

**BEIRUT Minutes of Shelter Cluster Meeting
Council of the South, Beirut at 10:00 A.M, 26 April 2007**

Participants:

Organization	Name	Phone	Email
BBJ	Rabi Shibli	03-175175	rabishibli@hotmail.com
COS	Mahmoud Fakih	03-677789	mfakih1@gmail.com
HFHL	Dani El Tayar	70-107307	danitayar@gmail.com
	Dan O'Brien	70-167055	dobrien@habitat.org
MAJAL	Rita Chedid	03-631643	majal@alba.edu
NRC	Henrik Hjort	07-0935421	shelter@lebanon.nrc.no
UN HABITAT	Dania Rifai	03-214422	dania.rifai@undp-lebprojects.org
	Eric Verschuur		Eric.Verschuur@unhabitat.org

Meeting Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Update on Shelter Cluster Activities
3. Any Other Business & next meeting

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The shelter cluster meeting hosted at the CoS offices in Beirut was chaired by **UN-HABITAT** and **CoS** represented by Dr. Mahmoud Fakhri.

2. UPDATE ON SHELTER CLUSTER ACTIVITIES

- **UN-HABITAT** welcomed Mr. Eric Verschuur from the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division-Office for Africa and the Arab States based in the Headquarters in Nairobi.
- **UN-HABITAT HQ** gave a brief introduction about the global mandate of UN-HABITAT, which focuses on issues dealing with promoting sustainable urbanization. The agency has been engaged in the past years in a number of post-conflict and post-disaster activities in the Middle East and Asian countries.
- **UN-HABITAT (Lebanon)** announced that funding was approved for two projects, which are expected to start in the few coming weeks. The first project will be dealing with post-war recovery and rehabilitation of affected buildings and communal infrastructure in Hayy el Sullum Area in Beirut Southern Suburb. The second project would focus on providing necessary technical assistance to local authorities and affected communities in order to enhance the reconstruction process of a number of destroyed villages in Southern Lebanon. **UN-HABITAT** informed that a field trip would be organized with the Italian Cooperation to Hayy El Sullum in order to identify possible recovery and development programs. Cluster agencies were invited to take part in the field day.
- **HFHL** opened a discussion about the draft cluster strategy and inquired about agencies feedback on issues raised in previous meetings, mainly: the management structure, the role of cluster agencies and coordination mechanisms, standardization, documentation and knowledge management issues.
- **UN-HABITAT** clarified that the cluster strategy was developed in a participatory approach involving all agencies. Draft documents were shared with cluster agencies since two months to send their feedback and comments. Very few agencies responded to this request.
- **UN-HABITAT HQ** noted that the document is a Joint Cluster **Strategy** versus a Joint Cluster **Project**. The idea behind it is to develop one strategy that fits all agencies. The adoption of the strategy is optional and depends on agencies mandate and willingness to mobilize funding resources for implementation purposes. It was also clarified that **UN-HABITAT** usually sub-contracts local NGOs to implement specific actions. The agency partners with international NGOs only when local capacities are lacking, which is not the case in Lebanon.

- **BBJ** informed that they have been providing technical assistance to homeowners in Kleile and Zabqine on voluntary basis. The agency succeeded in mobilizing more than ten volunteer architects and planners from universities and private firms. **BBJ** pointed that time factor should be carefully considered by related agencies. The quicker agencies start the implementation the more relevant the project would be and the bigger impact can be produced.
- **UN-HABITAT** replied that the donor primarily approved the project. The draft version should be re-visited and downsized to match with the available funding size. As such, it is expected that project implementation will be launched by June 2007 for a two-year duration.
- **NRC** briefed attendants about the progress of on-going projects:
 - Shelter repair project in Nabatiye is in the final termination stages and reached to date 950 homeowners.
 - The Tyre Shelter Repair Project that focuses on waterproofing treatment was launched and is expected to cover 30 villages and to reach 1,600 households.
 - NRC newly opened an office in Beirut Southern Suburb where the agency is implementing a recovery program for Palestinian refugees in Gaza Building.
 - Initial funding was made available for an educational project dealing with Iraqi refugees.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding was concluded with UNRWA to repair war damaged houses for Palestinian refugees living in gatherings, camps and villages in Southern Lebanon.
- **HFHL** is continuing the implementation of the shelter repair program in the following villages: Kounine (LBN41028), Qana (LBN63089), Siddiqine (LBN63100), Taire (LBN41041), Rechkananey (LBN63095) and Beit Yahoun (LBN41007). **HFHL** inquired about the compensation plan for totally destroyed houses in the two villages adopted by Syria: Qana and Siddiqine. According to communities, **HFHL** reported that the adopting country is compensating for houses with a size not exceeding 135 square meters houses and the amount of compensations are much less than the GoL plan.
- **MAJAL** announced that the launching event for the observatory would take place on May 14th, 2007. Invitations would be sent to agencies representatives shortly.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING

- **UN-HABITAT HQ** gave a presentation on the agency's Urban Development Program in Somalia, which deals with legal and institutional reform for the urban sector, strengthening municipal governance, civil society and community participation, land management, local economic development...

- After no other business was discussed, the next **Beirut Cluster** meeting was set for **Thursday the 3rd of May 2007 at 10:00 A.M in the CoS offices in Beirut.**
- The **Tyre Cluster Meeting** will take place on Friday the **4th of April 2007 at 14:00 P.M** in the **CoS Offices in Tyre.**

Minutes Prepared By:
Dania Rifai
UN Habitat

ANNEX A: Acronyms and abbreviations

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
BBJ	Beit Bil Jnoub
CARITAS	Catholic relief, development and social service organization
CDR	Council of Development and Reconstruction Lebanon
CFD	Central Funds for the Displaced
CoS	Council of The South (Lebanese Government)
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DART	Disaster Assistance Response Team
DCA	Danish Church Aid
DIG	Development Innovations Group
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
GoL	Government of Lebanon
HFHL	Habitat For Humanity Lebanon
HPM	UN Habitat Programme Manager
HRC	High Relief Commission
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JEB	Jihad El Binaa
JEN	Japanese Emergency NGO
LFHR	Lebanese Foundation for Human Rights
NFI	Non Food Items
NPA	Norwegian People's Aid
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
PAI	Partner Aid International
PIN	People In Need
RI	Relief International
SDC	Switzerland's agency for Development and Cooperation

UN Habitat	United Nations Center For Human Settlements
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNJLC	United Nations Joint Logistics Centre
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
YMCA	Young Men Christian Association

ANNEX B: Miscellaneous Information

Cos Offices In South Lebanon:

Council of The South
Abbasieh Intersection entrance of Tyre
Turn Left at the Round about at the Entrance of Tyre
Behind the Medical Diagnosis Centre of The South
For more information please contact:
Mr. Ali Ismaiel (+961 3 377741) Head of CoS Office in Tyre.

Address in Arabic:

مكاتب مجلس الجنوب
مفرق العباسية طريق عام صور
خلف مركز الجنوب للتشخيص الطبي

The Minutes of Meeting are also Published on the Following WebSite:

www.lebanon-support.org

ANNEX C: Government of Lebanon

Compensation Payment Installments Mechanism in South Lebanon

- 1) Compensation payments are made in accordance with the damage assessments conducted by the CoS engineers and verified by Khatib & Alami (an Engineering consulting company appointed by the prime minister's office for compilation and verification of damage assessments in all of Lebanon). The damage assessments cover only structural damage of the homes and do not cover furniture and personal items or equipment. Furniture compensation is 20% of the Damage Assessment.
- 2) After verification, the payment values are then requested from The High Relief Commission (HRC) who in turn issue compensation checks addressed directly to the beneficiaries through the ministry of finance and the checks are later sent to CoS who distribute the checks among the villages.
- 3) All compensation payments above LL 12 Million are distributed in two instalments, and cover three categories of damage assessments: (Refer to Table Below)
 - i. Payment for Repairs of Homes without Structural Damage
 - ii. Payment for Repairs of Homes partially destroyed
 - iii. Payment for Reconstruction of destroyed homes
- 4) After receiving the first payment, the beneficiary has to repair enough to cover the first instalment amount, after which the beneficiary will apply for the second instalment. CoS will then send engineers to overlook the repairs and deduct the repairs from their checklist to ensure that the first instalment is covered.
- 5) After reassessment is made CoS will send requests for second instalment checks to HRC which will in turn send a payment order to the ministry of finance for payment and the second instalment checks are then distributed through CoS.

Description of the Three Damage Categories	First Installment			Second Installment	Total Payments Ceiling
	Repair Works	Furniture	First Payment Ceiling	Repair Works and Furniture	
First Category: Minor Repairs (No Structural Damage)					
Homes with Minor repairs Less than LL 5 Million	LL 200,000 --> LL 5 Mill	N/A	LL 5 Million	N/A	LL 5 Million
Homes with Repair Works Up To LL 10 Million	LL 5 Mill --> LL 10 Mill	Add 20%	LL 12 Million	N/A	LL 12 Million
Homes with Repair Works Above LL 10 Million	LL 10 Mill	LL 2 Mill	LL 12 Million	Up to 24 Million	LL 36 Million
Second Category: Major Repairs (Structural Damage)					
Homes Partially Destroyed	LL 10 Mill	LL 2 Mill	LL 12 Million	Up To 36 Million	LL 48 Million
Third Category: Total Reconstruction					
Homes Totally Destroyed	LL 25 Mill	LL 5 Mill	LL 30 Million	Up to 30 Million	LL 60 Million

The above information was received from Council of The South in the Shelter Cluster Meeting held in CoS offices on 02-Nov-2006 In Tyre.