

SHELTER WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes 17 November 2025

Participant Organizations:

FCDO	Global Empowerment Mission	DR3
IOM	American Friends of Jamaica	All Hands and Hearts
ShelterBox	IFRC	Taraji Foundation
ADRA	One Love Consortium	
CORE	Rubicon	

Important Announcements:

- 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:

- Multiple reporting mechanisms exist (4WS/5WS), but information is scattered; efforts underway to align systems.
- The finalized [Tarp Installation Guide](#) was shared, may be used by partners and add their logos if they would like to.
- GEM shared concerns on the overlapping names across parishes causing reporting and distribution issues; need for standardized codes (P-codes, GPS).
- The Jamaica Humanitarian Disaster and Needs Analysis (GH Dyna) ongoing; 11,000 houses assessed so far. There are four damage categories:
 - No significant damage
 - Minor damage
 - Major damage
 - Totally destroyed
- There is limited data on conditions and needs of currently open shelters.

- DTM is active but focused on informal groups; unclear if official shelters will be included, raising concerns about gaps in coverage. (Update: at the time of publication of this meeting minutes, the government of Jamaica approved the data collection on shelters, IOM DTM started the process on 19 Nov.)
- Temporary shelter solutions discussed as initial ideas, not a complete plan.
- Options include tarpaulin roofing for short-term protection (6–12 months) based on past experience.
- Tent cities considered unacceptable due to tourism and economic recovery concerns; solutions should resemble houses for dignity and practicality.
- High-quality tents (costing \$800–\$1,000) may be used in specific cases or remote areas; limited stock available in-country.
- Bunkhouses and plywood structures (example from Dominica post-Hurricane Maria) noted as quick temporary solutions with pros and cons.
- Temporary relocation options include rent support programs and IOM's Airbnb initiative offering free accommodation for 1–2 months for vulnerable groups and essential workers.
- Prefabricated housing solutions discussed: Colombian-made prefab structures and Food for the Poor program approved by Jamaican authorities; all prefab designs must pass official quality control and engineering approval.

Partners' Updates:

IOM

- Currently working on an ongoing rapid assessment of official shelters, field visits planned in St. Elizabeth this week. Mapping of shelters to be completed by end of the week.
- Planning intention surveys over the next two weeks to understand future movements.
- Government interest noted in preventing informal settlements from becoming permanent.

Shelter Box

- Conducted first distribution on 15 November in Trelawney (Sion community) for about 85 households with partially destroyed homes. Provided training and demo builds during distribution.
- Scaling up from 1,000 households' worth of shelter kits and NFIs to 2,000, exploring additional options.
- Lessons learned: smaller training groups (20 people) worked better; police support was helpful for crowd management.

Core

- Continuing assisted roof-topping, increasing to three teams (approx. 30 homes/day).
- Starting cash-for-work debris removal activities.
- Shelter advisor is arriving on Wednesday to explore alternative shelter solutions.

Global Empowerment Mission

- Distributing tarpaulins (GEM tarps and IOM tarps) as an implementing partner.
- Working closely with JDF for logistics and community-led distribution.
- Recent distribution in Savanna-la-Mar: 2,000 tarps delivered in one day without security issues.
- Shared an [instructional video for the correct installation of tarps](#) on their social media.
- Leveraging JDF hubs for easier community access.

Rubicon

- Since November 8, completed 25 work requests (approx. 60 hours), tarped 5 roofs, and removed 7,500 cubic feet of debris; available for additional debris removal to support access of partners that are doing roof tarping.

Independent Volunteer- Dr. Deandra Romain

- Exploring options for temporary shelters (similar to field hospitals) to accommodate displaced persons, as schools used as shelters need to reopen, seeking support from organizations to source these solutions. Contact Info: **876 496 7447**

ADRA

- Participated in tarp distribution in Lacovia, St. Elizabeth, providing technical assistance and demonstrations for proper installation, including support for elderly and persons with disabilities; activities will continue Wednesday, with emphasis on addressing needs for households lacking structures and exploring temporary shelter solutions.

DR3

- Initiating debris cleaning team in Parity with five men and five women; will support UNDP field visit on Tuesday and Wednesday in the region, alongside participation from the National Fishery Committee.
- Preparing proposals for roof-topping and tarp distribution, with plans to provide technical assistance for vulnerable groups and train community members on proper installation to ensure durability beyond basic instructions.

One Love Consortium

(Haiti Air Ambulance, Medicorp, Lyft Nonprofit Logistics, Development Impact Global Group)

- Operational since October 31, distributing tarps, food, water, hygiene kits, solar lamps, medical and baby supplies; working closely with JDF (air operations) and JCF (ground

security); conducting needs assessments and setting up Starlink connectivity at shelters, schools, and health centers; supported communities include Maroon Town, Savanna-la-Mar, Lucia, North Santa Cruz, and multiple others.

American Friends of Jamaica (AFJ)

- Primarily focused on grant-making, currently funding initiatives with GEM, Food for the Poor, and One Love Consortium. Participating in coordination meetings to identify emerging needs and additional areas for support.

All Hands and Hearts

- Debris removal continues in Akampong (north of Saint Elizabeth) and surrounding communities, as well as New Hope and Whitehouse in the south/southeast. Teams are assessing top sites in Westmoreland, with installations planned by week's end. Partnership with Wine to Water will provide filters for donation next week.

IFRC

- Continuing distribution of essential relief items through its Emergency Relief Unit, which manages all distributions

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