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| **Title:** | Temporary settlement support subgroup of ESF-6 Mass Care & Shelter Humanitarian Partners Meeting |
| **Date:** | 10 October 2019 |
| **Venue:** | National Training Centre, Meeting Room A |
| **Time:** | 4:00 – 5:00 pm |
| **Present:** | PWG, IOM, IsraAid, Salvation Army, Social Services, Americares, Team Rubicon USA, H4H, BUYDC |

**Chair: Leonard Cargill, Assistant Director Social Services**

**Co-chair: Yasmine Colijn, IOM**

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions/Overview**
2. **Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points**
3. **Updates – per sector**
4. **Consolidation Plans – Emergency Shelters New Providence**
5. **AOB**
6. **Introductions / Overview**

* The ESF-6 Humanitarian Partners Coordination meeting aims to improve the collaborative efforts of humanitarian agencies with each other and the Government of the Commonwealth of Bahamas.
* A Temporary settlement support subgroup was created to address concerns of longer-term shelter needs.
* This subgroup is co-chaired by NEMA and IOM.
* This meeting includes representatives from the Government, private sector organizations, local NGOs and CBOs and UN Agencies, who attend the weekly meetings (Thursday at the National Training Agency) at 4pm.
* Generally, the group shares updates from their organizations, makes inquiries about ongoing operations, offers solutions to the gaps identified and makes decisions on how best to allocate resources.
* Each agency is encouraged to update the 3W form to indicate project activities and available resources.

1. **Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points**

* Minutes adopted without comment.
* Pending action points:
  + Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to share the appropriate contact with H4H so that a meeting can be organised to clarify and improve the efficiency of dry food requests and provision. This is pending follow up from Social Services. Meeting to take place once the consolidation has taken place – ideally Tuesday.
  + Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to confirm what information is available from the needs assessments that have been conducted by Social Services. – Official report is expected by early next week.
  + Action 🡪 IOM/Social Services to follow up with Rainfurly Home where such a training is being provided to staff and could be replicated in the centres. - Pilfering issue is followed up on/ though sometimes this is purely charing of resources/moving to other sites. Action point remains for IOM to be discussed with BUYDC to look at key contacts, timeframe, and budget required.
  + Action 🡪 Social Services to request the inspection check list for minimum standards in a kitchen, which could be explored if there would be a need to establish a new kitchen at the site. To be discussed in the meeting with food partners.
  + Action 🡪 IOM to draft the following proposals for Social Services and future implementation:
    - Sub-group Terms of Reference/Key Purpose & Responsibilities – to be shared today
    - Draft action plan for coming months
    - Proposed meeting structure (including operational meetings at shelter level)
  + Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to share consolidation plans. – discussed under main body of minutes.
  + Action 🡪 Raise WASH concerns to relevant partners – pending.
  + Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to further share concerns regarding the Abaco Family Centre/Spring City with relevant stakeholders in government and pursue a meeting with all key actors – crucially those involved currently in establishing the site. It was noted that the Spring City /Abaco Family Centre plan is going ahead and that at this stage the key means of offering input on the site planning and other concerns raised should be done through a direct appeal to the Permanent Secretary – Ms Rahming, outlining support that can be offered and recommendations that are being made regarding the establishment of the site.
    - IOM noted that one of the key stakeholders – John Michael Clarke – will be at the shelter sector meeting tomorrow at 8.30am, where perhaps this can be discussed further. The Prime Minister’s office has requested IOM to provide financial support to the site, which would only be done if standards can be met and this discussion is opened up.

1. **Updates**

**Shelter Management**

* **Ministry of Social Services (Mr. Cargill)**
* 1003 individuals from Abaco remain missing. 205 people out of Grand Bahama are unaccounted for. However, Social Services helpdesks have successfully connected 815 people from Abaco with relatives, as well as 135 from Grand Bahama.
* Assessments remain ongoing in Abaco. It was noted that conflicting reports are coming in with regards to whether humanitarian relief has been provided or not in certain areas – this is being verified.
* Further updates on consolidation of emergency shelters in New Providence under point 4.
* **IOM**
* IOM continues to focus on supporting the government in their coordination of the emergency shelters. Current shelter figures can be seen in the snapshot shared in the Whatsapp group.
  + Overall numbers on the DTM snapshot have increased, as this now also includes the individuals who are being housed by BDHA in hotels and apartments.
  + Therefore today’s total figure stands at. 1,811.
* The question was raised as to how accurate the numbers are regarding where people are going when departing Sir Kendal G Isaac’s Gym.
  + Currently, IOM is trying to map movement patterns both on the island as well as to other islands such as Grand Bahama and Abaco. However, due to the push factors that are likely driving people away from official emergency shelters, hard figures are not available.
  + In relation to this, the Protection WG raised the concern that individuals leaving the shelters may not be aware of which services are available to them, and to which services they have a right. This is a key area on which clear communication with communities and dissemination of information could support those outside shelters in approaching services when needed.
* The Scouting Association Site will not be going ahead as an official Emergency Shelter under the purview of Social Services as a final agreement was not reached with the Department of Public Works.
  + IOM has been in contact with the Scouting Association leadership to understand what their next steps will be. Either the site will be dismantled and the donated items allocated to other locations, or the site can remain open as an unofficial shelter.
  + Though the space could be used to house individuals who are currently in hotels or other sites, it should be noted that the Scouts Association would require significant support on the Shelter Management front – as they would have been expecting to host a dedicated Shelter Manager from Social Services.
  + The Scouting Association Team received a basic briefing from IOM on minimum standards and Camp Management. They are ready and willing to be part of future Capacity Building exercises on Shelter Management, in preparation of future emergencies.

**Health**

* Americares reiterated their concerns regarding space allocation for medical service provision in Sir Kendall Isaac’s. These currently do not meet appropriate standards, with the space being so small and public that individuals are being treated without privacy, and in some instances other evacuees are being asked to move their beds to create sufficient space to treat patients.
* Americares also noted that when the shelter consolidation took place this week, the 3 tents were allocated based on shelter of origin: Saint’s, Pilgrim’s, Fox Hill. As such, more vulnerable individuals are now in distant tents rather than in the main Gym hall where they could be closer to the medical teams. Social Services on the ground did not approve of moving such individuals.
* In addition, patients who are taking prescription medication from other clinics who are now in the Gym require refills that can only be issued after bloodwork.
  + Action -> ESF 6 to follow up on whether someone can come to the Gym on a weekly basis to collect blood tests and facilitate these refills.
* IFRC noted the concern that there may be infants in the Gym who have not yet had their full vaccinations. With a high number of individuals in one space, this could become a health concern.
  + Americares noted that they could conduct immunization rounds if they were officially designated as a clinic, which is currently not the case.
  + Action -> ESF 6 to follow up with the Health WG on the issue of immunization.

**MHPSS:**

* IsraAID noted that they are working in partnership with UNICEF to establish Child Friendlt Spaces in community centres and shelters such as Sir Kendall Isaac’s. As such there are open and interested to collaborate with other actors on Child Protection and MHPSS issues.
* Training of ministry staff has been ongoing, and they will be identifying a space jointly at Sir Kendall Isaac’s for a CFS.

**Food/Cash**

* As noted in the action points, there is an ongoing issue regarding coordination of food provision to the Emergency Shelters. As the number of shelters declines, logistics should become simpler – however several issues remain to be ironed out.
* WCK reiterated in the Food Sec meeting that they will remain for the long run and provide lunch and dinner for all of the shelters – including Sir Kendall Isaac’s. As such, it needs to be clarified why an additional request was made to the Life Empowerment Church to serve the same location. The matter of breakfast – which is currently being tackled on an ad hoc rolling basis – also needs to be clarified.
* Outside the shelters, H4H is providing food vouchers to those in the BDHA hotels as well as receiving support from NPCC – as part of a wider shift towards food vouchers.
* The Life Empowerment Church has provided up to 300 meals a day to evacuees in New Providence who are coming through the Red Cross. They are also serving some 150 meals to Haitian Churches.

**Protection**

* Several protection concerns, specifically regarding Sir Kendall Isaac’s gym were raised:
  + It appears that water provision may be cut off from the afternoon onwards. Though this is understandable it would be great if
    - There could be clearer communication to the evacuees regarding the timing
    - Evacuees could be consulted regarding the timing, as many girls and women may prefer to shower later in the day when there are less people milling around the outside area, for instance.
  + Requests have been coming up for items for baby items (hygiene kits, feeding, etc.). In order to streamline these, it would be good to know what distribution and warehousing systems are in place – to ensure fair and equal distribution, and lift some weight off the shoulders of individual Social Services Staff.
  + It was noted that the population has been displaced for a month now, and as such sexual relations are beginning to resume. Due to the lay-out of the site, this means that this is taking place wherever possible as well as in the view of children. In addition, concerns were raised that sex work has picked up inside the shelter which may in some cases be a negative coping mechanism. Furthermore, young girls are often seen with older men and without clear registration of families in the shelter – staff can’t quickly identify whether these men are relatives or not.
    - Americares noted that they have condoms available, but were not permitted to distribute these in the Gym, and as such they are only available at the Clinic Desk.
    - In instances of rape – there is mandatory reporting. However this also becomes a concern in such a public space. PWG noted that PEP kits and mandatory reporting are being discussed under the GBV working group and referral mechanism.
    - It was also anecdotally noted that there appear to be some has identified homeless individuals from Nassau who are residing in the shelter.

**WASH**

* Sanitation & sewage, particularly at Sir Kendall Isaac’s remains an issue to be raised with WASH partners. An additional point would be to ensure a sterilisation space for baby bottles.
  + Action 🡪 To be followed up share with WASH partners.

1. **Consolidation Plans - Emergency Shelters New Providence**

* As the population in the Emergency Shelters has decreased, Social Services has begun consolidation into Sir Kendall Isaac’s Gym. By the end of this week All Saint’s, Pilgrim’s, and Fox Hill will all be closed as Emergency Shelters. Plans for Bahamas Academy and Calvary Haitian Church have not yet been cemented, but depending on capacity it is possible that the full evacuee population of the emergency shelters will be consolidated in Sir Kendall Isaac’s.
* It was noted that this population has now been displaced for over a month – which is a new and abnormal situation for the Bahamas. As such, a shift is now taking place from Emergency Shelters to Mass Shelters in which individuals may remain for a period of time that exceeds a few weeks.
* Though this is new to the Bahamas, this is unfortunately a common situation in other parts of the world. As such, the humanitarian partners are offering Social Services support in improving the living circumstances in Sir Kendall Isaac’s and supporting the Social Services teams through this means.
  + Mr. Cargill noted that this is in fact a new situation for the Bahamas, and that support was welcomed.
  + To do this in a structured manner, partners are requested to put forward a proposal regarding support that is on offer and recommendations for this site – so that Social Services has a clear picture of what can be done.
  + Action -> ESF 6 to coordinate Support Proposal for Social Services.
  + It was noted that with some proposals, Social Services staff on the ground have not been keen on implementing them. It would be key to understand what their concerns are, in order to be able to address them and offer support. The suggestion was made to pursue a joint assessment of the site prior to drafting a plan – which has been relayed to Mr. Cargill.
* Key Issues that will be addressed in this proposal (not an exclusive list) would pertain to how humanitarian partners can support in:
  + Space allocation within the site – both for the living area and service areas
    - Service areas for Health & MHPSS
    - Reallocation of the living spaces to allow for further privacy and mitigation against protection concerns.
    - Private spaces for breastfeeding (for instance).
  + Communication with Communities (such as for example through the Help Desk proposed by IFRC) & Community Participation
  + Support in training for staff regarding longer term displacement
  + Coordination of water, sanitation, & food provision

1. **AOB**

* It was agreed that meetings will switch to weekly, from this meeting onwards. The next meeting will be this Thursday October 17th.

***Next meeting: Thursday 17th October 4pm, Room A, NTA***

***Whatsapp group:*** [https://chat.whatsapp.com/JP6mG6zQYCh951H0axeVem](https://chat.whatsapp.com/JP6mG6zQYCh951H0axeVem" \t "_blank)

