

SHELTER WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes 13 November 2025

Participant Organizations:

Samaritan's Purse	GER3	Shelter Box
Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)	IOM	Food for the Poor
All Hands and Hearts	OM International	Island City Lab
Salvation Army International	International Red Cross	Global Shelter Cluster
University of Technology, Jamaica	Team Rubicon	Fuel Relief Fund

Action Points:

- Shelter Sector Working Group to meet twice weekly (Monday and Thursday mornings proposed).
- Please report your shelter activities to jwegdam@iom.int
- Partners working in affected areas should inform JDF Brigadier Lloyd, especially if there are security concerns; they can provide personnel on the ground to support safe operations.
- Technical specialists are invited to join the debris removal WG and home repairs WG. Contact Jan Willem Wegdam: jwegdam@iom.int
- Register your email in the Shelter Working Group mailing list: [Shelter WG Contact List.xlsx](#)
- Register your incoming NFIs to the control tower by filling out the [Control Tower Upstream Template](#) and sending to alishah.jamal@wfp.org and dan.cemachovic@wfp.org
- If you would like to join the whatsapp Shelter group, you may do so by clicking here: [Join Group](#)

Meeting Summary

Initial shared info:

- Estimated need for tarpaulins: 195,000 (one per family) or 391,000 (two per family).
- Current tarpaulin stock: 91,940 in-country or arriving soon; 12,000 more on the way.
- Additional stocks are being mobilized by ShelterBox, IOM, and other partners.
- On 12 November IOM's DTM in partnership with UWI MONA and coordinated through the Statistical Institute of Jamaica initiated a rapid mapping of informal shelters and settlements in Montego Bay, Catherine Hall and West Breen. The exercise captures locations, number of households, and reasons for staying—linked to shelter destruction or housing, land, and property issues. Data will be mapped and shared with ODPEM, MLSS, and Shelter WG partners.
- An updated list of priority communities was shared by the JDF.
- Draft instruction guides for tarpaulin installation nearly finalized. Partners proposed the integration of feedback mechanisms for beneficiaries to report issues or concerns. It is suggested to do in coordination with the Parish Disaster Coordinators. Find the contact info in the

following link: <https://www.localgovjamaica.gov.jm/resources/parish-disaster-coordinators-2025-2026/>

- IOM Communications team is working on an instructing video to set up the tarps.

Debris Removal & Technical Working Group

- CORE highlighted the need for national debris removal plan, offered their technical expertise to develop one, proposed to form a technical working group with key stakeholders (JDF, National Solid Waste Management Authority, etc.) and including guidelines for sorting/separating debris, identifying hazardous materials, and standardizing home decontamination kits, recycling and disposal, etc.

Next Phase

- Prof. Carol Archer emphasized the need to move into the next phase of shelter planning. She stressed the importance of involving key entities such as the Bureau of Standards, responsible for building codes and material compliance, and the Master Builders Association for technical support and training. This approach ensures that solutions are appropriate and aligned with standards as repairs and capacity building progress.
- The Coordinator acknowledged the discussion on prefabricated solutions, noting that while these options are widely offered and attractive to governments, they are often costly and not inclusive. Alternatives such as cash assistance and other support modalities should be considered. The Coordinator proposed scheduling a dedicated meeting on Monday to address these issues, inviting relevant stakeholders and preparing guiding documents to inform the discussion.

Partners' Updates:

IOM

- Moved large quantities of tarps to parishes using helicopters (Westmoreland and Hanover).
- Expecting 5,800 tarps, solar lamps, and kits via British donation arriving in Montego Bay.
- Additional 5,000 sheets to be released from Panama.
- Ongoing DTM assessment focused on informal settlements (multi-family occupancy) to identify needs and special cases.

GER3

- In contact with UNDP to start **debris removal for six weeks**.

- Received request from GCF to tarp 21 police stations. Seeking funding to bring a technician for capacity building in how to install a tarp.

Shelter Box

- First deployment on Saturday to Westmoreland, Working with Food for the Poor and Rotary to help 200 households with food and shelter kits.
- Approximately 2,000 tarpaulins coming in.

CORE:

- Distributed 2,000 tarps. Have 5,000 en route.
- Started cash for work for tarping.

OM International

- Started working in Trelawny and St James.
- Looking into supporting tarp distribution

International Red Cross

- Activated the emergency response unit.
- Will provide more updates in the group when available.

Next Steps:

- Next steps include coordinating activities with agencies in each parish; participants should inform which parish they will work in.
- A sheet will be compiled today with JDF listing communities, expected damage/workload, and agencies assigned or pending.
- Shelter sector working group meetings are planned every Monday and Thursday;
- Participants are encouraged to step up response efforts, mobilize teams, and deploy resources promptly.

Documents shared:

- Contact list of disasters coordinators per parish:

<https://www.localgovjamaica.gov.jm/resources/parish-disaster-coordinators-2025-2026/>

WE APPRECIATE THE CONTINUED COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT OF ALL PARTNERS
IN THE JAMAICA SHELTER WORKING GROUP.