



## Minutes of Technical Working Group (TWiG) Shelter Sector Grand Bahama (SSGB)

<b>Date</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> of November 2019
<b>Venue</b>	CA Smith
<b>Time</b>	15h – 16h15
<b>Present</b>	Bahamian Red Cross (BRC), Engineers without Border (EwB), Grand Bahama Port Authority (GBPA), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), St Bernard Project (SBP)
<b>Chair</b>	Sytske Claassen – Shelter Sector Hub- Coordinator Support : Thuong (Shelter Cluster information manager)
<b>Next meeting</b>	Wednesday 20191127 ; 15h venue NEMA

### Items shared with these minutes

- Annex 1: Agenda of the meeting;
- Annex 2: ToR shared before the meeting
- Annex 3: Level of damage and repairs scope – 3W / spreadsheet and definition <https://bit.ly/373bKcO>

Actions	Responsible	timeline	Update
Point 1: Agenda and attendance sheet		Done	
Point 2: Terms of Reference		Done	Discussed and finalized
Point 3: Definitions of level of damage defined agreed upon – 3W Indicators		Done, adjustment after meeting on Thursday	Minor adjustments made, 1 pager of GBPA can be re-shared
Point 4: Temporary rental solutions		To be discussed during next TWiG	Ongoing discussion

### 0. General observations

Technical Working Group (TWiG) is found to be a good platform to raise technical issues which cause a barrier for effective implementation. More frequent TWiGs may be called for to make faster progress in the recovery phase, with a strong focus on Building Back Better (BBB). This remains a closed group for a limited number of experienced technical partners.

### 1. Partners have the floor

IFRC: presented an example of housing construction option

EwB: topics to be addressed include:

1. Temporary housing during repairs
2. Transitional / Incremental Homes
3. Permitting Expectations/ procedures



4. Legal Non-Conformance (when repairs must be brought up to code) - houses before the building code
5. Replacement Housing/ reconstruction
6. Public Buildings Guide / Expectations, important not key priority
7. Building Back Better definition, applicability of the term

## 2. Updates

- EwB restated their assignment with GBPA, whereby they also look into infrastructure and flood effects with a hydrologist.

- EwB on behalf of GBPA explained that each sub-division areas have been mapped in terms of what level of damage. There are 5 categories on a household level and depicts street address and dots of houses, which may be shared in PDF format and will support programming support of partners. No need for partners to receive the actual data base but this type of information provides richer information than a heat map. The Shelter Cluster can serve as a platform to share this information and make it available to the wider public. Please note that GBPA data provides only information on Dorian affected areas not Matthew affected.

-Public works has also done a similar exercise of damage assessment, they were not present at the meeting further updates may follow.

-Minor adjustment to Indicators for shelter for 3W as suggestions for improvement:

- Minor: No truss work needs to be done – *tarps fall under here no need for 2<sup>nd</sup> round of tarps we need to spread the message to go for roof repairs instead*
- Major: Trust work to be done

## 3. Follow-up action points

**1.ACTION POINT (SHARED AFTER THE MEETING):** 1 pager shared of definitions of level of damages by Port Authority can be shared with the minutes

**2.ACTION POINT (ASAP):** 3W definitions to be agreed upon with all parties including Public Works. 3Ws definition to be finalized before the next TWiG.

**3.ACTION POINT (FEEDBACK 20191127):** EWB – starts with an identification of supply chain if it has been restored, will check contractors/ warehouses/quality of material and prices to support other partners in the planning process

**4. ACTION POINT (FEEDBACK 20191127)** Action: EWB, will undertake a capacity analysis for construction material and see what the supply chain status is. BRC to provide contacts.

**5. ACTION POINT (TBC):** Shelter Sector to verify if deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> December VAT will be officially waved for building materials still holds.

**6. ACTION POINT (FEEDBACK 20191127)** EwB will prepare a costing of full roof replacement in relation to destroyed %. Suggestion made to bring a local licensed contractor along when doing any construction/building work this will help increasing understanding of how regulations from GBPA or Public works are applied in practice. Bahamian Red Cross (BRC) mentioned it is a good practice locally when repairing roofing to peel back shingles to see if plywood needs redoing. This is not required but should be good practice.

**7. ACTION POINT (TBC):** training needs to be identified/capacity building needs beyond mold remediation this could include BBB/lessons learned. Suggestion from EwB/IFRC, we should monitor available skilled labour. If there aren't enough we should do joint trainings, and perhaps work on a training package similar to mold remediation, certification done via Public Works or GBPA. According to EwB GBPA and Public Works are trying to hire more engineers and inspectors. The local builders may also need further training on this to build them right.

**8. ACTION POINT (TBC 20191128?):** EwB will follow up on lessons learned on a potential upgrade of the building code. EwB recommendation to GBPA to leave the building code as it is, the building code is very good. The current Bahamian building code is applicable in entire Bahama including Freeport. The code can be strengthened just in case of doubts for future construction activities. EwB are working with GBPA on where the weaknesses were in terms of inspection. Problems observed mainly was connection between wall and foundation – reinforcing steel in the foundation (the code does require this, but houses were often not built up to the standards of this code). Any constructed roof work will be fine. There hasn't been much lateral pressure on the walls until Dorian.



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IFRC showed an example of low-cost solution house suggestion:

- GBPA: these have not been constructed in Freeport: some were built in 8-mile rock (Dorian did not impact there so we don't know)
- GBPA has not reviewed this type of houses
- EwB could follow up on how to review this technically
- It would be great to agree on a common possible housing design for rebuilding with GBPA and Public Works
- Point to think about the design – to look into inclusion. How to make it accessible to elderly or people with a disability (PWD) PWD and think about mold and termites could be avoided in new house models? This can be discussed in a separate session to come with a suggestion/guideline on this.
- Bearing in mind many subdivisions in Freeport have extra restrictions, on house size etc.

**ACTION POINT (UPDATE 20191127):** option for Shelter Cluster to submit this plan to GBPA and EwB officially for review. In Queens cove some of the elevated structures performed well. Response due for next week.

#### **4. Topics to be addressed based during upcoming TWiG:**

1. Temporary housing during repairs
2. Permitting expectations: Legal non-conformance: if a house predates the building code, what should we do about it? We should strip it and rebuild in alignment with the building code. This includes and requires training of local contractors and architects
3. Replacement housing: who is considering using replacement of housing? Public Works inputs would be important
4. Approach of implementation; targeting and what do we understand by minor repairs (bathroom and kitchen or all non-structural work to be done)

#### **5. AOB**