was slightly modified, signed by the UNHCR Representative and sent to the Minister of Resettlement on the 9th May 2008. A reply to this letter has not yet been received. Agencies agreed that unless clarification is received the level of assistance will remain at the basic minimum. A guidance document is also being drafted for comments by agencies. SCC/UNHCR
- 2.7 At the last ESCM the Senior Supply Assistant UNHCR was invited to give a presentation on the logistics and procedures involved in supplying shelter materials into the Vanni. Agencies
- He suggested that shelter agencies prepare a consolidated request for shelter materials, get it certified by the relevant GA in the district and submit it to CGES for approval. He emphasized that a consolidated request would strengthen our position and hence the agencies would stand a better chance in getting clearance to transport these materials into the Vanni.
- 2.8 The SCC/UNHCR Coordinator brought to the notice of the participants that only DRC FORUT, OXFAM and ZOA out of 11 shelter agencies working in the Vanni have responded so far. He stressed that it was important that agencies support the initiative or it would not be worth the effort of carrying it through. He urged participants to send in their lists of shelter material for the Vanni to the SCC Field Coordinator in Killinochchi as soon as possible. Agencies
- 2.9 It was discussed and agreed by the participants that it was not necessary to have a separate TWG Meeting to discuss this issue at this time.

3.0 Update From The North - Mannar & Manthai West

Contingency Planning and Preparedness For The North

3.1 **Kalimoddai**

IDPs continue to cross in small numbers by sea from the Vanni to GoSL controlled Mannar and continue to be accommodated in Kalimoddai camp, where there are currently 280 persons. This number includes 12 individuals in 4 families that are returnees from India. This raised additional protection concerns and issues related to the nature of Kalimoddai camp.

- 3.2 It was reported that some IDPs in Kalimoddai camp have given written consent for rigid emergency shelter assistance to be provided for them, since after over two months in the camp they accepted the fact that this might be their only option for the foreseeable future. Still, the expectations changed when on 13 April Kalimoddai camp was visited by the local Government team and details about families to host IDPs from the camp were gathered. There are indications that the authorities will consider individual requests from IDPs to leave the camp on case-by-case basis. Shelter agencies operating in Mannar agreed to continue with basic assistance until the future of the camp becomes clearer. Agencies would be updated as the situation unfolds.

SCC/Solidar
Mannar

3.3 **Musali IDPs in Nanaddan**

In the meantime, IDPs from Musali currently residing in Nanaddan are experiencing more and more pressure from the Security forces and their movements are also being curtailed. Consequently, a number of families fled to India and the trend is likely to continue, depending on the control of movements in the sea and the season, as currently the sea is quite rough for boat travel.

- 3.4 The authorities still maintain that it is hoped that these IDPs would be able to go back to Musali by end of the year, since the situation is not conducive for return yet and there are delays in infrastructure works required for this.
- 3.5 A few agencies are considering upgrades of existing shelters in IDP sites in Nanaddan. The type and scope of upgrades of sites (not only shelter, but other sectors) will directly depend on the estimated duration of stay and this needs to be clarified by the Government.

- 3.6 Shelter agencies agreed that the minimum that would be required, especially after heavy rains and floods in March-April, is replacement of cadjan and possibly adding plastic sheets on roofs. However, roofing could also be replaced with CI sheets if appropriate. Upgrades are to be discussed as soon as possible, in light of the fact that any upgrades should be finished by September before the rainy season, and it was agreed among shelter agencies in Mannar that the approach will be uniform. It was agreed that Solidar SCC is to gather information on solutions and experiences regarding shelter upgrades from other districts for discussion.

SCC/Solidar
Mannar

- 3.7 Agencies are continuously being approached by District Secretaries for emergency/temporary shelter assistance for vulnerable IDP families staying with host families. These are IDPs displaced after August 2006, mostly from the Vanni, and shelters are provided on scattered locations on host family land. For the time being, three agencies in Mannar – ZOA, Valvuthayam and CARE are providing this type of assistance.

- 3.8 Provision of shelter for vulnerable IDPs is coordinated on divisional rather than district level and is not coordinated through Mannar district emergency coordination mechanism established in September 07. Since agencies are being approached by DSs requesting for shelters, there is a high risk of overlap and gaps. This was discussed with the district authorities and it was agreed that the non-emergency (divisional) coordination will be in place in this case. It was agreed with all agencies, the ones currently working on such projects and the ones that potentially could get involved, that they will inform UNHCR and/or Solidar SCC of their plans.

Agencies

3.9 **Contingency Planning**

SLA informed that, in case of a larger influx of IDPs, three schools would be used for

temporary accommodation one in Nanaddan, one in Murunkan and St Anthony's college Vankalai with a total accommodation capacity of 3,500 individuals in 850 families

- 3.10 It is unclear on how these schools are to be used, what the SLA plan is for duration of stay in these schools, which parts of the schools are to be used and/or what were the grounds for calculation of the capacity. Several agencies have expressed concerns regarding the use of schools. More information would be provided by the SCC/Solidar. SCC/Solidar Mannar
- 3.11 The problems re supply to Mannar, especially to Mannar Island, continue. The concerns of the forces are understood, but it is felt that the procedures are locally developed and are unclear. This includes the fact that Mannar mainland and part of Mannar Town are under the SLA jurisdiction and the rest of the island is under SLN, so for transport of items such as cement to Mannar Island (other than Mannar Town) permissions are required. It is agreed to compile the difficulties re supply/logistics currently experienced in Mannar and to share it with concerned parties in Colombo for advocacy. UNHCR requested clarification on whether there was need for importing large quantities of materials into Mannar island when the numbers of IDPs were minimal. SCC/Solidar Mannar

4.0 Update from the East

4.1 Camp Consolidation, Upgrades, Decommissioning

4.2 Trincomalee

In Trincomalee district tension continues from the past month due to the election in the eastern province.

The "go and see" visit finished within this month, for the next resettlement in Paddalipuram and Naloor.

- 4.3 Newly resettled families were staying in the Pallikudiyeruppu School and Sinnakulam School. Although some families have returned to their houses there are still some 20 families staying in schools as parts of Thangapuram and Sinnakulam are still in High Security Zones.
- 4.4 For the relocation of families whose houses are under the HSZ, Govt is finding some alternative land, but until it is properly clarified where and how much land will be provided agencies have agreed to refrain from providing assistance to those caseloads.
- 4.5 Care & Maintenance activities have started in the occupied sites with IOM repairing electrical components and drainage in a number of sites.
- 4.6 In Muthur NRC, Oferr/UNHCR, IOM, CARE are providing core shelters in Pallikudiyeruppu and Oferr/UNHCR will do repairs to partly damaged houses. All agencies working in this region agreed to construct core shelters with the cost range of US\$730 to US\$800.

UMCOR/UNHCR plan to construct 350 house repairs in Muthur West and 302 houses were assessed and 182 houses will commence as soon.

UMCOR/UNHCR plan to provide 500 shelter kits in Muthur South and 147 kits were already distributed

- 4.7 NRC camp management team visited sites in Kiliveddy, Manatchenai and Paddithedal and carried out assessments last month. Now they plan to do the trainings in those camps at the end of this month.

4.8 Batticaloa

The security situation in the district was calm during the first 2 weeks of the month but later the district was under tension following post election violence particularly in Kathankudy.

- 4.9 So far 611 families have been resettled (131 in Koduvamadu- Chenkalady and 480 in Kiran area) during the month. The resettlement has not affected the population in sites as the majority of the resettled families were staying with host families.

The next round of resettlement will depend on progress of the UXO/Mines clearance in the Kiran and Chenkalady DS division.

- 4.10 During the month of May, 131 families in Kodavamadu of Chenkalady DS and 480 families in Kiran DS have been resettled.

Distribution of shelters was delayed for a few days in Kiran due to shelling in Topigala area during the second week of May. Access to Kiran resettled area is strictly being monitored by SLA. The Sri Lankan Army is insisting on verifying shelter materials physically at the destination of distribution.

- 4.11 GoSL has not yet planned/provided dates for resettlement of remaining IDP families of Kiran and Trinco, Shelter agencies have expressed the opinion that return to Perlaveli and Koraveli of Kiran DS might not happen until after June.

- 4.12 The major needs in the re-settled areas are livelihood support, permanent housing, repairs of damaged houses, drinkable water, toilets, improved access to medical services, repairs to schools etc.

In Punani West water is being collected from irrigation channels and in Poolakkadu only 60-70 communal wells are available for 430 families. Most of these wells go dry during July – September.

- 4.13 In Palmeenamdu II, 25 shelters are vacant; Warehouse families might occupy these shelters during the consolidation of camps.

UNOPS have decommissioned 10 vacant hangers in Palcholai IDP site following resettlement of Kodavamadu families.

- 4.14 OXFAM is conducting well cleaning activities in Poolakadu and planning to provide emergency toilets as immediate intervention and it will follow construction of permanent toilets.

- 4.15 Shelter agencies and DS Manmunai North have suggested that the IDPs in Ware house Kalinakadu be relocated to neighbouring site/sites. However, these IDPs are not willing to move out of the camp.

- 4.16 UNHCR in consultation with TWG (shelter, WatSan) has suggested to GA Batticaloa the reduction of camps from 18 to 11. The UNHCR have proposed a draft strategy which is planned to be discussed in depth with other agencies during the next TWG meetings. The UNHCR/SCC promised to share the draft strategy with the meeting for comments by Agencies.

SCC/
UNHCR

- 4.17 Care and Maintenance agencies have upgraded the camps they are responsible for and which are planned for longer term occupancy. There is hesitance among the agencies whether to upgrade other camps which are not planned for longer occupancy.

- 4.18 At some camps in Batticaloa they are now having focal points to manage the camps. This is found to be very effective.

- 4.19 NRC informed the participants that their office in Batticaloa was closed last week as one of their drivers had gone missing for more than a week with no news about his whereabouts. They have made official complaints to the Police and other Government Officials as well as issued several press releases in this regard.

5.0 SCC Initiatives

- 5.1 Harmonisation of Terminology

The SCC/UNHCR Coordinator reminded the participants that this initiative has been

SCC/
UNHCR

pending for sometime now due to other more pressing matters but it must now be taken forward. He further stated that in order for all agencies to speak the same language when referring to the various types of shelters it was necessary to clearly indicate and agree on common terminology to describe shelters. The inputs that have been received are not yet sufficient and representative to make a decision on appropriate terminology. Therefore an email will be sent to the participants with the form for agencies to make their inputs up to 20th June 2008 after which a date will be communicated for a TWG meeting to agree on types of shelters and corresponding terminology.

5.2 Pocket Hand Book

SCC/

A draft of the Pocket Hand Book will be sent within next week, to the participants for final inputs to be incorporated. Once the inputs are received a TWG Meeting will be called to finalise it.

UNHCR

5.3 A TWG was also proposed at the last ESCM to discuss the discrepancy in assistance levels in Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

SCC/

UNHCR

6.0 Early Recovery Update

6.1 The final draft on the Early Recovery Shelter/Housing Guideline has been essentially completed. However the draft will be sent around once again to the SCC members for their final comments/suggestions by COB Friday 30th May 2008.

UN Habitat

It will then be ready for presentation to the relevant Ministries and National Housing Development Authority.

7.0 Any Other Business / Items By Participants

7.1 Mr. Marc Bonnet, the Country Program Manager from Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD) presented himself and his agency to the meeting. He briefly explained the work of FSD in mine clearance and associated services such as the production of maps and task sheets and how they could create stronger links with the shelter agencies. He proposed to give a presentation to the shelter cell on the work of FSD and the associated tools they could make available, at a subsequent meeting to be agreed. The UNHCR/SCC also stressed that it was important to also establish links with the SCC sub cells in their operational areas Vavuniya and Trincomalee.

FSD

8.0 Date Of Subsequent ESCM and TWG Meetings

8.1 The ESCM participants were thanked for their participation and inputs.

8.2 Next TWG Meetings will be notified.

8.3 Next ESCM will be held on 30th June 2008 at 3.00 p.m. at the UNHCR Meeting Room.