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| **Title:** | Temporary settlement support subgroup of ESF-6 Mass Care & Shelter Humanitarian Partners Meeting |
| **Date:** | 3 October 2019 |
| **Venue:** | National Training Centre, Meeting Room A |
| **Time:** | 4:00 – 5:00 pm |
| **Present:** | Department of Social Services, ADRA, WFP, UNHCR/Protection, Americares, Hands for Hunger, ITDRC, Salvation Army, USAID |

**Chair: Leonard Cargill, NEMA Shelter Coordinator**

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

**Agenda:**

1. **Introductions/Overview**
2. **Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points**
3. **Updates**
4. **Discussion on future structure of meeting**
5. **AOB**
6. **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 bi-weekly meetings (Monday & Thursday at the National Training Agency) after the ESF6 meeting.
* 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 from September 30th adopted without comment.
* Pending action points:
  + IOM requested support from Mr Cargill to follow up on the authorization request that was made regarding DTM and other activities including registration. 🡪 Mr. Cargill noted that the request has been passed up to the Director of SS, then to the Parliamentary Secretary who has a law background who reviewed the request, made comments, and has reverted. IOM should expect feedback in the near future.
  + IFRC to follow up with a letter clarifying that the help desk can also be placed outside the Gym, as this was a concern raised by MSS. 🡪 IFRC not present, Mr. Cargill will follow up.

1. **Updates**

**Ministry of Social Services (Mr. Cargill)**

* Shelter figures are at a standstill – with hardly any movement taking place.
* MSS is looking into opening a tent site for families at the Boy Scout site. A multi-departmental team has already inspected the site, however a second visit is taking place given the Department of Public Works has not yet signed off on the site. The Department of Social Services is aiming to clarify that the site serves as temporary shelter to decongest the Gym and should not be viewed as more permanent hurricane shelters. It is to be noted that tents are new to the Bahamas, and as such people are reluctant to use them. These are ShelterBox dome tents being brought in by the Rotary. Each tent holds up to 5 people. 30 tents have been erected thusfar to accommodate a total population of 150 individuals.
  + The timeline for families moving out of the Emergency Shelters and into the Boy Scout site is currently not confirmed.
* Household-level needs assessments have taken place on the islands; over 1,000 households on Grand Bahama and around 400 on Abaco. Findings will be shared with the Department of Social Services for follow up.
* Americares asked how long the Gym is expected to remain an Emergency Shelter –
  + Mr. Cargill noted that this is a recurring question to which there is currently no firm answer. This is being discussed at various levels of government, while the matter of undocumented individuals in the shelters remains contentious.
* Mr. Cargill noted that there will be a possible need to combine the populations of several shelters. This as two sites – All Saint’s and Pilgrim are looking to begin using their spaces again. Fox Hill may also be closed in the near future. All Saint’s may be closing as soon as October 12th – when the hope is to shift the population to the Boy Scout Site.
  + IOM noted that with such shifts, there is a critical need for assessments such as the DTM to be moved ahead – allowing for up to date monitoring of both populations and services. Support can also be provided in the form of a consolidation strategy – should Social Services benefit from this.
  + IOM asked which services are already present at the Boy Scout site:
    - Service provision at the Boy Scout Site will be provided by Rotary and the Boy Scout’s Association. H4H will provide dry food which can be cooked on site. Medical partner remains unclear.
* H4H noted that they recently received a request for dry food items on an existing food request form from Social Services. As such, they wish to ensure that there is no duplication in either process or provision of materials.
  + Mr. Cargill noted that all donations should be filtered through the government so that there is a centralized point of organisation. H4H offered support in the coordination of dry goods, and as such requested a meeting with the focal point from the government side.
  + 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.

**IOM**

* IOM continues to focus on supporting the government in their coordination of the emergency shelters. Current shelter figures can be seen in the attached snapshot.
* IOM met with the Acting Director of the Department of Social Services (Ms. Lillian Quant-Forbes) who noted that the letter requesting had been shared for review and remain awaiting authorisation.
* IOM provided clarification on the purpose of the DTM, noting that this is a completely separate exercise to registration. The goal of the DTM is to provide one baseline for all sectors in a structured manner and as such reduce stress on front line service providers and shelter managers who are fielding all of these requests. As the population in the Emergency Shelters on New Providence declines and the response shifts from immediate emergency response, it is key to have accurate information at a shelter level – allowing for targeted response and consolidation of services.
  + Protection WG noted that an element of fatigue may exist when so many different lists are collected - duplication should be avoided and the DTM is key for this.
* Whilst awaiting authorisation, IOM is updating the list of non-governmental shelters based on information being received from H4H and the private sector. Naming of these sites has not yet been concluded. H4H suggested “agencies” which is the term they have been using.
* Reports are coming in from Abaco of further small groups of individuals arriving by boat. IOM is working on structured monitoring of this flow. Additionally, IOM is looking into identifying pockets of displaced individuals within the host community – however this will not include concrete figures, due to the sensitive nature of the data.
  + Action 🡪 IOM to follow up with ADRA and BUYDC for their contacts (both through the church and through the provision of hot meals) – to identify more of these pockets.
* ADRA asked whether information as available regarding similar populations on Grand Bahama.
  + Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to confirm what information is available from the needs assessments that have been conducted by Social Services.

**Americares**

* Noted that there have been issues of pilfering from donated materials by staff at the Gym. Mr. Cargill noted that someone will be appointed by Social Services to oversee and monitor the flow of materials.
* Yesterday there was an incident where tensions escalated and required involvement of the defense forces. This highlighted that tensions will continue to rise (especially as the undocumented population grows anxious over an unclear future) and that there may need to be (refresher) trainings on de-escalation for the defense forces stationed at the shelters.
  + Action 🡪 IOM/Social Services to follow up with Renferly Home where such a training is being provided to staff and could be replicated in the centres.
* Americares noted that there is a shelter-level operation meeting which takes place in the Gym together with managers from all sectors and the department of Social Services - which has been very helpful in troubleshooting and resolving issues within the Gym.
  + Action 🡪 IOM proposed replicating such a meeting at the other shelters and will propose a structure for this to Mr. Cargill.

**Hand for Hunger**

* 20 agencies are now receiving food on a daily basis. Assessments of the receiving agencies are ongoing and the preferred grocery list items for dry food are being consolidated – for a full switch to dry goods by October 16th.
* Mr. Cargill requested whether it would be possible to shift to washable/reusable cups and materials to limit the amount of waste currently being produced at the Emergency Shelters.
* As per the points under udates above, a meeting between H4H and the NEMA counterparts dealing with food coordination is key to resolve supply chain issues.
* H4H extended an open invitation to anyone who wishes to volunteer on their food delivery trucks as this is an excellent way to meet people in the community who have taken in evacuees – and lend support to the food distribution.
* Elizabeth Estate Children’s home has been notified to expect children. Further information was not yet available. The Bahamas Association for Social Health (BASH), which is a drug rehabilitation home for men also received word that they are to expect 10 evacuees into their centre.
* Lack of kitchen at the Bahamas Academy remains an issue.
  + 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. ADRA is also offering support, dependent on the needs.
* Protection WG noted that there is an increasing need to ensure that there is equal access to food amongst the affected population. Suggestion was made to put in place a basic ration card system – of which a template has been shared with H4H.

**ITDRC**

* Have been conducting visits to Grand Bahama and Abaco – equipping public shelters and hospitals with wifi. St George’s school in Grand Bahama is also being equipped. Internet access for the clinic in Abaco is being looked into.
* Noted that a Cash WG has been established in Abaco together with the Salvation Army and Social Services.

1. **Discussion on future structure of meeting**

* As the immediate emergency phase of the response is drawing to a close, IOM opened the floor to suggestions regarding this meeting/sub group and how it would be most useful both to Social Services and participants of the group.
  + Americares notes the usefulness of the current operational meetings at a shelter level (such as at the Gym), which could also take place at other shelters. In addition, it couldbe useful to scale these up and include focal points from Social Services, the Defense Force, etc. to address shared issues across the Emergency Shelters.
* To move forward, the following action points were suggested.
  + Action 🡪 IOM to draft the following proposals for Social Services and future implementation:
    - Sub-group Terms of Reference/Key Purpose & Responsibilities
    - Draft action plan for coming months
    - Proposed meeting structure (including operational meetings at shelter level)

1. **AOB**

* Due to turnover in staffing, there are lots of bounce-backs from the mailing list. IOM will switch to a Mailchimp, where you can subscribe and unsubscribe in order to keep the list clean. The whatsapp group can be joined per the link below.
* Update on Abaco Family Centre:
  + 1,000 individuals can be housed in this site within dome-shaped shelters
  + Assumed that this will be predominantly individuals of Haitian descent with legal status.
  + Government has requested support from interested agencies/private sector, though a formal focal point for communication is not apparent

***Next meeting: Monday 7th October 4pm, Room A, NTA***

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

