


CONSORTIUM OF  HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES	Meeting : Northern Forum Date 17 July 2009	
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Document Information

Meeting :	Northern Forum 2009				
Prepared By/ Date:	Niranjani				
Type:	Conference				
Purpose:	Improve Coordination, Facilitation and Networking among agencies, groups and individuals working in the Humanitarian Sector				
Meeting Date:	17 th July 09	Start Time:	8.30 am	End Time:	9.45 am
Venue	CARITAS SEDEC				
Meeting Chair:	Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah Executive Director - CHA	Facilitator	CHA		
Minute Taker:	Niranjani	Phone:	4610943		

Present

Organisation	Organisation	Organisation
IRD	OCHA	USAID
IHR	AJJDC	ACTED
CHA	Care	WDP
Jen	LWR	HFHSL
NPSL	UMCOR	FORUT
PLAN	LST	CTF
JRS	Leads	Sarvodaya
SCiSL	Nonviolent peace force	Internews
ADT	ASB	Muslim Aid
CF SL	Caritas	Oxfam GB
Agromart	SWM	UNHCR
SWM	SEDEC	SDC

Agenda No	Subject	Action by/ date
	<p data-bbox="342 212 1300 275">Presentation on IDPs in Vavuniya & issues and challenges in providing relief to the IDPS – Zola Dowel – Head Office- UNOCHA</p> <p data-bbox="342 317 488 348">Highlights</p> <p data-bbox="342 359 639 390">Water and Sanitation</p> <ul data-bbox="342 394 1300 1052" style="list-style-type: none"> - In Vavuniya, due to the approaching rainy season in September, the need for improved drainage and maintenance of shelters is a priority. The Competent Authority (CA) is enlisting support from the GA and local authorities to address these issues. Humanitarian Agencies are also considering contingency plans and resources to target priority areas. - Of the 15,000 latrine target for current IDP sites 9,215 have been completed as of 13 July. In the last month alone, nearly 5,200 latrines were constructed. - Provision of hygiene promotion is a growing concern given ongoing crowding of the sites, difficulties in obtaining morbidity and mortality data to support interventions to mitigate water-borne disease outbreaks and insufficient suitable land to build additional latrines - On average, a total of 4,400 cubic meters of water is currently available in all Vanni IDP sites, including 3,000 cubic meters of drinking water (10 l/person/day). However water coverage is not consistent across the zones within Manik Farm in Vavuniya resulting in some continuing gaps and significant waits for water collection. <p data-bbox="342 1087 444 1119">Shelter</p> <ul data-bbox="342 1123 1300 1667" style="list-style-type: none"> - In Vavuniya, the timely maintenance of shelters is a concern, with a backlog due to resource and logistical constraints. - In Vavuniya, progress on shelter construction in newly identified sites is as follows: Menik Farm zone 6A (66% complete), zone 6B (awaiting clearance by SLA), zone 7 (83% complete), zone 8 (15% tented, 1 block awaits site clearance). Alongside progress, delays in site clearance and handover of new sites are constraining UN/NGO activities including for surveyors and assessment teams. - Three additional sites in Chinnachippikulam were identified for development as soon as zones 6A to 8 are completed. - Planning of new and existing sites continues but with various challenges including coordination, safety concerns, etc. The CA has agreed in principle that additional facilities should not be built on the site without first confirming site suitability and having plotted site plans. <p data-bbox="342 1671 440 1703">Health</p> <ul data-bbox="342 1707 1300 1961" style="list-style-type: none"> - In Vavuniya, the Health Cluster reports an increase of meningitis cases among IDPs in Menik Farm. According to the RDHS, 18 patients have been transferred to hospitals outside the district for further treatment. - Interim immunization guidelines for IDP settings have been developed as approved by the National Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases. Guidelines on maternal and child healthcare have also been developed. 	

- Some challenges faced by the health cluster include the need for improved early detection of emerging diseases in IDP camps, the need for better information on non-communicable diseases and disabilities among IDPs, the need for improved water and sanitation standards and human resource constraints such as insufficient specialist coverage (eg. Obstetrics and Gynecology) as well as the need for additional paramedical staff.
- Though there are sufficient numbers of doctors and other staff available, there is an acute shortage of specialist medical doctors. As the number of IDPs increase there is a need for additional staff in all categories. The health personnel among the displaced are also working in the sites to improve health conditions. Many health teams from different parts of the island come on rotation to work in the IDP sites. A coordination center has been established by the Ministry of Health to look into IDP health. A Director of IDP Health has also been appointed. The main welfare centers have Primary Health Care Centers and a Referral Center with few beds.

Question

1. Could you provide an update about Children in the camps?

In Vavuniya, two Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) were established in blocks 3 and 4 of Menik Farm zone 4 and recreational material was provided. In Vavuniya, discussions took place between the Shelter Cluster, the GA and local authorities to establish Child Focus Centres in IDP sites. The first pilot Child Focus Centre is expected to be completed shortly in block 28 of Menik Farm zone 3. The Child Focus Centre will be run by representatives of the following agencies: Probation Office (in charge of legal issues, such as the care of unaccompanied and/or separated minors), DCDC/NCPA (National Child Protection Authority, the child protection coordination body), Ministry of Social Services (in charge of psychosocial counselling and disability issues), Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPO) in charge of identification and referral of vulnerable children and Police 'Women and Children's desks'.

2 Any updates on death rates in the camps? According the newspaper 1400 dies every week. Is it true?

No, this is completely exaggerated news. However, WHO has the details and CHA could invite WHO, UNICEF for detail information

Advocacy Update

Following points were briefed by Mr. Jeevan Thiagarajah.

1. Current Humanitarian Imperatives: A series of meetings were held at CHA to discuss I/NGOs reflections, thoughts and comments on what we, as a humanitarian community, should be focusing or prioritizing on in terms of humanitarian imperatives. Follow-up sessions were held and final draft will be sent to agencies by next. CHA also have requested a meeting with Hon. Basil Rajapakse for a discussion.
2. Complimentary food for IDPs: there is a development in complimentary food. Rations are available. Also a desperate call

	<p>for complimentary food for 5000 people being transferred to Suganthipuram IDP Camp in Vavuniya was coordinated.</p>	
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