



Title:	ESF-6 Emergency Shelters- Humanitarian Partners Meeting
Date:	19 December 2019
Venue:	Sir Kendall GL Isaac's Gym
Time:	4:00 – 5:00 pm
Present:	Department of Social Services, IOM, Americares, OHCHR, WCK/BUYDC, Royal Bahamas Police Force, IFRC

Chair: Andrea Newbold, Shelter Manager

Co-chair: Yasmine Colijn, IOM

Agenda:

1. **Introductions/Overview**
2. **Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points**
3. **Updates – per sector**
4. **AOB**

1. Introductions / Overview

2. Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points

- Minutes adopted without comment.

ESF 6 - Emergency Shelters pending action points – 5 December 2019		
Action	Responsible	Update
Follow up on which information can be shared regarding needs assessments from Grand Bahama and Abaco	Social Services	Unclear when data will be shared. Assessment has started in the Gym and will continue after the holiday period.
Request directly from MOH: Permission to conduct immunization Regular blood work processing	Americares	No change as of yet. No feedback from MoH.
Update contacts list for ESF 6	All partners	Remains an action point.
Follow up on WASH assessment and next steps for KI Gym.	ESF 6	Ongoing
Provide an update on Exit Strategy & Closure timelines of the Emergency Shelters.	Social Services	Deputy Director of Social Services has noted that the shelters may have to remain open until March. This is in relation to the placement of the domes in Abaco being delayed. However – as it stands, there has been no official communication from DoSS.

3. Updates

Shelter Management & Coordination

- **Department of Social Services (Ms. Newbold & Mr. Cargill)**
 - The total population of Sir Kendall Isaac's Gym stands at 363. Social Services to update on Bahamas Academy figure.
 - People have been leaving all of this week. Some going to Abaco and others moving into rented apartments in Nassau.



- Those returning to Abaco are doing so with and without support – in order to begin reconstructing their homes.
 - IFRC noted that in the recent multi-purpose cash distributions, evacuees from the shelters had been collecting cash and noted in the exit interviews that they were intending to use this to purchase building materials and begin reconstruction in Abaco. go back to Abaco and begin reconstructing.
 - It was also noted that a bussing system has now been put in place to bring children from Central Abaco to schools in Crossing Rocks.
 - Closure is likely being pushed back to March – when more of the domes have been placed in Abaco. 9 are currently set up, out of a total planned 42 for the site identified in Spring City.
 - It was previously noted that not all evacuees in the shelters would meet the criteria for placement in a dome or rental assistance.
 - Some have spousal permits, some have applied for permanent residency but have not heard back, others don't have work permits that are still valid post-Dorian.
 - **Action point:** Once there is clarity on closure date or lack thereof – a communications campaign is needed to relay this information and further info about potential solutions to the evacuee population.
 - Ms. Newbold noted that clear messaging is needed on rights and procedures as they relate to immigration procedures. Many evacuees wish to have clarification on their status but are too afraid to approach immigration, for fear of deportation. As such, they are currently reporting to the shelter management team who is relaying this to Dep. Director Sawyer.
 - It was also noted that some individuals were being exploited as they had paid 550 USD to someone to process their work permits. Messaging is needed to inform the evacuees of process in which only the Department of Immigration can tackle these issues and that they should always issue a receipt.
 - IOM offered support in structured collection of this information as well as receiving calls directly.
 - **Action point** – Ms. Newbold to share with IOM key subjects on which information campaigns could be useful - so that they may develop materials in both English and Creole.
 - Perimeter fence remains an issue, as it has detached from the ground in several locations and is being picked up by the wind. Social Services is awaiting a 3rd quote before they can proceed with chain-link fence from tent C to tent B. This is critical as it is becoming a risk for small children who run around in this area.
 - TB skin-testing (Mantoux) taking place for all those who have worked in the Gym (including previous volunteers). Anyone testing positive is being referred for a chest x-ray. Shelter management team is not wearing face masks as this isn't deemed necessary and would otherwise potentially cause alarm for the shelter population.
 - Tent A has been vacated and will be taken down.
- **IOM**
 - IOM conducted a 3-day training for government staff involved in the shelters on Camp Coordination and Camp Management. Subjects covered included: Community Engagement, Data and Information Management, Site Closure, and Protection/GBV.
 - IOM's temporary technical and coordination support for CCCM is drawing to a close, and as such the Department of Social Services is encouraged to continue shelter-level meetings with the tools that have been developed and shared. IOM will remain in country as an organization – so requests for support remain welcome.



Health - AmeriCares

- Daily caseload is 13-15 (slightly higher on weekends) but has remained fairly consistent. Management of chronic patients.
- Continuing offering group psychosocial support in the form of group conversations every day of the week. Regular PSS activities for children are also ongoing. Teen talk sessions on SRH ongoing, as well as play sessions for kids.
- Continuous coverage throughout Christmas. Told by MoH to plan to stay at least through the end of January but will stay as long as necessary.
- First mobile clinic to Guana Cay took place recently. Generally working towards more community outreach on Greater Abaco.

Food

- WCK will remain as long as needed.
- As of the 23rd of December, there is a gap expected in breakfast services until 6th Jan. Chef Dean has been contacted and is looking for a solution by tomorrow.

Education

- 20+ children are in need of uniforms. If their family indicates that they intend to remain in Nassau through January, Social Services is linking them to Sandilands who have received cash donations that are being used to provide uniforms.

WASH - IFRC

- Hired a plumber to deal with the indoor toilets and the showers. Men's toilets have been fixed but the women's toilets remain locked. Plumber stated that the works were completed. However tiling is the responsibility of Mr. Thompson – which has not been concluded, as such they remain locked.
 - Social Services noted that the showers were opened today and women from the community cleaned.
 - With the cold weather it can be expected that women will come and use the men's facilities indoor as well as resort to other options.
 - **Action point:** Tiling needs to be completed by the facilities manager to allow for the indoor toilets to be opened.
- Gathered a team of cleaners and attendants for the men's bathrooms. They are being paid a stipend for their work and significant improvement has been noted. These now meet SPHERE standards. (Team of 10 already working on the other areas).
- Waste management remains an issue – trash being dropped everywhere. Small community project for this could be possible – emphasizing ownership over the living space. Chicken bones clogging up the showerdrains etc – attracting vermin.

GBV – AmeriCares

- Dignity kits distributions remain ongoing
- Male condoms are available and usage is being monitored – there appears to be a demand. BUYDC noted that they can provide female condoms.

General Protection



- Police- committed to remaining until the shelter closes. 3 shifts every day.

CP

- Not present
- Mothers are not keeping an eye on their small children, and as such children are venturing around and may be at increased risk. Messages and signage on this could be helpful.

4. AOB

- Town hall meeting with Abaco residents outside the shelters was held – main feedback that registration for services was slow
- Ms Newbold (Shelter Manager) will be on leave from 23rd December to 10th January. Ms. Cherely Kelly (cherelykelly@bahamas.gov.bs) will be the coordination focal point in her absence.
- Next meeting will be called for in the new year by the Department of Social Services.