

MINUTES OF MEETING

TOPIC: Emergency Shelter Coordination Meeting (ESCM)

DATE: 28 September 2007, 2:00 pm

LOCATION: UNHCR Meeting Room, Colombo

ATTENDEES:

Chris Nixon	UNHCR (chair)	Shelter Coordinator / SCC Coordinator
Chris Bleers	Norwegian Refugee Council	Project Manager / Shelter Co-ordinator
Giovanni Cassani ¹	IOM	Shelter Coordinator
David Evans ¹	UN Habitat	Chief Technical Adviser
Ulrika Haapaniemi	UNICEF	Emergency WASH Coordinator
Carter Hemphill	Samaritan's Purse	Country Director
Stanley Joseph	Zoa Refugee Care	Programme Adviser
Jake Zarins	Norwegian Refugee Council	Shelter / SCC Co-ordinator (Trincomalee)

APOLOGIES:

Thushanti Scharajah	UNOPS	Project Support Officer
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REF	ITEM / DETAIL	ACTION
1.	Reorder Of Agenda:	
1.1	Due to a meeting at the Ministry of Nation Building (MNB) to which a number of INGOs and UN agencies had been invited at short notice, precluding rescheduling of the ESCM, the meeting agenda was re-ordered to permit some participants to depart early to the MNB meeting.	
1.2	Detailed minuting is provided for the benefit of those agencies and representatives that could not attend the ESCM due the MNB meeting.	
2.	Acceptance Of Previous Minutes:	
2.1	Minutes Of the previous meeting, 31 August 2007, were accepted.	
2.2	No items were arising from the previous minutes.	
3.	Rescheduling Times Of Future ESCMs and TWGs:	
3.1	Proposed and accepted that as the regular ESCM on final Friday of the month consistently clashes with Wat / San National Coordination meeting and other meetings it will be rescheduled.	
3.2	The meeting agreed regular ESCM meetings will in future be scheduled to the final Monday of each month at 3 pm.	

¹ A number of participants departed earlier to attend the meeting at the Ministry of Nation Building

- 3.3 The timing of TWGs will also need to be reviewed and advised due to further clashes in the Friday mid month UNHCR and with increasing in commitments in some agencies with approaching end of year deadlines.

4. Contingency & Preparedness For The North

- 4.1 An update of the Northern Contingency Plan was provided by UNHCR as follows though it is recognised that over the past month the priority focus has moved towards the immediate needs at Mannar and Manthai West, though the contingency plan is still needed, especially with the expectation of possibly increasing displacement.
- 4.2 **Jaffna** : The focus is on the assessment of the available common buildings, due to the land issues. The data on communal buildings not in use and their capacity has been collected and detailed assessments are being made through the responsible agencies including for other facilities which may be available. The process is undertaken in close coordination with the GoSL agencies through the monthly Disaster Response Coordination meetings including at Divisional level.
- 4.3 **Kilinochchi**: All assessments have been received by Solidar for SCC with assessment and compilation is advanced. The first draft was completed during w/c 24 Sept. Review is imminent and thence finalization of the initial assessment, analysis and recommendations. Solidar
- 4.4 **Vavuniya**: Two hard copies of the Rapid Site Assessment in Vavuniya were shared in a meeting with UNHCR Vavuniya on 10 September and it was agreed that UNHCR Vavuniya would share one copy with the GA for information and action. UNHCR will request written consent from the GA for use of recommended sites in case of emergency and identification of more sites. No further progress has been reported due to Mannar developments. UNHCR
- 4.5 **Mannar**: Delays have occurred in the site assessments in Mannar, predominantly due to some agencies not being able to commence assessments prior to the current Mannar displacements. In Mannar organizations are currently fully committing their resources to the immediate response. In brief, currently out of 21 sites 8 are assessed and reported, 5 are assessed but not reported, 5 are unassessed by agencies, 2 unassessed due to security constraint, 2 unassessed as already in use as tented IDP sites. UNHCR and Solidar to follow up on agencies and progress UNHCR Solidar
- 4.6 **General**
SCC is urging organizations to continue to commit to the contingency planning in the north as there are indications that it may well be necessary if the number IDPs increases, which seems increasingly possible.

Assessments of the proposed sites must be completed as experience to date has indicated that the expectations of capacity based on the currently nominated sites are unrealistically optimistic and that the proposed sites in many cases do not have the anticipated capacity, and in some cases are unsuitable for other reasons.

Next stages will be addressing possible contingency preparations needed and also developing and maintaining an up to date inventory of available and short notice stocks held by agencies.

5. Camp Consolidation, Batticaloa

- 5.1 Within the last month the Batticaloa GA has endorsed a list of 22 sites in the District for longer-term occupancy, the majority of which are located in Manmunai North and Chenkalady Divisions. These sites have been selected on the basis of condition of shelter structures, basic infrastructure and services available in the camps. The list was endorsed by all DSs as well. This list will be the basis for camp consolidation.

In addition to routine care and maintenance, these longer term sites require upgrading of the structures and all associated camp facilities which were set up with a temporary objective.

- 5.2 As a result of the scheduled return to Ayithiyamalai North and South on 11 September, spaces became vacant in two camps with rigid shelters. After lengthy discussions with the IDPs in Kokkuvil 1 & 2 sites who have been living in tents since their displacement, (128 families) eventually agreed and shifted to Sathrukondan railway camp into shelters and 59 families also relocated from tents in Palacholai 1 into shelters in Palacholai 2.

- 5.3 Police presence provided security for staff decommissioning/repairing shelters in 3 sites, minimising loss of materials due to looting. These moves made possible the consolidation of four camps into two camps. It has been agreed by all agencies that UNHCR will request police presence in the name of all shelter agencies whenever there is a scheduled return, and agencies need to protect their shelter material while decommissioning or shifting of IDPs in vacant shelter from other sites. It is also recommended that agencies maintain a visible presence of an expatriate staff member on site during the process, to support national staff.

The Camps at Saturukondan and to a lesser degree Palacholai 2 required considerable input from C&M agencies to make them habitable after the departing IDP's removed tarp covering from floors, walls etc of the shelters.

- 5.4 The strong reluctance by the IDPs to relocate makes the process very difficult. One of the major issues raised by IDPs is the uncertainty of the Government's plan on return to their places of origin. This concern is more acute for IDPs from the high security zone in Trincomalee. Efforts towards camp consolidation will continue and UNHCR is making representation to secure more information on returns and the HSZ. The GA and DSs will be requested to participate in all discussions with the IDPs in relation to relocation to better sites.
- 5.5 UNHCR stressed the importance of knowing the breakdown of the population in the camps by their place of origin (GN Division level) for accurate planning of camp consolidation and assistance. All shelter agencies in Batticaloa have agreed to collect this information in the sites they operate in and forward it to UNHCR.

6 Camp Upgrades and / or Decommissioning

- 6.1 In Batticaloa shelter agencies are generally in agreement that unless shelters vacated by returnees can be immediately (within hours) occupied by residents from other camps, with the active support and forward planning of the GoSL agencies (GA, DS's GNs) and the assurance of security against concerted looting, then there is no alternative to decommissioning.

Any shelter units (either communal or single) for which reoccupation by consolidation cannot be effected immediately must be decommissioned as soon as they are vacated if valuable material is to be salvaged for reuse. This decision includes camps on the consolidated camp list as they are generally the most developed camps with the most valuable material.

The decision was taken in the absence of adequate means of securing camp facilities until re-occupancy through a consolidation process., Recent efforts from Sathrukondan railway camp and Palacholai 2 have raised the prospect that opportunities for consolidation do still remain. However, even in these instances, opportunistic looting by departing residents was significant, and the presence of more concerted looting factions throughout the day in all camps was noted and only considered to be discouraged by a strong presence of international staff of agencies through the day and the presence of police.

- 6.2 To date, shelter agencies have taken responsibility for decommissioning their own material. Where this cannot be assured SCC agencies are assisting wherever possible.

Where camps are required to be entirely decommissioned (as opposed to individual shelter units) the SCC has agreed with agencies the "Leave No Trace" decommissioning guidelines and a proforma checklist for site commissioning that includes endorsement by the GoSL representatives at hand back of the sites.

Agencies are strongly encouraged to comply with the agreed SCC guideline on decommissioning, the checklist, endorsement and formal hand-back process.

- 6.3 NRC confirmed that 5 families from their shelters in Kaluwankerny NRC camp (Batticaloa) were ordered out of their shelters by an armed group who systematically looted of all materials.
- 6.4 The SCC has appealed to agencies across the Shelter and Wat/San sectors to maintain their provided infrastructure for as long as it is needed. Shelters in all the sites require regular repairs.

In order to fill inevitable gaps in the provision care & maintenance (C&M) assistance, SCC agencies have committed mobile teams to carry out essential repairs.

6.5 In addition to routine C&M, sites on the consolidation list of 22 “longer term sites”, require upgrading of the structures which were set up with a temporary objective.

6.6 Agencies have been requested to review their funding capacity to cover the upgrade works. A number of agencies have indicated that they have funds available for upgrading of long term sites.

Where such agencies have advised that funding for upgrades is not available, SCC organizations will endeavour to secure necessary funding and effect the essential upgrades.

In summary, reports from the Batticaloa Shelter meeting, to date, include undertakings to upgrade from UNOPS (Palacholai and Sathurakondan), ICRC, IOM and NRC (details of individual proposals were reported at the meeting)

NRC has indicated that if funding permits, NRC will cover improvements in sites beyond the ones they have developed shelter on.

6.7 NRC expressed concern in respect of the anticipated costs of some upgrade aspects proposed by agencies and that NRC may not have the funding capacity to implement all such aspects such as those proposed at Palochalai and Sathurakondan (shelters, lighting, roads, etc).

6.8 UNHCR confirmed that the total list of upgrade items is currently being estimated by UNOPS, but altogether is recognised to represent a significant total cost.

6.9 NRC indicated that the major item beyond their funding capacity was the upgrade of roads in the camps. UNHCR will investigate if this can be addressed by alternative sources. UNHCR

6.10 Regarding electrical installation in the sites, all partners in Batticaloa have indicated that the cost to connect to the main power supply is very costly. It is the Government’s responsibility to supply the sites. Agencies can fund the installation of common lighting inside the sites. Shelter agencies will take up the issue with the GA in Batticaloa.

6.11 NRC indicated that previously OFDA had indicated a willingness in some instances to assist in funding electrical connections and that this may be worth investigation. UNHCR

6.12 In relation to upgrade of sites in term of wat/san facilities, UNICEF have reported that they have started assessments in the IDP sites. The main concerns are the conditions of the toilets and flood protection in the camps. Further technical details will be discussed with wat/san agencies.

7. Early Recovery

7.1 The early recovery / sustainable shelter working group met 14 September, at which the NHDA and Ministry of Resettlement & Disaster recovery Services attended and presented insights into the government position and forthcoming initiatives for recovery planning and permanent housing.

The meeting highlighted key aspects that the present International Agencies felt needed to be addressed in government policy and indicated a willingness to provide inputs for consideration.

7.2 Subsequently a smaller subgroup of those agencies present met to attempt to frame specific proposal based around the TWG identified key items which the government representatives had indicated would be welcome inputs.

7.3 The formulation of specific and concise recommendations continues through the working group with a target of producing a draft for wider circulation to shelter and housing stakeholders in the forthcoming days. The draft, a reduced bullet pointing of the initial document reported by UN Habitat to be due early in the week commencing 1 October 2007 for review. UN Habitat

7.4 In parallel the Ministry of Nation Building has conducted workshops and the Government has released the draft of the outline work plan for recovery. It is therefore topical, and there is perceived to be a narrow window of opportunity to make meaningful and timely inputs for government consideration in formulating policy.

7.5 When the draft recommendations are circulated to those organizations expressing interest through Shelter

- the Early Recovery TWG, organizations will, therefore be asked to respond quick quickly and with concise comment. Agencies
- 7.6 UN Habitat pointed out that at this time the policy direction appears to have shifted from Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster recovery Services to the apparently more strongly resourced Ministry of Nation Building. Additionally the emphasis by GoSL in respect of sustainable / permanent housing is in the East.
- UN Habitat clarified that the current emphasis in early recovery initiatives and in identifying key aspects to be addressed in a robust policy is emphasised to the East.
- 7.7 Of the agencies invited to and attending the meeting at Min of Nation Building (28 Sep 2007) from the ESCM, UN Habitat was asked to provide a short summary of the meeting content. UN Habitat
- 8. Return Shelter Assistance (I)**
(items moved in agenda for participants departing to Min Nation Building meeting - not full agenda item – see later)
- 8.1 During the last month, there were returns to GN divisions in Eachchilampattu in Trincomalee District and residents of Aiythiyamalai North and South GN divisions in Vavunatheevu DS Division were resettled.
- However, the families from the high security zone in Trinco are expected to be longer term IDPs in the Batticaloa District, up to six months according to GoSL officials
- No dates have been announced for the resettlement of the approximately IDPs from Chenkalady & Kiran DS Divisions, reportedly due to ongoing mine/UXO clearance. There are concerns that if resettlement is not conducted prior to the start of the rainy season (mid-October), that it will not be possible until January 2007 due to road access.
- The majority of IDPs from west Batticaloa are reported to have returned, but small numbers are still in some sites.
- 8.2 UN Habitat has indicated an intention for an upcoming project in West Batticaloa involving the plan to construct 1,000 core houses in Vellavelly DS Division, subject to available funding.
- The plan is to provide the beneficiaries with permanent foundation for the complete house with an area of 500 sq feet. Only one room will be fully constructed. The estimated cost per unit is LKR 100,000.
- UN HABITAT will share the design and plan with the other shelter agencies.
- No shelter agency, except for UN HABITAT, has an immediate plan for implementation of permanent shelter in return areas.
- 9. Any Other Business (I)**
(items moved in agenda for participants departing to Min Nation Building meeting)
- 9.1 The SCC Rapid site assessment pocket book is available in English and Tamil from SCC, courtesy of Solidar. This is the pocket book summary of procedures used in the northern contingency plan assessments
- 9.2 Solidar has indicated the pocket book will soon be available as a single electronic file and it will then be placed on the SCC webpage. Solidar
<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka/coordination/newsectors/index.asp>
- 9.3 The UNHCR/DRC Welfare Centres report from Jaffna has been posted on the front page and the IDPs section of the UNHCR Sri Lanka Website at www.unhcr.lk/protection/idps/index.html
The report details demography and numerous conditions in 69 Jaffna Welfare Centres.
- 9.4 UN Habitat reported that the CHAP (Consolidated Humanitarian Action Plan) for 2008 will reportedly be initiated in October to be finalised in mid December for launch in mid January. It is understood the Sri Lanka component will lag the international CHAP by approx a month. UN Habitat will make further inquiries and confirm dates and details. UN Habitat

10. Return Shelter Assistance (II)***(items moved in agenda for participants departing to Min Nation Building meeting)***

- 10.1 Adjustments in capacity of individual agencies has caused the need for a review of areas of responsibility (AOR) in terms of shelter provision in West Batticaloa.

In addition, more agencies are now being granted access and SCC has requested updates from each agency on where they are/planning to operate. The collated information has been applied to maps by SCC indicating current areas of responsibility for emergency shelter provision for the resettled in west Batticaloa. Draft maps are available and agencies are asked to please check and advise of any alterations required prior to full circulation. Agencies should please note, some areas remain subject to access approval.

If not available from UNOCHA, the draft maps can be obtained from SCC (nixon@unhcr.org or shaun@nrc.lk)

- 10.2 NRC has indicated that in Manmunai West NRC is not undertaking shelter, though NRC has a focus on schools with 17 to be assessed.
- 10.3 Emergency shelter kits continue to be distributed by agencies currently working in this area, and assessments of fully/partially damaged housing are still ongoing.
- 10.4 UNHCR/UNOPS distributed 106 emergency shelter kits in Vavunatheevu Division and 11 kits in Paddipalai. Assessment is ongoing in both above divisions. The remaining stock of the shelter material recovered from the decommissioning of sites would be enough to cover 400 more shelter kits. It is estimated that around 100 kits will be distributed further to returnees in West Batticaloa. It is proposed the balance stock will be redeployed in future return areas in Kiran and Chenkalady.
- 10.5 NRC reported that the representative of the MR&DRS has announced that the High Security Zone (Trincomalee) is to be reallocated as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and will be reduced in size by five more GN divisions allowing for resettlement of approx 2500 families in the derestricted areas. It is understood by agencies that the GoSL will be seeking international agencies to construct shelters and undertake repairs, though agencies have indicated that available funding is declining. It is reported by NRC that shelters or repairs are required for approx 2500 families in this area, and that damage in the area is considered to be more severe than in Eachchilampattu
It is further reported that within these 5 GN divisions over 500 new houses and appropriate infrastructure will be constructed by the UDA (Urban Development Authority) for families whose lands are within the SEZ and an additional 190 new houses planned in Ralkully for similar IDPs who will not be able to return to origin.
- 10.6 NRC reported that 150 families returned from Baticaloa to Eachchilampattu to find that their properties (occupied properties) are currently army camps or surrounding buffer zones. It is reported that the GoSL has indicated that this will be a temporary occupation, but unlikely to be less than one year (expected one to two years) for some camps with others possibly becoming permanent depending on the evolution of the security situation. There is currently no planned assistance from the government other than provision of lands for temporary settlement. Many agencies are reluctant to assist due to conflicts with operational mandates and uncertainty over the government's responsibilities or policies in such cases - although they appear clear in their desire for agencies to address the cost of any shelter/infrastructure assistance on the temporarily allocated lands.
- 10.7 NRC has reported that roads are being cut, graded and compacted and electricity pylons installed in an area near to the Mahindapura checkpoint (near Seruwila, Trincomalee) in Eachchilampattu. Shelters have also been constructed on plots within the newly liberated areas that straddle what was once 'no-mans' land between what was government and LTTE controlled areas. The MR&DRS representative is reported to have advised it is a programme for Sinhalese displaced returnees that has been planned from some significantly earlier period. It is reported that there is approx 150 shelters in progress.
- 10.8 NRC reported that DRC is understood to apparently be constructing 100 shelters in Mullaitivu, starting end of October at LKR 26,000 each.

11. Mannar & West Manthai Developments

11.1 UNHCR gave following updates on developments in Mannar and Manthai West, since last ESCM:

11.2 Mannar Update

The number of IDPs in the Mannar and Manthai west is now approximately 13,000 persons after 29th August.

Some 3,703 persons, were displaced from Musali (Mannar South) and are currently hosted in Nanattan and Murunkan in the Mannar District, are stabilizing with host families and in relocation sites.

The displaced persons from Mullikulam are still taking refuge in the Murunkan School although some families have left to the Puttalam District. UNHCR is currently advocating with the authorities and military command in the area to allow the IDPs to move to more suitable sites and to vacate the school.

An estimated 8,405 persons (2,078 families) are displaced in Mannar's LTTE-controlled Manthai West. Ordinarily it would fall under the purview Mannar, however due to the closure of the Uyilankulam entry/exit point, the area is only accessible from Kilinochchi.

Access is difficult as the Uyilankulam entry/exit point remains closed since the withdrawal of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 3rd September. The Omanthai checkpoint along the A9 is open five days of the week.

A 10 member group of local government officials and civilian representatives have already completed an informal "go and see" to the Arippu and Silavatturai in the Musali DS division. Authorities indicate that returns will be possible within a month.

11.3 Mannar Shelter summary to date:

After initially being accommodated in two schools, one in Nanattan and the other in Murunkan a number of families opted to stay with host families, other families opted to move to the Rice Mill in Nanattan (a semi complete building and open site) and other families opted to move to the church site in Nanattan which includes coconut plantation and adjoining playground.

Other IDPs were initially accommodated in "Don Bosco" vocational training facility in Murunkan, though these registered to be relocated to other sites or host families. IDPs from Mullikulam are accommodated in the Murunkan M.V. school" (Mullikulam crowd all together and alone in the Murunkan school)

Local government officials informed relief agencies that the displaced families staying in schools in Nanattan division had to vacate the premises as soon as possible so children from the area can recommence their education. The majority of the 246 families from Nanaddan School moved to host families. 107 families moved to emergency accommodation sites.

Relocation of IDPs from Nanaddan School and Don Bosco Training Centre, Murunkan was finalised on 15 Sep 07. Majority of IDPs went to host families and 141 families were moved to other sites. The Murunkan (Don Bosco) Church continues to be a site

Tents were provided by agencies for open sites and for those accommodated with host families. It is reported that the host sites are actually "mini communities" of clusters of tents on hosted land.

Humanitarian agencies have been working to upgrade water and sanitation facilities at the sites. Local government officials have appointed IDP coordinators for the relief efforts and camp officers. UNHCR has established IDP committees at each site to facilitate assistance delivery and protection.

The SLA has repeatedly indicated that the displacement will be temporary and that efforts are underway to ensure that the people can return as soon as possible. Most of the IDPs are equally interested in return with the exception of those who come from Mullikulam.

11.4 Mannar Camp Management:

In Mannar two GSs were appointed as Camp Managers on behalf of the government, but reportedly showed a very low level of understanding of the tasks they are to undertake. It is also reported that local administration have limited knowledge of "minimum standards" (ie Sphere, etc)

NRC promptly responded to the need and they facilitated one training session in Nanaddan (20-21 Sep). Relevant government officers, including Camp Managers and Camp Coordinator, as well as selected IDP representatives from two camps, participated.

Reportedly there may be a need for more training targeting IDP communities, but due to the uncertainty re relocation of IDPs from Murunkan School and finalisation of site selection, this is not currently appropriate.

Also NRC is conducting camp management training (expected 3 sessions) during the current and following week (w/c 24 Sept and 1 Oct) in Vavunya

NRC reported that there were plans to conduct additional training in Mannar during the w/c 24 Sep, though this was deferred due to road closure to Mannar. The training will be conducted as soon as access permits.

11.5 Manthai West Update

During the month, the number of IDPs displacing since August 29th has steadily increased to more than nine thousand displaced, as reported by the AGA office MW.

LTTE-controlled Mannar District	Families	Individuals
Manthai West	2,301	9,201
Madhu	53	208

The areas now receiving IDPs are already hosting high numbers of IDPs since April 2006, and the local absorption capacity for new IDPs may be limited, e.g. regarding families willing to host IDPs and/or sharing resources with the IDPs.

In addition, due to the deteriorating security situation secondary displacement started, 149 families with 547 individuals that moved from Kannadi village by the end of August, and were staying closer to their field below Palamadhu village line moved on Sep 24th to the safer areas further North in the same division.

11.6 NRC indicated that earlier in the w/c 24 Sep there had been unconfirmed reports of IDPs moving from Manthai West and Madhu south across the FDL. UNHCR had no immediate information to confirm this.

11.7 A Joint rapid assessment has been carried out in mid month by UN agencies and NGOs in Manthai West , identifying immediate needs of the recently displaced people as well as an providing an understanding of the current situation of above.

The report presents a summary of the results and key findings. The report is at present descriptive in its focus, leaving it to relevant sectors to identify appropriate responses/assistance.

The rapid assessment is designed to give an overview of needs. It is foreseen that in-depth sectoral assessments will be necessary before assistance programs are implemented. 354 persons were interviewed during the assessment. This corresponds roughly to 5% of the persons displaced, according to the AGA figures as of 17.09.2007.

11.8 UNICEF indicated that the Manthai West report indicates an absence of sanitation facilities and therefore recommends hygiene promotion as being necessary.

11.9 IDPs at Murunkan School, Mannar

11.9.1 IDPs at Murunkan School, reportedly approx 100 families , where initially given consent by the bishop of Mannar and SLA but as yet not the Navy (who seem to have jurisdiction) to move to church land at Mannar Island, which is a coconut grove.

It seems that the SLA is indicating these will be longer term displaced and there is not much likelihood of an early return

Anecdotal information is they come from a remote village near the Puttalan border and that a Naval camp has been located in the immediate proximity of the original village of origin, with the result:

- 1.) they are disinclined to return, and
- 2.) the possibility some of the area at least may become a security zone.

This particular IDP community claims since they arrived that they do not want to go back to the place of origin and it is reported at least some of the beneficiary community are hoping to get right of use permits for small plots of land from the Bishop in the event that the displacement prolongs.

Concerns about committing to longer term solutions at this time on the Mannar Island, include: .

- 1.) the site as far as we know has not been fully assessed for long term use / suitability;
- 2.) it is not known how long the site can be available, given it seems on loan from the church;
- 3.) there are concerns about making a long term welfare centre at this point;
- 4.) it is not known definitively how long the IDPs may stay and what is the eventual position at origin - it needs some official clarification and confirmation;
- 5.) at this point shelters can create equity issues with other IDPs and may encourage others to extend their "residence" in Mannar
- 6.) if the stay becomes very prolonged it is necessary to know who will be willing and able to make that commitment long term, and indeed that the church would continue to do so
- 7.) indeed it may encourage these IDPs to discount any return, should that become an option

- 11.9.2 UNHCR would not encourage that the Murunkan School IDPs be recognized as a longer term camp at this point.

It may well transpire that their return to origin becomes possible, but it has been indicated that even in that case they may decide not to return. This could raise issues as to their IDP status if they elect to stay Mannar "as IDPs" after there is an opportunity of reasonable and voluntary return to reasonable conditions at origin

Circumstances and developments will lead to the review of the position as more information and confirmations become available.

- 11.9.3 At this point in time UNHCR expresses that eventual return to origin is preferred (where practical), and during displacement "host families" remains preferred option where possible. Longer term camps is not a preferred option.

It is felt appropriate to suggest that agencies should agree to maintain a watching brief on this situation until resolved and that consistency in agency approach is adopted.

If the situation is verified to be longer term, then agencies can again provide hopefully a consistent and agreed "most appropriate" response and solution.

12.0 Next Meeting(s):

- 12.1 Next meeting for Emergency Shelter Sector Co-ordination is scheduled for **Monday, 29 October 2007 at 15:00** at UNHCR, Colombo.

- 12.2 The date, time and venue for the next meeting of the Technical Working Group for Early / Sustainable Shelter Recovery **is subject to notification** . It **will not now** be held at 11 October 2007, due to conflicting meetings.