



Title:	Emergency Shelter support subgroup of ESF-6 Mass Care & Shelter Humanitarian Partners Meeting
Date:	7 November 2019
Venue:	IOM Office, Grosvenor Close, Shirley Street
Time:	4:00 – 5:08 pm
Present:	Department of Social Services, Convoy of Hope, Americares, IOM, H4H

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**

1. Introductions / Overview

2. Adoption of minutes & Review of Action points

- Minutes adopted without comment.

ESF 6 - Emergency Shelters action points – 7 th November 2019		
Action	Responsible	Update
Follow up on which information can be shared regarding needs assessments from Grand Bahama and Abaco	Social Services	Assessments still ongoing. Assessments now also planned for the Nassau emergency shelters.
Request directly from MOH: Permission to conduct immunization Regular blood work processing	Americares	Follow-up ongoing. Will remain as an action point until resolved.
Update ESF 11 on food provision to children under 2	ESF 6/ Social Services	DSS confirms that there is an adequate supply of food at the shelters available for children <2. These items are held in store at the distribution point across from KI Gym. For further info on specific food items, ESF 11 is requested to follow up directly with the Shelter managers.
Contact NEMA to clarify food availability.	ESF 6/ Social Services	Food has arrived, but supplies remain low. Follow up for ESF 7 for the inventory of the warehouse. Social Services is going so far as to purchasing food (for the shelters)....? Mr. Cargill to check which items this as, as there is no longer cooking taking place at the shelters.
Share GBV Mainstreaming Guidelines	UNFPA	Trainings to be discussed with Social Services.
Share PSEA online training link	UNFPA	Shared with all partners. All partners are also requested to indicate interest in being PSEA focal points to Farid at UNFPA (fgul@unfpa.org)



Channel all requests for activity/programme approval directly to kimsawyer@bahamas.gov.bs	Humanitarian partners	-
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3. Updates

Shelter Management & Coordination

- **Department of Social Services (Mr. Cargill)**

- There are currently 129 evacuees at Bahamas Academy. The total population of Sir Kendall Isaac's Gym stands at 503. The shelter management team conducted a headcount on the 8th of November which resulted in this (Americares noted that a bed count was also conducted this week.
 - Partners asked what the methodology was which was used for the headcount – as the population fluctuates quite heavily throughout the day.
 - Mr. Cargill to confirm the methodology; time, whether the space was closed off temporarily, whether the exercise was announced.
- Daily population updates will continue to be shared, however there has been a slow down because the EOC is closing down.
- Mr. Cargill noted that Social Services is planning to extend the household assessment that is currently taking place in Grand Bahama and Abaco to the population currently in the Emergency Shelters in Nassau.
- The main goal of the exercise is to understand how many people are eligible for and can be assisted with rental support. Nevertheless, there are a few caveats:
 - Rental support is available only for Bahamians or legal residents of the Bahamas.
 - Rental units in New Providence are in high demand.
 - Evacuees have difficulty renting as landlords are averse to providing units for a short period of time and to families with many children.
- Participants noted that communication on this exercise is crucial given several prominent Bahamians have made public statements calling for immigration to enter the emergency shelters to start verifying legal status. As such, data collection exercises could alarm the evacuee population if not communicated thoroughly. Social Services noted that there is a positive relationship between their staff and the evacuees, and as such there is no cause for concern.
- It was also noted that not all residents in the Emergency Shelters will be eligible for rental assistance and/or placement in the Abaco domes. As such, a significant population is likely to remain in the shelters beyond December, for which a principled exit strategy is needed – for which the humanitarian community stands ready to support.
- Following on from the joint assessment, a full WASH report was shared with Social Services, of which approval is being finalized. Issues being dealt with now:
 - Placement of additional latrines.
 - Resolving the issue of stagnant water; Bahamas Waste and the facilities manager are digging a trench directly to the main external sewer, this week.
- Noted that children are in need of school uniforms. Some children have been turned away from schools for not having uniforms – though the Ministry of Education maintains that this is not a policy. 150 children did not receive letters due to parents not having documentation.
- Partners noted that they were hearing of evacuees no longer being hosted by family or acquaintances as they were no longer able to support them (this frequently happens after an extensive period of time has passed and hosting evacuees can become a financial and general strain).
 - Social Services confirmed that there have been individuals returning to the shelters. Currently, if an evacuee has nowhere else to turn, they are able to return



not the shelter. It is possible that because of this, in November and December, shelter numbers will rise again. This is an important point to take into account when looking at the longevity of the emergency shelters and future planning.

- **IOM**
- In line with the statement from Social Services that all activities should now be proposed to Deputy Director Kim Sawyer for approval and sign off, a meeting has been requested on Tuesday (to look at short term & longer term planning.). IOM received significant CERF funds for the Emergency Shelters which they have not been able to spend at this stage and will be returned to the donor at the end of the year if no agreement is reached with Social Services.
- (On behalf of UNFPA) The PSEA Network is now being established for which focal points are requested. Local partners or those staying on the ground for a longer period of time are most encouraged to join.
 - In the meantime, a PSEA hotline has been established at: +1 (242) 328
- 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://iomint-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/ycolijn_iom_int/EU0m0ACbfgNCpkwOHiTdCLMBeYo-rVm7QFDt92NTEvmBSQ?e=JCKgs7

Health

- Protection concerns continue to be prevalent at the KI Gym.
 - Case of a resident reported fear of using the restroom at KI Gym at night for fear of robbery or physical injury. Social Services and security have been notified.
 - Female clinicians are being harassed by male residents.
 - In both cases Social Services & the security team have been notified.
- It was noted that there are several residents with incontinency issues, who require daily laundry support.
 - ESF 6 to discuss this with WASH and look at possibilities of re-starting this service.

Food/Cash

- Hands 4 Hunger is no longer delivering to the shelters as these services are being covered by WCK.
- Despite multiple attempts to improve coordination on food requests, KI Gym continues to receive cooked food from multiple partners (all of whom claim to have been requested) which may be leading to food waste.
 - **Action point:** Social Services to re-emphasize with shelter managers and food partners the need to coordinate on food provision as per the agreed flow.
- Matter of containers of food with NEMA has been clarified through ESF 11 – there are no trainers that are in need of sorting.
- WCK has moved their set-up to the NTA where they are working with local volunteers who they will be transitioning to. Today they served 640 meals for the Gym, which raises questions about the headcount & how food is being requested.

Education



- Though children are now being enrolled in schools, it appears that families are asked to pay \$60 per child for enrollment.
 - H4H asked for which schools this was? ESF 6 to follow up.
 - H4H noted that Sandilands school is supporting 52 children for which they are doing a backpack food programme, which could be expanded to other schools if needed.
- 150 children unable to access schools due to lack of documentation of parents.

WASH

- Not present – due to overlap with WASH meeting.
- Assessment report from KI Gym shared with Social Services. Preliminary activities from IFRC WASH are being conducted and progress has been made.

GBV

- Not present

General Protection

- Not present

CP

- Not present

4. Abaco & Other location updates

- ESF 6 co-lead travelling to Abaco next week Wednesday – Saturday, together with ESF 6 Shelter Sector co-lead. To look at joint needs and coordination support.
- IOM conducted its Displacement Tracking Matrix exercise in Abaco.
 - Objective of the exercise was to update population figures on the main island and examine multi-sectoral needs through interviewing key informants in all areas where there are currently residents.
 - 23 sites visited; significant population increase since the last population update of September 19th
 - Key findings were shared during the meeting, which will be publicized once the documents have received sign off from NEMA and IOM HQ.
 - Once the report has been signed off by IOM HQ and NEMA, it will be shared widely. IOM's team is happy to conduct further assessments based on partner & government needs.

5. AOB

- Partners asked whether there was any update on the domes being placed in Abaco and how individuals would be selected to reside in them. At this stage, lack of clarity persists on how this selection is taking place and who is being prioritized. As such, it has not been put forward by Social Services as the main exit strategy for the emergency shelters.

Next meeting: to be determined – due to travel.