

Shelter / NFI / CCCM Cluster Meeting Minutes

10:00 – 12:00, Wednesday, May 8, 2013

UNHCR YGN

Attendees: OCHA, Care, Health Cluster Lead (Merlin), ADRA, DRC, Swiss Confederation, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Save the Children, WASH Cluster Lead (UNICEF), KMSS & Malteser

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action / Actor / Date
Introductions / Update	The Cluster Coordinator (CC) noted two new members to this forum, the Swiss Confederation and ADRA.	
Meikhtila Situation Update	<p>CC noted meeting with Save the Children (StC) May 6th to discuss specifics of Meikhtila situation. This followed various updates CC had sent during the national holiday. Noted that some Cluster members had complained about the size of some of the documents, namely maps, and impact on their email account. CC acknowledged this point going forward.</p> <p>Based on operational Cluster member StC's information, in Meikhtila there are now just five camps, totaling 5,147 IDPs (1,437HH). In addition in Yin Daw, a further four camps, totaling 2,683 IDPs (904HH). Decline in IDP population was explained due to some IDPs leaving the state and others returning to their place of origin.</p> <p>Issues of concern that StC raised were matters of WASH facilities and child protection. Since last meeting, where NFI gap had been identified by StC, UNHCR had supplied 1,219 NFI kits and all had been distributed, organized by StC.</p>	

	<p>Significant discussion on how long IDPs would be expected to stay in these nine camps before receiving permanent shelter and was temporary shelter required. CC stressed that as had shown elsewhere in Myanmar, when IDP numbers were in thousands not tens of thousands, temporary phase may not be required. Some initial signs suggested that GOM had ambitions to build five to six storied flats for Muslim IDPs.</p> <p>In answer to a question on the health situation in Meikhtila, co-lead of the Health Cluster Merlin stated that like <i>this</i> Cluster, they had adopted a low key, “discreet” approach. Following, Health needs in Meikhtila were not viewed to be a significant issue.</p>	<p>Agreed action was for CC to visit the camps, get an overview of the current situation and gain more detail on possible GOM shelter plans. Intention of CC was to visit following week, between 13th and 17th May and report at next Cluster meeting. The “stadium” was viewed as a priority site to visit.</p>
<p>Rakhine Update</p>	<p>CC stated that since last YGN Cluster meeting, 10th April, there had been further developments in terms of concerns around the shelter situation in Rakhine.</p> <p>10th April (PM): CC gave another brief to the donors following the high level visit to Rakhine, 8th April. This was specifically focused on funding needs for shelter, and other needs, notably WASH and health.</p> <p>12th April: donors (USAID, ECHO, TIKA, DFID and TIKA) requested a meeting with the Cluster Lead on shelter to discuss shelter issues. Certain donors requested Cluster member UNHCR to build more shelters but UNHCR explicitly stated that they did not have the operational capacity to build more shelters before or during the rains,</p>	<p>Following this meeting, US\$5 million CERF appeal had been made. Subsequently, US\$2.5 million approved for UNHCR shelter programs, US\$2 million for WASH and US\$0.5 million for health.</p>

	<p>in addition to their significant commitments in the Townships of Myebon and Pauktaw.</p> <p>19th April: a letter was written by the RC and EU, US, British and Australian Ambassadors, sent to the GOM, stressing some of the key points to emerge as a result of 8th April high level mission to Rakhine.</p> <p>24th April: Cluster Lead had a meeting with the DG of the Ministry of Border Affairs in YGN, at which the latest version of the <u>shelter</u> aspect of the <i>Rakhine Inter-Agency Preparedness-Contingency Plan</i> (dated 15th April 2013) was shared in electronic and hard copy, in addition to being shared across Cluster, RC, OCHA, UNICEF, ECHO, USAID, DFID and AUSAID. Updated plan reflected what was agreed by all parties during 8th April mission to Rakhine. There was some concern at this YGN meeting with the DG that GOM was thinking of totally shifting its approach to shelter assistance for IDPs, a material package approach. Cluster Lead and UNHCR had raised strong concerns about this approach, which since 24th April meeting appeared to have been dropped.</p> <p>CC, as done in previous meetings, stressed for other actors to come forward if they had any interest in providing temporary shelter? While appreciative of some actors concerns around where temporary shelters were likely to be built, particularly freedom of movement and segregation issues, <u>saving lives</u> was now the priority,</p>	<p>CC noted that since last Cluster meeting there had some signs of some interest from some I/NGOs in terms of building temporary shelter. This included ICRC meeting the Shelter Cluster Lead in Rakhine, International Rescue Committee meeting the CC in YGN</p>
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	<p>which the a/m donors remained extremely supportive of at the aforementioned meetings/field visits. Again CC underscored the fact that at various meetings members of GOM had clearly articulated their appreciation that humanitarian actors were reluctant to get involved in shelter due to this very issue. However, GOM had stressed that provision of temporary shelter <i>must</i> be viewed as a temporary stage, not a permanent solution.</p> <p>Returning to the overall issue of the temporary shelter <i>gap</i> in Rakhine the CC noted that this remained fluid and hard to pin down. The overall trend was positive in that the GOM appeared to be making more and more commitments but the precise numbers they were planning to build in Rakhine was fluctuating. Based on the latest Shelter Cluster 3W Temporary Shelter Matrix - Rakhine State, 8.5.13, the current gap in rural Sittwe Township stood at 527 temporary shelters, approximately 25,000 people, approximately 72% of all of the temporary shelter needs in Sittwe Township. However, part of this gap remains focused on the issue GOM eligibility issues for IDPs that moved in to Sittwe Township from Pauktaw and Kyaukphyu Townships. The CC also noted that there were other gaps in the Townships of Kyaukphyu, Ramree, Minbya, Mrauk U, Kyawtaw, and</p>	<p>and some written contact from Care. This wider interest in temporary shelter was welcome and it was noted that Cluster member UNHCR was turning down offers of additional funding to build shelters since its current programmatic capacity was at full stretch. In addition to commitments coming from the usual cohort of supportive donors, USAID, AUSAID and DFID, CC also noted there had been a bilateral meeting with the Swiss Confederation, who also had funds to support temporary shelter in Rakhine.</p> <p>Agreed that the CC would continue to feed temporary shelter gap issues through to the Cluster albeit they were moving on an almost daily basis and thus CC would aim to find a balance between regular updates but not so frequent that it confused Cluster members.</p>
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	<p>Rathedaung.</p> <p>Noting the rains were now present, CC drew reference to last written communication to all Cluster members for emergency shelter stocks for Rakhine, dated 16th April. Other than StC's offer of emergency shelter support for 4,000-5,000 IDPs in Rakhine with the provision of tarpaulins (6x4), rope and bamboo, plus a pledge of 179 sets (2 pieces per set) of (16 feet x 6 feet) tarpaulin & 301 pieces (20 feet x11.5 feet) tarpaulin by UNICEF, no agencies had been forthcoming, with the exception of UNHCR. CC continued to stress this very worrying gap, and would continue to raise it will all/relevant interlocutors.</p>	
Kachin Update	<p><i>Camp Profiling</i></p> <p>Since the last meeting CC had organized a meeting with OCHA to resolve confusion over ownership of the CCCM Camp List.</p> <p><i>Shelter Needs</i></p> <p>On broader Kachin coordination issues, StC again stated that there was a "coordination gap" in Northern Shan of NGCA. Some actors were working there, various LNGOs and StC, but lack of more precise information as to who was working where and doing what.</p> <p>CC particularly welcomed the presence of presence of LNGO, KMSS. Father Joseph gave an overview of their activities in Kachin: WASH/sanitation, CCCM, NFI, shelter and education. This led into a wider discussion of the</p>	<p>While agreed at meeting in April amongst Cluster Lead, UNHCR and OCHA participants as to most appropriate course of action, awaiting confirmation from OCHA YGN.</p> <p>In the short-term acknowledged that it would be difficult to resolve immediately but (despite no progress since the last meeting), efforts should be made to get a clearer picture.</p>

	<p>shortfall in funding for activities in Kachin, particularly in the area of CCCM. Noting this and the relative dominance of Rakhine, CC was keen to get more attention focused also on the needs in Kachin.</p> <p>One of the challenges outlined was the gathering of good data, particularly in NGCA areas and the relatively small capacity of the humanitarian community. Mention was also made about some violence reported in Northern Kachin, reputedly in four different locations.</p>	<p>Any more information that could be provided by the Cluster from Cluster members would be much appreciated.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p><i>Health Cluster</i></p> <p>Merlin noted that they were in the process of discussing drafting a Health Cluster “statement”, which would be endorsed by all members and in part was focused on trying to fill the gap between Union and State. It was also noted that in comparison to shelter and WASH for the CERF funding, they had received a relatively small proportion, only 10 per cent of the total US\$5 million. The CC did stress that throughout all the recent engagements on shelter issues in Rakhine with the donor/diplomatic community, and the GOM, the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster had continued to advocate and stress that WASH and health needs were just as important as shelter, if not more so.</p>	<p>As an example, see the latest version of the <u>shelter</u> aspect of the <i>Rakhine Inter-Agency Preparedness-Contingency Plan</i> (dated 15th April 2013)</p>

Next YGN meeting likely to be 22nd May, 10.00, UNHCR YGN Office, see http://themimu.info/Meeting_Schedule/index.php for confirmation. Also CC would send an email confirmation.

Documents shared in hard copy with the participants at the meeting included:



Shelter Cluster 3W Temporary Shelter Matrix - Rakhine State, 8.5.13