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| **Title:** | Temporary settlement support subgroup of ESF-6 Mass Care & Shelter Humanitarian Partners Meeting |
| **Date:** | 7 October 2019 |
| **Venue:** | National Training Centre, Meeting Room A |
| **Time:** | 4:00 – 5:00 pm |
| **Present:** | Humanity First, Team Rubicon USA, Americares, the Salvation Army, OFDA, BDHA, H4H, Chrysalis, IOM, Ferreira Foundation, Social Services |

**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. **AOB**
5. **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**

* Corrections made to the attendance list from Oct 3rd. Minutes adopted.
* 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 this week.
  + 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. – The DTM team has been conducting host community visits but there are no hard figures available.
  + 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 Renferly 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.
  + 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 H4H set this week.
  + Action 🡪 IOM to draft the following proposals for Social Services and future implementation:
    - Sub-group Terms of Reference/Key Purpose & Responsibilities – to be circulated this week, prior to the Thursday meeting
    - Draft action plan for coming months
    - Proposed meeting structure (including operational meetings at shelter level)

1. **Updates**

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

* Social Services noted that the figures shared by IOM reported on “unaccompanied” but that these children are in fact wards of the state. Regardless of humanitarian sector terminology, it would be appreciated if this phrasing were adjusted for future publications, to avoid confusion.
* Mr. Cargill noted that there has been a significant decrease in the shelter numbers, with around 40% of the population of Sir Kendall G Isaac’s Gym leaving the location over the weekend. Questions were raised by participants regarding the reasons why individuals were leaving, whether an exit survey process were takine place, and where individuals were residing now.
  + It was noted that there is currently no confirmed data on several of these matters, and that exit surveys are not a requirement when leaving a shelter. As such, we can assume that many individuals left out of fear, due to their legal status and statements that have recently been made in the media.
* Mr. Cargill reiterated that that there will be a possible need to combine the populations of several shelters and work towards consolidation. The following shelters are likely to be closed in the near future:
* Pilgimr’s
* Calvary Haitian Church
* All Saint’s
* Fox Hill
* Mr. Cargill noted that the government is in the process of preparing consolidation plans, which will be shared upon drafting. As part of these plans it is possible that consolidation would take place in Sir Kendall G Isaac’s Gym – splitting the space into separate areas for men, women, families, etc.
  + Americares noted that this had previously been the case in teh Gym, but that the community themselves had taken down this tenting system and created an open plan lay-out.
  + Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to share consolidation plans.
* The Scouting Association of the Bahamas site has not yet been signed off on by the Department of Public works. The Department of Social Services is aiming to clarify that the site serves as temporary shelter to and should not be viewed as more permanent hurricane shelters.

**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.
* IOM’s DTM team noted a significant decrease in the population figures at Sir Kendall Isaac’s Gym – with the total population now standing at 431. It would appear that people have left the site permanently as the numbers have remained stagnant since Saturday 5th October. Total shelter figures being reported is 1913 as of 7th October.
  + In order to better understand the displacement patterns and identify populations in need of service provision, IOM is seeking to capture where these individuals have moved through – examining host community hosting sites in New Providence, as well as reaching out for data on Abaco and Grand Bahama.
  + Team Rubicon noted that their colleagues had reported an almost 200% increase of the population at Moore’s Island.
  + IOM kindly requests that all such updates are shared on a rolling basis with ESF 6 sub WG and Social Services so that they can be triangulated.
* Inclusion of unofficial/religious sites?
* IOM noted that If numbers in the New Providence shelters continue to drop there is an increased need for an overarching strategy regarding management and consolidation of the Emergency Shelters. This is key to ensuring that service provision is efficient, fair, and targeted. IOM as well as other actors are on standby to over technical support to Social Services with the drafting of such a strategy.
* IOM’s DTM team will share a report on the Children’s Homes that are also hosting evacuee children this week, once the findings have been validated by all of the managers of these locations.
* IOM visited the Scouting Association site, where the following concerns were expressed:
  + Lack of information regarding timeline of population moving to the site
  + Lack of information on profile of this population
  + No appointed shelter manager
  + No government appointed security
* Mr. Cargill noted that all of the above will be put in place by Social Services once/if the site is designated as an official Emergency Shelter. Until a conclusion is reached on that matter, the site does not fall under the remit of Social Services.
  + Further concerns were raised with participants regarding this particular location as it may be quite removed from schools, hospitals, etc. These are also factors to take into account when selecting locations for consolidation of the remaining evacuee population.
  + IOM will visit the Boy Scout site again tomorrow to run through some supporting checklists on minimum standards, offer any potential training modules, and troubleshoot issues on site.
* No feedback has been received from the Department of Social services regarding the request for authorisation on DTM as well as registration activities at this stage. This is also being discussed in the Protection working group, to ensure a coherent request from the humanitarian side.
* H4H asked whether the site will only be open to individuals being moved from other official Emergency Shelters? BDHA requested clarification on a process for individuals being moved from the hotels to Emergency Shelters, should this be necessary.
  + Mr. Cargill noted that if it is designated as an official site, individuals who are registered by Social Services will be moved there. If this is not the case, then the Scouting Association can use the site as they see fit. – is this site only for those in official emergency shelters or can others move in from outside the Social Service shelters. Movement from one location to another can be done via Social Services, if the individuals have been registered with them – but only to officially designated sites.

**Health**

* Counselling & Psychosocial support required in the Children’s Homes, as indicated by IOM’s DTM.
* Americares noted that though the numbers at the Gym have drastically descresed, the numbers at their clinic have remained almost the same. As such it is possible that individuals with health concerns did not feel comfortable leaving the the site, or that people have left but are continuing to come to the Gym for medical services. This needs to be monitored.

**Food/Cash**

* Meeting to be set between H4H and government counterpart regarding the disbursement of dry food.

**Protection**

**WASH**

* WASH issues are arising behind the Gym where there is a recurring maggot infestation next to the shower units next to a large construction waste area.
  + Action 🡪 To be followed up share with WASH partners.

**NFIs**

* Americares is transferring 1,000 hygiene kits to IOM for donation to children’s homes.

**Connectivity**

* Donation of chromebooks to the children’s homes – with ITDRC, Nethope, and IOM is ongoing.

1. **AOB**

* BDHA requested updates on the current situation regarding the Abaco/Spring City Family Centre.
  + Mr. Cargill noted that assessments remain ongoing in Abaco and that an EOC has been established for coordination. In addition, trained Shelter Managers are on standby and available to support this site if needed. 1,000-2,000 individuals can be housed in this site within dome-shaped shelters. It is assumed that this will be predominantly individuals of Haitian descent with legal status.
  + Overall, participants of the meeting expressed a variety of concerns regarding this site and the development thereof, pertaining to the following subjects:
    - Suitability of the shelter type; an example of the dome-type shelter has been set up in front of NEMA. From this, concerns were raised regarding: the lack of floor in the model (or plywood in some cases, which is not a durable solution), lack of AC, lack of built in latrines, lack of privacy within the space.
    - Site planning; no site plan has been shared, and it would be critical to understand if the site will meet both governmental and humanitarian minimum standards and incorporate communal and service provision areas to support this population.
    - Selection of population to move to this location; criteria for selection have not been made clear nor discussed with Protection to develop potential vulnerability criteria.
    - Consultation with community; linking to the above, process over product is key – in ensuring that there is community feedback and participation in the strategy for this site. Learning from experience in other similar responses, without community consultation, issues and tensions are bound to arise which are not in the best interest of the population in the site, the partners involved, nor the government.
    - Coordination with humanitarian, private sector, and civil society actors.; as outlined per all the above – there is no clear channel of communication which allows for technical input, coordination, and support.
    - Action 🡪 Mr. Cargill to further share these concerns with relevant stakeholders in government and pursue a meeting with all key actors – crucially those involved currently in establishing the site.
* H4H asked whether it is currently possible for evacuees who are not in Emergency Shelters to access government food vouchers?
  + Mr. Cargill noted that this is possible through registering at the Social Services building. However, this currently requires a valid ID.
* It was agreed that meetings will switch to weekly, from next Thursday onwards. The next meeting will be this Thursday October 10th, to ensure that there isn’t a 1.5 week gap.

***Next meeting: Thursday 10th October 4pm, Room A, NTA***

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

