



Shelter Working Group Meeting Syrian Refugee Response in Jordan

Meeting Location	UNHCR Small Conference Room	Meeting Date	28 November 2013
Chair Person	Werner Schellenberg	Meeting Time	14:30-16:30
Minutes Prepared by	Matthew Richard		
Purpose of Meeting	Reviewing the winterization of tents in Zaatari refugee camp		

1.) Summary of action points

Item	Action point	Focal Point / Organization
1.)	NRC to consult with their logistics unit in Zaatari to clarify how quickly they can distribute porch extensions for tents.	Martin Suvatne & Carlo Gherardi (NRC)
2.)	Porch distribution will continue for the winter of 2013/14 in Zaatari with immediate distribution of 1,050 porch kits in stock.	Werner Schellenberg (UNHCR) & Martin Suvatne (NRC)
3.)	All new refugee arrivals to Zaatari will immediately receive a tent with porch extension and gas heater.	Werner Schellenberg (UNHCR) & Martin Suvatne (NRC)
4.)	Amra (UNHCR) to check budget lines for item 3 above.	Amra Nuhbegovic (UNHCR)

2.) Attendees of the meeting

Name	Organisation	Contact details
Nagendra Adhikari	UNHCR	adhikarn@unhcr.org
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Werner Schellenberg	UNHCR	schellen@unhcr.org
Matthew Richard	UNHCR	richard@unhcr.org

3.) Minutes

Item	Discussion
Winterisation of tents	<p>Concerns expressed about the approach of distributing gas heaters for the winterisation of tents in Zaatari camp. <u>Please see Annex, Winterization of Tents in Zaatari Camp.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current winterisation approach involves refugees receiving gas heaters (distribution starts 10 Dec) to heat their tents with the heater placed in the porch extension of the tent. The porch kit is made from CGI sheeting which is non-flammable and includes adequate ventilation. However in reality, as learnt from the behaviours of last winter, 70% of refugees move gas heaters from the porch to the main living area of the tent. Porches are then used for other purposes such as cooking, sanitary cubicles, storage or as materials for vendor stalls.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the gas heater inside the tent is dangerous for the following reasons; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inadequate ventilation inside the tent can result in suffocation with the build-up of harmful carbon monoxide gases. ○ Gas heaters take up limited space inside the living area of the tent (3.5M²). Gas heaters are not safe to use in this space. ○ Gas heaters are a fire hazard if located next to the canvas of the tent. ○ Risk of burns or injury, especially young children. <p>The support to winterisation in tents has to be seen under accountability criteria. The shelter WG is responsible for the safety and protection of beneficiaries so heaters in tents are not advised. The distribution of porches for the winter of 2013/14 is therefore strongly advised. The Shelter WG does not endorse the use of heaters inside the tents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms exist (safety leaflets and briefings upon distribution) to ensure people are aware of the risks of placing heaters in tents. • A protective screen device to protect the tent and beneficiaries has been developed by NRC but the WG concluded that this would be inadequate and uptake would be very low as it is bulky and will disrupt heat flows.
<p>Distribution of porch kits</p>	<p>Distribution of porch kits will continue for the winter of 2013/14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many tents do not have porches? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2,582 families are still in tents ○ New arrivals mean that 75 tents are distributed everyday meaning that by March 2014 there will be 9,000 families in tents, however if 50 caravans are distributed everyday this figure will be significantly reduced. • Distributing porches will have budget, logistics, and human resources implications. • We will not know exactly what is required until verification is complete but can estimate a planning/ budgeting figure of 4,000 porch kits required. • >3,500 porch kits were distributed last winter and NRC has 1,050 kits in stock
<p>Main conclusions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gas heater distribution will be implemented as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For refugees presently in Zaatari Camp and living only in tents, gas heaters will be distributed along with porch kits for all tents that do not have them. All tents will also be enhanced with ventilation openings to increase air movement and decrease risk of carbon monoxide build up. • For refugees presently in Zaatari camp and living in prefab containers, gas heaters will be distributed to all. All prefab containers will also be enhanced with ventilation openings to increase air movement and decrease risk of carbon monoxide build up. 2. All new arrivals will receive tents, heaters, porches, and enhanced ventilation installed by NRC upon arrival. UNHCR and partners have taken every measure to ensure that the selected gas heaters are the safest available on the Jordanian market. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the safety measures related to the gas heater selected include a sensor which causes the heater to turn off in case of tilting, a sensor which turns off the gas heater if the oxygen level in the living space becomes too low, creating ventilation openings in both tents and prefab containers to facilitate air movement. 3. The shelter WG understands the criticisms and challenges of the porch kit for tents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012/2013, the decision to distribute porch kits was made for various reasons, including protection, safety and security, cultural privacy requirements, providing more living space, etc. This principle approach is not in question for the winter season 2013/2014.