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| **Title:** | ESF-6 Emergency Shelters- Humanitarian Partners Meeting |
| **Date:** | 5 December 2019 |
| **Venue:** | Sir Kendall GL Isaac’s Gym |
| **Time:** | 4:00 – 5:08 pm |
| **Present:** | Department of Social Services, IOM, BUYDC, IFRC, Americares, H4H, UNFPA, Gender Department |

**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. **Abaco updates (& other locations as relevant)**
5. **AOB**
6. **Introductions / Overview**
7. **Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points**
   * Minutes adopted without comment.

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| ESF 6 - Emergency Shelters action points – 7 November 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. |
| 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 | Remains unclear though it was noted that communication to the shelterees is critical to avoid growing anxiety and frustration. |

1. **Updates**

**Shelter Management & Coordination**

* **Department of Social Services (Ms. Newbold & Mr. Cargill)**
* There are currently 114 evacuees at Bahamas Academy. The total population of Sir Kendall Isaac’s Gym stands at 414.
* It was noted that there is increasing agitation amongst the shelter population as rumours had spread regarding potential closure of the site by the 16th of December. Social Services does not have reason to believe that the site would close by this date.
  + Participants asked whether site closure would be abrupt. Social Services stated that they hoped this would not be the case.
* Further challenges include ongoing tensions between older and younger groups of men. Now that the population has been displaced for a longer period of time, some rifts have grown which have resulted in occasional incidents.
* Household registration has not begun at the site. Deputy Director Sawyer to advise on start date.
* The question was raised whether new cases/arrivals to the shelters were being rejected. Social Services noted that the current practice is that anyone who wants to move into the shelter needs to register through DSS first. It was noted that recently someone had been turned away because they arrived after the working hours of DSS.
  + DSS noted that if individuals arrive after hours, they would be allowed in as long as they reported to the DSS office the next morning.
  + Returns into the shelter are being allowed on a case by case basis.
  + However, fear of reporting to a government office may remain a barrier for some to return into the sites.
* New distribution point will be set up by DSS with one of the containers provided through IOM.
* Deep cleaning of the gym will now take place once per month, to avoid the spread of disease.
  + Communication on this stands to improve so that shelterees do not think that they are being evicted.
* **IOM**
* IOM will be conducting a 3-day training for government staff involved in the shelters on Camp Coordination and Camp Management. This training strives to build on existing capacity and support shelter staff in their ability to uphold standards and manage collective sites.
* As a lot of partners have left, there’s a need for contacts lists to be updated. On the basis of this, the whatsapp group will then also be cleaned up. As such, partners are encouraged to update their information - or else be left out of future communication.
  + <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13uJNaGijHqF3026Guj4IZDchUXUkDcB7TxZgAsNTVco/edit#gid=0>

**Health - Americares**

* Currently offering group psychosocial support in the form of group conversations every day of the week. Regular PSS activities for children are also ongoing.
* Received communication that a TB test would take place on the 6th of December, though it was not clear whether this would be for the whole site population or not.
* Clinic numbers have started to slow down, indicating that the population in the site may have stagnated and critical issues dealt with.

**Food**

* World Central Kitchen number of meals is being reduced to the new population figure provided by DSS as they were currently still providing 503 meals a day.
* WCK continues to serve at Bahamas Academy as well as some other locations. Overall some 1500-1600 meals continue to be served every day. Feedback has been positive on changes in the menu.
* Food drop-offs by the Lord’s Kitchen continue to also take place. The request has been made for these drop-offs to take place earlier in the day to prevent overlap WCK. The 150 meals from LK are being prioritized for children when they come back to the site from school. The 7th Day Adventists also continue to provide meals.
* Menu has improved and there is positive feedback
* Hands for Hunger continues to support WCK with items. However not this weekend as they have a large-scale fundraiser taking place at Atlantis on Saturday.
* Hands for Hunger is also looking at methodologies to examine the impact of the food distributions this far and adapt programming accordingly. New activities will kick-start in 2020, with an additional focus on providing meal support for students.

**Education**

* Issues with school attendance persist:
  + Some parents are refusing to let parents go to school because families believe that they will be returning to Abaco soon and wish to enroll them in school there instead.
  + Some students didn’t have NIB – new set of registration has taken place with MoE, but many parents feel that it’s too late in the semester to register.
  + Though uniforms are not required to attend school, children without them tend to feel ostracized.
* Social Services noted that: Policy is that all children should be accepted into schools. As such uniforms and documentation (or the lack thereof) should not be barriers. Though fear remains real for parents to come to the Ministry of Education.

**WASH**

* IFRC update:
  + Overall improvement in the WASH situation has been noted.
  + Providing 26 outdoor portable toilets, 9 handwashing stations, following up with Bahamas Waste due to some gaps in the full servicing of the latrines.
  + 15 more portable toilets were requested, however some were delivered prior to being finished – now that the number of shelterees has dropped they’ve only requested 6 of them – which is not of concern as minimum standards are being exceeded.
  + Latrines inside need rehabilitation – Gym plumber has been requested.
  + 24 showers outside, 12 showers inside. Exceeds standards, therefore focus on improving the indoor ones as these will remain in future. Min 50 p/shower
  + Daily cleaning and maintenance remains to be tackled.
* Mr. Thompson:
  + Over 2,000 individuals have been through the space and as such wear and tear has been significant.
    - The gym is currently running on 1 pressurized tank, as 2 tanks were lost due to high usage.
    - Generator not needed to power electricity outside (holding tank is 500 gallons of water) – issue of the pump burning up due to overuse.
  + Shelterees were involved in cleaning before, but it was always the same group of individuals and as such the interest has waned. Concerns raised over ownership of the space/ involvement in cleaning communal areas
  + Announced that no major repairs will take place between now and when the shelter closes. No confirmation of when this will be, though not likely before February.
* Question IFRC CEA – is there involvement of shelterees in the meetings? Social Services noted that there have been open forum discussions on cleanliness etc. Significant improvement has been noted – as a sense of “community” begins to form in the Gym.

**GBV – UNFPA & Americares**

* Dignity kits distributed to 50 people under 18 .
* Awareness sessions took place on how to use the items in the dignity kits, as well as broader discussions on puberty and sexual & reproductive health. Due to positive feedback these may be repeated.
* UNFPA noted that the GBV referral pathway has been updated and could be shared in a pop-out version in all the sites.
* Laundry situation (for incontinent individuals) has been tackled in coordination with Social Services – on a case by case basis.
* Focus Group Discussion reports from UNFPA & Social Services will be shared shortly.
* PSEA (Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) leaflets also need to be circulated
* Gender department – multi-sectorial workshop next week Thursday to discuss SOPs for GBV.

**General Protection**

* Not present
* Concern was raised about communication with individuals returning to the gym. Reports of harsh communication. Perhaps there is room for a complaints & feedback mechanism to be put in place.

**CP**

* No update

1. **AOB**

***Next meeting: 19th December.***