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| **Title:** | Emergency Shelter support subgroup of ESF-6 Mass Care & Shelter Humanitarian Partners Meeting |
| **Date:** | 17 October 2019 |
| **Venue:** | National Training Centre, Meeting Room A |
| **Time:** | 4:00 – 5:00 pm |
| **Present:** | Salvation Army, Social Services, IOM, Americares, Team Rubicon, Convoy of Hope, Project Hope, Hands for Hunger, UNFPA, BUYDC, Mission of Hope, Ferreira Foundation |

**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. **Discussion on the WG ToR**
5. **Presentation of the "Mass Shelters Humanitarian Support Proposal"**
6. **AOB**
7. **Introductions / Overview**
8. **Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points**

* Minutes adopted without comment.
  + 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.
    - Meeting took place on 16th October with participation from food partners, NEMA, Social Services, ESF 11 (Food Security), and ESF 6 (Emergency Shelters). Minutes will be shared more widely once finalized. Key message was that all food requests from shelters should be directed to the EOC who will coordinate food provision from the NEMA warehouse and other partners where needed.
    - It was clarified that there is no shortage of pantry items at NEMA, but that support would be appreciated on sorting the items available to prevent delays.
    - Fresh produce & perishable items will continue to be requested from food partners as these cannot be stored at NEMA.
  + Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to confirm what information is available from the needs assessments that have been conducted by Social Services.
    - No update as of yet
  + Action 🡪 IOM to draft the following proposals for Social Services and future implementation:
    - Sub-group Terms of Reference/Key Purpose & Responsibilities –circulated for feedback (see agenda point 4)
    - Draft action plan for coming months
    - Proposed meeting structure (including operational meetings at shelter level)
  + Action 🡪 Raise WASH concerns to relevant partners
    - These concerns were raised in the WASH meeting on the 17th of October. Trash build-up remains an ongoing issue, which is not linked to Bahamas Waste pick-up but rather manpower (which is available 9-3 from Monday to Friday). Complementary staffing is required.
    - In addition – communication with evacuees needs to improve to ensure that trash is disposed of in the designated areas. (See agenda point 5).
  + Action -> ESF 6 to follow up on whether the Ministry of Health can designate someone to come to the Gym on a weekly basis to collect blood tests and facilitate refills of prescriptions that require updated bloodwork.
    - Americares to share the number of individuals that would require this with Social Services.
  + Action -> ESF 6 to follow up with the Health WG/ Ms Cooper on the issue of immunization.
    - Americares notes that they have a cold chain capacity and are currently providing flu vaccines.
  + Action -> ESF 6 to coordinate Support Proposal for Social Services. – addressed under agenda point 5

1. **Updates**

**Shelter Management**

* **Department of Social Services (Mr. Cargill)**
* The current population of the Collective Shelters stands at 825 individuals. 304 in the main hall of Sir Kendall Isaac’s Gym + 126 in tent A, 64 in tent B, 118 in tent C) – no significant drop since the 15th of October (latest publication of figures). Calvary Church stands at 62, and Bahamas Academy 141.
* Social Services is looking at making adjustments/improvements at the Gym, specifically addressing issues such as lack of privacy for evacuees. It was noted that the Ministry of Public Works is looking at a Scope of Work for these improvements.
  + One of the issues is lack of cooking facilities at the Gym – Mr. Cargill will follow up on the establishment of full kitchen facilities outside/behind the Gym.
* There is currently no timeline for Bahamas Academy & Calvary Haitian Church populations to be consolidated into the Gym.
* Gym capacity is 700 people (though this may have been an overestimation as it currently remains crowded). Original calculation was based off the cot size, but should be re-calculated given the inflatable mattresses take up more space than cots.
  + Participants raised the question as to whether this calculation was based off “dignified living space”. It was noted that the original calculations pertained to the provision of Emergency Shelter. As there is now a shift taking place towards mid-term displacement, other standards (such as SPHERE – which calculates a minimum of 3.5m2 per person) need to be taken into account. This is further addressed under agenda point 5.
  + Participants asked what the ratio of adults to children is at the Gym. Mr. Cargill noted that these numbers are available and can be looked up.
* Ministry of Education is playing a crucial role in providing letters for the children, 1400 letters, 850 letters were collected. Over 500 waiting to be dispatched.
  + With the consolidation – transport remains an issue for children to go to the nearby school. This needs to be dealt with at a higher level of government, who can decide on provision of busses, or stipends to take public transport.
* **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.
* Update from meeting with John Michael Clarke on the Abaco collective site near Spring City:
  + The major effort now is to build a “relief center” (family camp, 2,000 person, etc.) in Abaco. The camp will consist of the dome structure (example of which is in front of NEMA headquarters). It is anticipated that the center will hold 1,000 people (down from the 2,000 originally planned). The domes and center are to be temporary.
  + The government has relaxed the building code to allow, on a temporary basis, the use of trailers and container homes (not defined), for living quarters. He noted that the ministry of Public Works may approve container homes for permanent living quarters if they are properly connected to services and the ground.
  + He stated that they have classified people and the housing assistance they will get within category, and noted examples: Bahamian citizens that own property, non-Bahamians that own property, Bahamians in rental properties, non-Bahamians in rental property, public service workers. 100 RVs have been sent for NEMA staff.
  + Next meeting set to take place tomorrow at 8.30am but will likely not be taking place as Mr Clarke is travelling to Abaco.

**Health**

* Americares updated on a discussion that took place about moving the EMT team into the VIP room where the defense force was previously overnighting at Sir Kendall Isaac’s. The request is for this to be approved so that there is more privacy and dignity for patients at the Gym. (This is also included as a key request in the Support Proposal).
* Additional MHPSS staff have arrived at the gym.
* Question was asked whether there were currently any medical causes for concern/outbreaks.
  + Americares noted that surveillance is ongoing and there are currently no causes for alarm.

**Food/Cash**

* Hands 4 Hunger provided a brief re-cap of the food coordination to Emergency Shelters meeting that took place (as described under action points).
* Perishable items are still required in addition to the pantry items being provided by NEMA - this is a way in which H4H and other partners can still contribute
* NEMA has noted that the key manpower issue is with regards to the sorting of food and ensuring that expiring food is prioritized. 24 containers of dry food remain to be sorted – and support would be appreciated.
* H4H received a large donation from the Salvation Army, being distributed outside of the shelters
  + How is access to people outside of the shelters? Social Services is being contacted with requests for donations to go to people outside the shelters. H4H is looking to confirm agencies serving out and how many individuals they are reaching

Life Empowerment Church was serving outside to Haitian communities – but it appears the pastor of Pernille Church has been detained and may be deported. This church was serving around 200-250 meals a day, which may now not be covered.

**GBV**

* Condoms are now freely available at the gym – which is progress from previous weeks.
* Family dignity kits were distributed before consolidation of three shelters into the Gym took place. As such the request is for numbers to be provided to UNFPA so that they can complete the distribution and ensure adequate coverage.
* UNFPA has started trainings for front-line responders (social workers and shelter managers, but can be expanded). These trainings will be rolled out with the Gender Department & Social Services on GBV core concepts, PFA, referral pathways. Everyone is kindly requested to make their staff available.
* GBV WG tomorrow 11 @ Gender Department
* 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.
  + Mr. Cargill noted that distribution systems are now in place in Sir Kendall Isaac’s and that Social Services is working on updating their database to ensure that there is full coverage of items distributed.

**Connectivity**

* Americares noted that the wifi at the Gym was disconnected and that Nethope and Team Rubicon were able to re-establish the connection within 24 hours – which was greatly appreciated.

1. **Discussion on the WG ToR**
   * Draft ToR was shared with last week’s minutes for review.
   * This ToR defines the scope of the WG – which should link to ESF 6 groups at an island level. IOM will be deploying a staff member next week to Abaco who will support the ESF 6 group specifically on the emergency shelter & displacement management side. As in Grand Bahama and Abaco the ESF 6 meetings are for Shelter Sector & Emergency Shelters jointly, they will feed into this as well as share information up to the national level meeting in Nassau.
   * Mr. Cargill expressed his appreciation for quick work on the document and noted that though it is a living document Social Servcies does not currently have any further feedback.
   * UNFPA noted that emphasis should e included on the need for comprehensive data to be sex, age, and gender disaggregated – under the mandate of ESF 6 in ensuring fair and accountable distributions & service provision which take these factors and vulnerability into account.
2. **Presentation of the "Mass Shelters Humanitarian Support Proposal"**

* As the population in the Emergency Shelters has decreased, Social Services has begun consolidation into Sir Kendall Isaac’s Gym. In addition to the Gym the only shelters that remain are Bahamas Academy and Calvary Haitian Church.
* 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.
* In previous meetings, Mr. Cargill noted that though support from the humanitarian community is appreciated, clarity was needed on the types of support that were being offered. As such, IOM coordinated a joint “Mass Shelters Humanitarian Support Proposal” for Social Services and other government departments to be able to consult. IOM expressed thanks to all actors who provided input under short timelines.
* The document covers:
  + **Material support:** Upon assessment, funds are available for repairs, improvements, and items needed for distribution. Donation items remain available
  + **Human resources/Technical expertise:** Current staffing has experience from other emergencies that would allow for support in areas such as:
    - Optimizing the spatial lay-out of Sir Kendall Isaac’s
    - Setting up easy and manageable distribution lists
    - Setting up structured flows for community feedback – reducing pressure on Social Services staff
  + **Capacity Building support:** Current staff on the ground can complement existing Social Services trainings with subjects such as:
    - De-escalation/Communicating with large groups
    - Psychological First Aid – immediate responses to cases of gender-based violence
    - Site management & information management in mid-term displacement
  + **Systems strengthening:**
    - Systems (such as distribution tracking) can be set up to support the current intervention as well as benefit ability to respond in future emergencies
    - Formalizing and documenting communication flow (on matters such as food distribution) so that these can easily be referred to in future
* Mr. Cargill asked for a finalized version of the document to be shared with him so that he could share this with relevant actors in government.
  + Partners ask that Social Services review the proposal, share with the appropriate decision-makers and agree upon a way forward.
  + After reaching agreement on the proposal, IOM is happy to organize a brief action planning session – led by Social Services – to set the proposal in motion.

1. **AOB** 
   * Participants raised the issue of service provision to evacuees outside of the government shelters, which remains an issue. Numbers are dropping in the government shelters whilst they are not concretely rising in areas such as Abaco and Grand Bahama – which could indicate a large population in need of services, in New Providence, who need to be captured and provided with assistance.
   * Though the CCCM Cluster is not activated in the Dorian response, the Global Cluster has offered a page for housing all documents pertaining to the ESF 6 – Emergency Shelters Working Group, which can be found here: <https://cccmcluster.org/operations/bahamas>

***Next meeting: Thursday 24th October 4pm, Room A, NTA***

***Whatsapp group:*** <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JP6mG6zQYCh951H0axeVem>

