



Afghanistan Housing, Land & Property Task Force (HLP TF)

National Coordination Meeting Minutes

29th June 2015

Participants:

UN-Habitat, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development (MRRD), Independent Directorate of Local Governance/General Directorate of Municipal Affairs (IDLG/GDMA), Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United States Institute of Peace (USIP), European Union (EU), Tribal Liaison Office (TLO), Afghanistan Land Consulting Office (ALCO).

Venue: UNHCR Conference Room, Kabul

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from May meeting
2. Update from KIS TF; recent evictions, recent discussion with UNAMA ROL re: legal challenges to evictions
3. DRR consortium concept note
4. National property registration & municipal governance support Program
5. AOB

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY MEETING

There were no comments on the minutes from the May meeting. The previous month's review of the objectives of the HLP TF was briefly discussed, with all members agreeing that the objectives remained relevant, with one small alteration; specific reference to supporting the IDP Policy WG with HLP technical expertise in the preparation of Provincial Action Plans under the policy.

Elisabetta Brumat from UNHCR gave an update on the progress of the IDP policy; there have recently been developments in the Draft Provincial Action Plan in Nangarhar, however progress remains slow. Progress in Herat in recent weeks was discussed; an issue arose due to a miscommunication between government partners, resulting in the cancellation of the scheduled IDP policy workshop due to some key officials having other commitments. The workshop has been rescheduled

for after Ramazan. Elisabetta further raised concerns over the process being predominantly driven by international agencies rather than the government.

Marcus Tudehope from UN-Habitat discussed recent progress in the Local Integration of Vulnerable Excluded & Uprooted People (LIVE-UP) project. A protocol was recently signed with the Governor of Herat Province and Mayor of Herat city to begin implementation in the Province. The LIVE-UP Project-the design and locations of which were originally intended to coincide with the roll out of the IDP policy-is proceeding in the absence of Provincial Action Plans for displacement as discussed in the National Policy. It was discussed that the community based service delivery model of the LIVE-UP project (utilizing Community Development Councils to develop community action plans) could feed into Municipal Action Plans for displacement that could eventually inform Provincial Action Plans. This 'bottom up' approach, building on success stories at the local level may perhaps assist with increasing political will at higher levels to advance the Policy's implementation.

Elisabetta Brumat suggested sharing a briefing note on the National IDP Policy with the TF as well as a USIP report into land conflict in Afghanistan (**attached**).

2. Update from KIS Task Force

OCHA provided a brief overview of Kabul Informal Settlements which have received eviction notices. Among these, Nassagi Bagrami, Qasaba-Tasadi 4, Parwan Do (1), Parwan Do (2), Parwan Do (3) have received eviction notices from their respective landowners during 2014 and 2015. Two KIS sites namely Parwan Say and behind new parliaments have already been relocated. These families moved either to other KIS locations or to their place of origin. The relocation of Bagh-e-Dawood KIS families is underway.

OCHA informed partners about some initial meetings held with UNHCR, UNHABITAT, and UNAMA Rule of Law Unit with the goal of systematising the approach to forestalling evictions in cases where no viable alternative site has been identified, particularly by engaging national legal remedies where possible, and to attempt to ensure that the search for durable solutions, including in line with the National IDP Policy and recent commitments made by the President to avoid evictions before durable solutions are found, is stepped up.

The option of facilitating training courses to sensitize key government partners in the Municipality and potentially police was discussed. Training could cover HLP issues as well as the Guidelines for the Prevention of Harm during Forced Evictions annexed to the National IDP Policy. Habitat advised that IRC and NRC – as the parties responsible for the eventual roll out of training of the IDP Policy – had been approached and were supportive in principal, however as the Policy's implementation was still in the inception phase, there will likely be some time lag before any such training would commence.

OCHA proposed the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on evictions. The SOP will provide a framework for a systematised response by KIS TF partners and possibly others on individual cases of future evictions within the KIS. OCHA will periodically update the HLP taskforce on progress of the SOP.

Ahmad Zia Langari from AIHRC raised the concern that the key government partners were not being engaged with enough in the task force's response to eviction threats in Kabul. Evidenced by the fact that neither the Kabul Municipality or the MORR had sent a representative to the meeting. It was suggested that the TF collectively take a more proactive approach be taken to engagement with both institutions. This could perhaps involve sending a number of representatives from the TF to meet with the Municipality to discuss the issue of evictions.

3. Proposed Disaster Risk Reduction Consortium

Due to time constraints the Disaster Risk Reduction Consortium concept note (**attached**) being circulated by WFP was discussed briefly. Partners were invited to review the concept note and provide comments. Among other things the concept note proposes the development of a series of minimum standards in disaster response. It was proposed by Habitat that the scope of such standards could be expanded to include all projects; humanitarian and development, for example minimum standards of disaster resilience being integrated into shelter/construction projects. The TF agreed to review the concept note with the view of potentially providing a submission on specific HLP concerns of DRR.

4. National Property Registration & Municipal Governance Support Program

Mr. Matthew French from UN-Habitat presented a proposed programme 'Secure Tenure for All'; a national property registration and municipal governance support project. The programme comes about following a request of President Ghani for broader support in these areas. The proposal is still in the inception phase however was presented to solicit feedback from partners and also to avoid any duplications of effort.

The program aims to improve stability and stimulate economic development in target cities through strengthening land rights and strengthening the social contract between citizens and the state. The programme will target 5.9 million people/650,000 households or approximately 70% of the urban population over the coming four years.

This proposal involves the following key activities/outputs:

- Citywide land/property survey of provincial capitols (823,500 properties)
- House numbering and street addressing of 823,500 properties
- Safayi tax collection and issuing land rights documents

- Citywide and Nahia strategic planning with block grants for trunk infrastructure
- Institutional Strengthening of MUDA, GDMA, ARAZI and Kabul Municipality in land management and administration, municipal finance, strategic urban planning

Zia Astana from the Afghan Land Consulting Organisation mentioned the experience of the USAID projects LARA and LTERS and offered to share evaluation reports and lessons learned with the TF.

The proposal is still in the inception phase and will be circulated once complete.

5. **AOB**

Newly arrived Senior Development Advisor of UNHCR Yasmine Rockenfeller was welcomed to the Task Force and gave a brief introduction of herself and her role in Afghanistan; focusing on advancing integration of returnees and IDPs.

No other business reported. The date of the August meeting will be finalized in the coming month and circulated by email.