

17th Protection of Children and Women Cluster

Meeting Minutes

24 September 2008, 10:30 – 12:00 Chatrium Hotel

Co-chairs: Hannah Thompson (Save the Children) & Christina Torsein (UNICEF)

Government Representative: U Sein Win, Director (Children and Youth), Department of Social Welfare

Agenda: Annex 1

Participants: x participants, Annex 2

1. Introduction

- Introductions
- No additions to the Agenda

2. Review Action Points from Last Meeting

- Guidelines on Working Children – pending (Cluster Leads)
- MRCS Restoring Family Links (RFL) Update information page disseminated

3. Situation Updates by Area

- **Bogale, Pyapon, Dedaye** – Information about unaccompanied and separated children is being received from non-Child Protection (CP) agencies in areas where there is no coverage by CP actors. Attendance by most actors at PCW Cluster meetings in these locations is very irregular and this is creating problems in terms of following up on action points and issues raised in previous meetings. The Information Hubs in Pyapon and Bogale are being strengthened, with staff coming to Yangon for training at the central information hub next week
- **Labutta** – Separated and unaccompanied children continue to be registered, and this month 35 missing children requests have been received. Approximately 60 children from areas not covered by CP agencies have also been registered. Other agencies working in areas where there is no CP agency presence have facilitated this process. The registration forms will be sent to Yangon for processing and follow-up as required. Discussions are currently taking place between CP partners as to who will pick up these cases and areas. This issue will be discussed at the next CPE Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting. The CP Information hub at Middle Island is not yet functioning, but a Save the Children (SC) staff member is currently being trained and should be in Middle Island in early October to lead this process. There is general concern about incidences of violence, this has also been reported in the local press. Further discussions are taking place about this issue at the Women's Protection TWG
- **Mawlamyinegyun** – SC gave statistics about separated and unaccompanied children
- **Pathein** - World Vision (WV) reports that some children are being collected from the Delta by institutions in Pathein, this info will be directed to Yangon for follow-up
- **DSW** – The Minister has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with over 30 NGOs for the reconstruction of schools. 1 child previously at the Temporary Care Centre has been reintegrated with their family
- The updated **Field Coordination Contact List** was distributed, the list now includes information about the frequency of field cluster meetings. Some small changes were made at the meeting and the latest version will be disseminated with the minutes. Agencies are encouraged to distribute the list to staff in the field. Please send any amendments to bives@unicef.org
- OCHA will conduct 1-day training sessions at various locations to give Cluster Leads in the field, and other interested staff of humanitarian organisations, an introduction to some of the basic concepts and skills in relation to the coordination of humanitarian activities in the field. The training will focus

on practical skills such as meeting facilitation, reporting, Information Management and how to broaden partnerships in the field. Complementing this will also be presentations on Humanitarian Reform and the Cluster Approach, cluster arrangements in Myanmar, and principles of partnerships and coordination.

Dates are as follows:

- Labutta - Wednesday 1 October
- Pathein - Friday 3 October
- Pyapon – Monday 6 October
- Bogale – Tuesday 7 October
- Mawlamyinegyun – Wednesday 8 October
- Yangon – Friday 10 October

The training will be delivered in both Myanmar and English language. All questions regarding the training sessions and expressions of interest should be directed to the respective OCHA Hub offices

Action Point: An update on the International Federation of the Red Cross /Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCSS) Village Tract Assessment will be given at the next meeting

3. Cluster Coordination

- **Cluster Issues**

- **Periodic Review** – The first draft of the household survey questions for the Periodic Review has been circulated to Cluster Leads by the Task Manager of the Periodic Review, ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force. It is anticipated that the household survey component of the Periodic Review will not cover many protection-related issues, and that instead a separate qualitative assessment on protection-related issues will be conducted, also through the Periodic Review process of the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force. This separate assessment is being carried out as protection issues may benefit more from the collection of qualitative, narrative data that would be difficult for the household survey to capture. A leading social scientist, Professor Napier, will lead this task and will be arriving in country on Sunday 28 September for an initial one week stay. Professor Napier has been tasked with developing methods to assess issues around protection. There was a request from the WP TWG for the initial set of questions that was submitted to the VTA in June (but which failed to be included in the final data collection tools). This document has subsequently been sent to all WP TWG members, anyone who would like a copy of this earlier document is encouraged to contact the IM Focal Point bives@unicef.org
- **Prioritisation Exercise** – As mentioned at the last meeting, the Humanitarian Coordinator and the IASC are working with Cluster Leads on an initiative to prioritise the different sectors. A tool has been disseminated by OCHA at field level and agencies are asked to encourage field staff to respond. Please contact OCHA at the sub-operational hubs for the tool
- **Approaching Dry Season** – The dry season household water security situation could be assisted through cross-cluster efforts addressed at identifying & strengthening the weak links in the rural water supply chain. The Cluster approach should look at reinforcing the traditional coping mechanisms, building on what people have and know, rather than bringing in concepts that are alien and unmanageable. For the PCW cluster, there are issues of access, purchasing power, and water quality monitoring etc
- **Cluster Survey** – The PCW Cluster survey has been circulated with feedback requested by the 30 Sept. Agencies are asked to encourage the survey's completion by staff in the field
- **Recovery Strategy** – the Early Recovery Strategy covers the period until the end of April 2009, however the UN Country Team (UNCT) is also keen to look at a longer term strategy (several years) Post Nargis Recovery Plan - PONREP). Many organisations have already developed their own individual strategy documents, and along with other documents that have been prepared,

there is a good foundation to develop a longer term 'Recovery Strategy' related to PCW issues. The Cluster Leads invited participation from Cluster members to take this initiative forward. As no participants came forward it was suggested that the Cluster Leads would keep meeting participants informed of developments and would convene a small working group to take this forward once more information is received

- **Advocacy**
 - In order to move forward on advocacy efforts about the issue of radio messages regarding missing children, more detailed information had been requested of Cluster members, to date none had been forthcoming. The issue, however, was discussed at the Child Protection Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) workshop last week with a follow up action point for the CPE (Child Protection in Emergencies) TWG to draw up some guidelines
 - Wider dissemination of alternative care guidelines is needed as some institutions in Yangon, Mandalay and Patheingyi are running out of funds and are approaching CP agencies for support for institutionalised children. It is therefore an opportune time to be advocating about community-based alternative care arrangements (to be discussed in the CPE TWG)
- **Funding**
 - The Humanitarian Coordinator has requested financial information by Cluster as per Government requests. The Cluster's information was sent to OCHA on Wednesday morning, 2 organisations submitted financial data. Additional data was received after the submission date, collated and re-submitted to OCHA.
 - Organisations with requests for further funds should advise Cluster leads so that they can continue to advocate at various fora
- **Women's Protection Technical Working Group (WP TWG)**
 - The WP TWG has held a follow up mtg with DSW on CEDAW reporting
 - The WP Assessment pilot testing has been completed, the survey tools have been revised, and training for enumerators is soon to take place. UNFPA will support interview teams from international and local NGOs with DSA, accommodation and transport costs
 - UNFPA announced that ACTED and AFXB were selected for the Women's Livelihood project
 - UNFPA put out a request for 100 life jackets for approx 3 weeks duration to be used during the WP Assessment, please contact Stenly Sajow (ssajow@unfpa.org) at UNFPA
- **Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group (CPE TWG)**
 - The Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group (CPE TWG) training workshop for field based CP staff focusing on family tracing and reunification was held from the 17-19th September. Over 45 participants from 4 agencies and their implementing partners attended the training. This training was the third inter-agency training initiative since Cyclone Nargis. The workshop focussed on assisting Child Protection field officers in their efforts to assist separated and unaccompanied children
 - A meeting was held with DSW representatives on Tuesday 23 September DSW yesterday about the upcoming review meeting on the Plan of Action for CPE. At the meeting a draft copy of the *Initial Assessments: Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group, Response to Cyclone Nargis* report document was presented to the Department of Social Welfare for their comment and inputs. Child Protection agencies have now finalized the report and it will be disseminated soon

Action Point:

4. Cross-Cutting Issues

- **Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group** – A brief summary of issues covered at the last MHPS meeting was given. If anyone would like these details contact Rose

Baguios at IOM at rbaguios@iom.int The fortnightly meeting will be held today, Wednesday 24 Sept, 12:30 – 1:30pm at the Chatrium Hotel

- **SRH & HIV/AIDS Technical Working Group** – The TWG are currently mapping organisations working in this area in the Delta. UNFPA (Stenly Sajow) will send a message to the PCW Cluster IM Focal Point about this exercise for dissemination to all Cluster members. The next TWG mtg will be held on the 1 Oct, 2:00pm at UNFPA

5. Additional Key Updates

- MRCS data sharing has commenced with the Inter-Agency information system

6. Any Other Business

- It was agreed that the new format of reporting by geographical areas, rather than individual agency updates, was more useful and would be continued. These updates will focus on key PCW and related issues and would not include statistics available from other sources. Agencies were encouraged to send feedback to the IM Focal Point about other areas to be reported on so that some guidance could be provided to Cluster Leads in the field
- Next Protection of Children and Women Cluster Meeting is on **Wednesday 8 October, 10:30am**, Chatrium Hotel

Messages

PCW Cluster meeting minutes, situation reports and other interesting documents are available from <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org/Pages/home.aspx>

Please note that the PCW Cluster Group Email List is unable to send messages to gmail addresses

Annex 1

17th Protection of Children & Women Cluster Meeting Wednesday 24 September 2008, 10:30am, Chatrium Hotel

Agenda

Co-Chairs: Hannah Thompson (Save the Children) & Christina Torsein (UNICEF)

Government Representative: U Sein Win, Director (Children and Youth), DSW

1. Introduction
 - Introductions
 - Additions to the agenda
2. Review of Action Points
3. Situation Update
 - Area Updates:
 - Bogale (World Vision)
 - Pyapon (World Vision)
 - Labutta (UNICEF)
 - Mawlamyinegyun (Save the Children)
 - Other areas
 - Updated Field Contacts List
4. Cluster Coordination
 - Cluster Issues:
 - Periodic Review
 - Prioritisation Exercise
 - Approaching dry season
 - Cluster Survey
 - Recovery Strategy
 - Advocacy
 - Funding
 - Women's Protection Technical Working Group
 - Child Protection in Emergencies Technical Working Group
5. Cross-Cutting Issues
 - Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group
 - Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) & HIV/AIDS Technical Working Group
6. Additional Key Updates
7. Any Other Business

Annex 2

PCW Cluster Meeting Participants

Wednesday 24 September 2008

Name	Organisation	Contact
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