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# Shelter and Settlement Standards: Essential Concepts

Shelter and Settlement		
Assistance Options and implementation modes	Enabling environment	Habitation and physical living space
<b>Standard 1</b> Assistance options	<b>Standard 1</b> Security of tenure	<b>Standard 1</b> Location and settlement planning
<b>Standard 2</b> Implementation mode	<b>Standard 2</b> Environmental sustainability	<b>Standard 2</b> Habitable living space and Household items
		<b>Standard 3</b> Technical assistance and Quality Assurance
Links, references and further reading		

## Everyone has the right to adequate housing

The right to adequate housing, recognised in key international legal instruments, should not be interpreted narrowly, but as including the right to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity. Adequate housing contains both freedoms and entitlements, including:

- protection against forced evictions, arbitrary destruction, and demolition of one's home and the right to housing, land, and property restitution;
- the right to choose one's residence, where to live, and to freedom of movement;
- security of tenure; and
- participation in decision-making related to housing at the national and community levels.

Adequate housing requires the following conditions to be met:

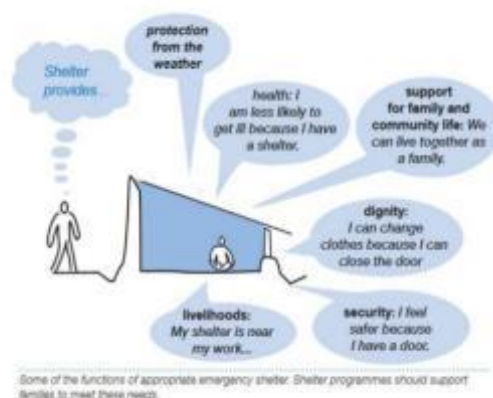
- sufficient space and protection from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, or other threats to health, including structural hazards and disease vectors;

- the availability of services, facilities, materials, and infrastructure;
- affordability, habitability, accessibility, location, and cultural appropriateness;
- sustainable access to natural and common resources; safe drinking water; energy for cooking, heating, and lighting; sanitation and washing facilities; means of food storage; refuse disposal; site drainage; and emergency services;
- the appropriate siting of settlements and housing to provide safe access to healthcare services; schools; childcare centres and other social facilities; and to livelihood, income, and employment opportunities (see *Food Security and Nutrition Standard on Livelihoods*); and
- building materials and housing construction policies that appropriately enable the expression of cultural identity and diversity of housing.

**The shelter minimum standards reflect the core content of the right to adequate housing and contribute to the progressive realisation of this right.** They do not provide a complete expression of the right to adequate housing and are interdependent on the realisation of other universal rights reflected in other technical chapters, including the right to water and sanitation, the right to health, and the right to adequate food.

To acknowledge the different elements of a quality shelter and settlement assistance, the shelter standards are organised into three main categories of complementary standards:

- **Assistance options and modes of delivery:** Standards that guide the actions and processes to determine what humanitarian assistance is required; how it should be provided; and how to engage with communities and other non-traditional actors involved in shelter responses.
- **Enabling environments:** Standards that reflect the elements required for successful shelter and settlement programming. While these standards of action are not unique to shelter and link with other sectors, they are a critical part of ensuring successful shelter interventions and can often have long-term results.
- **Habitation and physical living space:** Standards that determine the qualitative outcomes of sheltering. Sheltering interventions should ensure that affected families attain protective spaces and living accessories, which enable domestic and community living.



## Shelter in humanitarian response

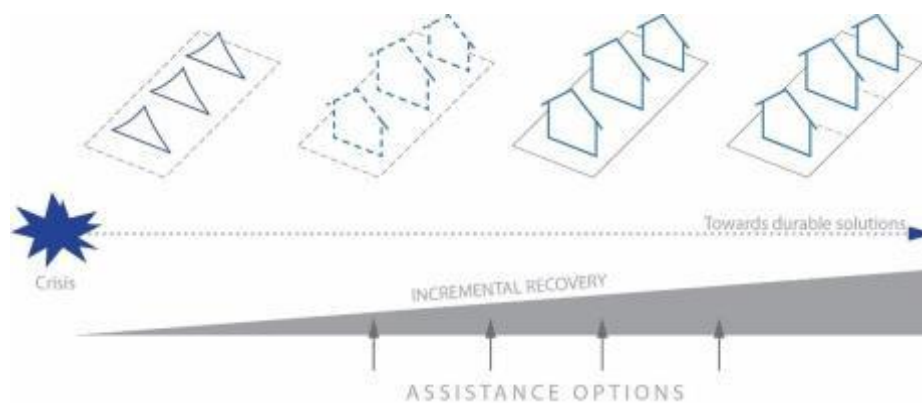
**Sheltering is a critical determinant for survival in the initial stages of a crisis** as it provides safety, privacy, and protection from the elements. It also promotes living conditions that improve health and prevent the spread of disease. Beyond survival, shelter contributes to human dignity, offers stability, contributes to psychosocial well-being, provides a place to work, and offers the ability to connect to community life and to raise a family. Recovery and reconstruction starts from day one of a crisis.

**A crisis affects each household and community differently.** As affected communities are generally the first responders, shelter and settlement assistance should support and draw upon the existing strengths of families, communities, civil society, and government. The dynamics of displacement due to conflict – particularly the cumulative effect of repeated displacement and related protection and nutrition crises – are disruptive to pre-crisis social networks. Without social cohesion, it is difficult to

regain a sense of normalcy. It is increasingly important for shelter interventions to build a sense of safety and psychological well-being. Promote existing coping strategies and, where possible, encourage self-sufficiency and self-management by those affected by the crisis.

**Shelter and settlement assistance may not be a single action or product, but a series of relevant assistance options informed by location and timing.** At a minimum, work to achieve an adequate physical habitable living space in a safe location with an appropriate level of secured tenancy rights. Shelter support is not limited to the delivery of hardware, materials, or the construction of a shelter. Emphasise assistance through community empowerment and mobilisation, while providing technical assistance and quality assurance.

**Shelter and settlement recovery is an incremental process leading to a durable solution as quickly as possible** and is led by the households and communities assisting affected people. Each household and community will take different paths to reach their durable solution depending on their capacities, vulnerabilities, preferences, and assets (i.e. physical, natural, financial, political, social, and spiritual). The recovery process may not be linear or follow a set time scale, with setbacks due to security, political, and economic issues influencing or limiting options (see *Diagram 2*).



**Diagram 2:** Through an incremental recovery process, a durable solution is targeted.

**Assisting people in urban areas** can be complicated by increased density of space, infrastructure needs, government regulations, and the diversity of social behaviours. During and after a crisis, communicating with, and targeting highly mobile people, and finding enough living space to accommodate high-density populations is a challenge. Technically complex infrastructures (e.g. high-rise buildings) are likely to be affected, requiring humanitarians to work with complex systems and tenancy arrangements involving multiple owners, renters, or informal settlers.

Effective humanitarian shelter assistance places affected people at the centre of the assistance and can be best done through a settlements-based, neighbourhood or area-based approach. Working in urban contexts requires expertise in urban planning and design – as well as housing, land, and property rights – to successfully navigate regulations, laws, and policies. A strong understanding of local housing and financial markets is crucial. Be prepared to engage with civil society and private sector actors, given that interest groups, professions, and networks connect people. Private sector actors can play a strong role in delivering sustainable life-saving solutions that respect local norms, avoid the creation of parallel structures, and which build on existing services.

### **Shelter, Key Protection Considerations, and the Core Humanitarian Standard**

Crises can worsen pre-existing inequalities. To ensure that shelter and settlement responses support assistance in a non-discriminatory manner, national and international assistance actors must offer impartial assistance to those who have the least capacity to cope with the impact of a crisis and are least able to recover by themselves by putting them at the centre of the response (see *Core Humanitarian Standard chapter*). Sensitivity to societal and cultural norms, to family and core

household structures (including polygamous societies), and to a community's ties to its location should inform settlements planning and shelter allocation. Shelter and settlement assistance varies from offering access to household items to more complex and high value transfers, such as the allocation of land or provision of a shelter or housing. Respect and "do no harm" to existing community structures and to promote social cohesion wherever appropriate by implementing high quality assistance according to the standards in this chapter.

Shelter and settlement assistance strategy options and implementation modalities should be informed by an understanding of the various physical, cultural, economic, and social barriers some people may face in accessing services in an equitable manner. Attention should be given, in particular, to the following:

- **The legal status of individuals** (e.g. refugee, stateless, migrant, asylum-seeker, homeless or landless, and others deprived of civil liberties and access to public services or social safety nets); and
- **People facing unique protection risks** (*see the Handbook introduction*) and **groups at particular risk of discrimination and social exclusion from shelter or settlements** due to:
  - a. their ethnicity, nationality, caste, indigenous group, or religious or political affiliation;
  - b. their tenure situation, displacement status, informal settler status, or renter status; or
  - c. the location of dwellings in hazardous areas, disaster prone areas, insecure areas, urban slums, or informal settlements.

### Key Terminology

**Shelter** is the habitable living space at the household level, which includes the items necessary to support daily activities (*see Habitable Living Space standard*).

**Settlement** is the location and community where people live (*see Location and Site Planning standard*).

**Settlement approach, neighbourhood approach, and area-based approach:** These approaches all have the following in common:

- they are holistic;
- they have integrated, multi-sector responses;
- they are community-led and ensure a participatory approach; and
- they have the potential to scale up should there be the need to do so

The minimum standards consider the following essential steps and logic:

1. **Gain an understanding of the pre-crisis shelter and settlement context**, including where, how, and in what type of tenure arrangement people lived before the crisis.
2. If a crisis impacts where and how people live, in shelter terms, those **people can be categorised as displaced, non-displaced, or indirectly affected**.
3. Within each of these three categories, **catalogue the shelter and settlement typologies**. Each typology requires an individual understanding of the base for determining the appropriate assistance options.
  - **Indirectly affected populations** must not be forgotten as they form part of the context and may also need assistance.
  - **Affected populations** are often the first responders and are their own agents of recovery.
4. **Most households will start to self-recover when needed assistance is provided** through the assistance givers (red box) and/or through the indirectly affected population, which has several implementation modes to support the affected populations.

5. The different assistance options ultimately should lead to a **durable solution**.

**For further reading:**

Pinheiro Principles: United Nations Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons. E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/17. <http://www.refworld.org/docid/41640c874.html>

All Under One Roof; [http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/Shelter/All-under-one-roof\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Documents/Secretariat/Shelter/All-under-one-roof_EN.pdf)

*Refugee Convention* <http://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html>

*Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* (1998)

OHCHR and UN-HABITAT (2014). “The Right to Adequate Housing” Fact Sheet No. 21 (Rev. 1). [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21\\_rev\\_1\\_Housing\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf).

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1991). General Comment No. 4: The right to adequate housing (art. 11.1 of the Covenant). <http://www.refworld.org/docid/47a7079a1.html>

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1997). General Comment No. 7: The right to adequate housing (art. 11.1 of the Covenant): forced evictions). <https://www.escr-net.org/resources/general-comment-7>

## 1. Strategies, assistance options and implementation modes

Sheltering assistance initially offers life-saving support, supports sheltering options during the duration of the humanitarian response, and should contribute to incremental recovery. The aim is for people affected by the crisis to return to adequate housing and normalcy as soon as possible. Good sheltering approaches should continue to improve living conditions, moving towards long-term solutions of reconstruction, resettlement and reintegration.

A shelter and settlement response strategy should be developed at the regional, national, agency or community level as appropriate. A good response strategy will guide key decisions, making the link between understanding the context and choosing the best assistance options. It will explain what is missing and which actor is best placed to provide support.

Along sheltering options, there are also a variety of ways that those options can be implemented to achieve quality outcomes. Different options and modes of assistance will have both positive and negative aspects that can have an impact on sense of ownership, participation, social cohesion, gender dynamics, economic recovery of the affected area, livelihoods creation and market and supply chain recovery.

<b>Strategies, assistance options and implementation modes Standard 1.1: Assistance options</b>	
<b>Appropriate shelter and settlement assistance options are offered.</b>	
<b>Key Action 1:</b> Understand the pre-crisis shelter and settlement context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider location, housing type, tenure, market and legal frameworks. Review existing preparedness and contingency plans.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Action 2:</b> Understand the post-crisis shelter and settlement scenario.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where are people sheltering, and what issues influence their decisions on shelter?</li> <li>What are their capacities, coping strategies, sheltering plans and intentions?</li> <li>What are the shelter and settlement plans of the authorities and other service providers?</li> <li>Assess whether existing shelter is appropriate and can be supported, or if alternatives are required based on estimated length of stay and culturally acceptable living standards.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Action 3:</b> Determine a range of assistance options for the context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review availability of land and structures, housing markets, rental markets, etc.</li> <li>Assess any protection risks or threats related to shelter, including perception of the host community.</li> <li>Work with the affected population to identify specific needs of specific groups and solutions that can fit their priorities.</li> <li>Align assistance options with the stage of the crisis</li> <li>Consider human, financial, physical, environmental and social resources available.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Action 4:</b> Select shelter assistance options appropriate to the location, settlement type, and context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer assistance tailored to the needs and preference of the affected people, host community and authorities.</li> </ul>
<b>Key indicators</b>	

***Percentage of the population that indicates their shelter and settlement needs have been met through assistance options that reflect their priorities and support continued recovery.***

***Percentage of people that report feeling safe in their shelter and settlements option***

***Percentage of shelter options that meet or exceed the agreed safe building standards/principles***

## **What else do I need to know?**

### ***Pre-crisis shelter and settlement context***

The pre-crisis shelter and settlement context will form the base of assistance options, especially for non-displaced populations. The shelter and settlement type, housing type and tenure arrangement are broadly categorised as:

- house owner-occupied;
- apartment owner-occupied;
- house tenant
- apartment tenant;
- land tenant; and
- occupancy with no legal status.

For people who have been displaced, understand what type of housing and location they left. Consider this in future planning, whether they will be able to return to their place or origin or not.

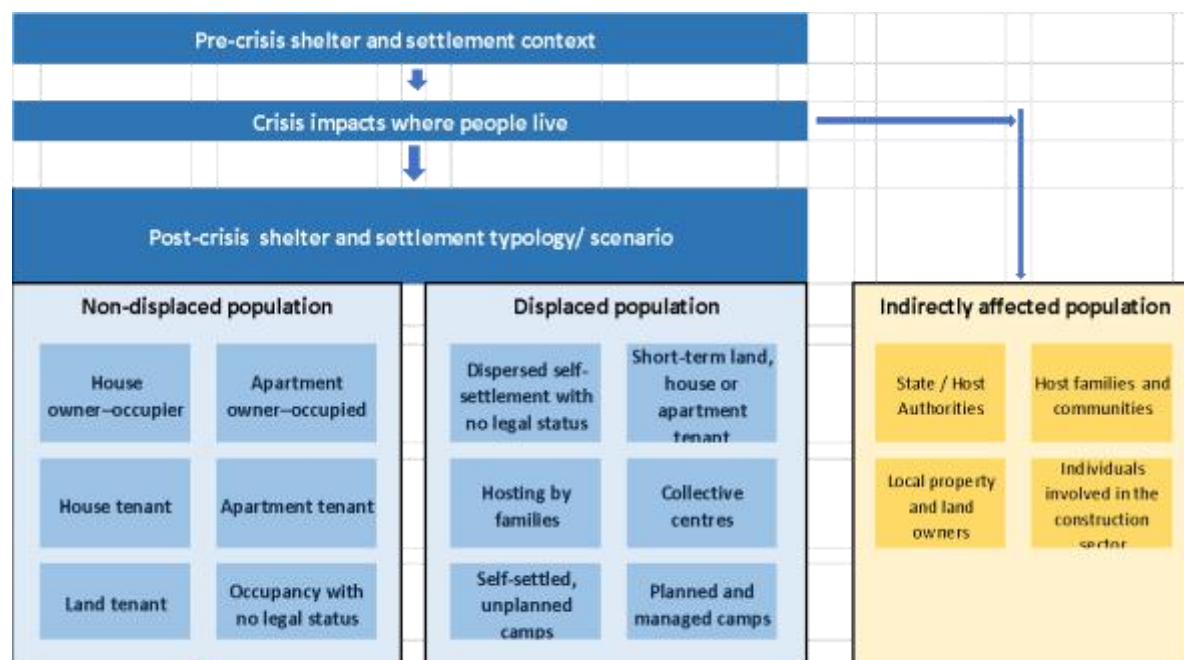
### ***Understand the post-crisis shelter and settlement scenario***

A crisis will affect each household in different ways:

- Non- displaced households may safely remain in the place where they were living before the crisis.
- Displaced households are those who might have to move from their place of origin for safety and security reasons. Economic migrants also fall into this category. These households can be further categorised as:
  - dispersed self-settlement with no legal status;
  - hosted by families;
  - self-settled unplanned camps;
  - short term land, house or apartment tenant;
  - collective centres; or
  - planned and managed camps.



- Indirectly affected populations are those households whose housing situation was not directly affected by the crisis but are experiencing indirect repercussions, these are the families and communities that may be hosting the affected households, local property and land-owners whose interest might be impacted, those in the construction or housing sector and state of host authorities whose nature of their work might need a different focus due to the crisis.



### ***Explore a range of shelter and settlement assistance options***

Assistance may not be a single action but a series of assistance options depending on location and timing. At a minimum, the process should work to achieve an adequate physical habitable living space in a safe location with an appropriate level of secured tenancy rights. In both conflict and natural disaster contexts, the recovery process may not be linear nor follow a set time scale to achieve a durable solution. (See: Strategy development, Implementation modalities, Security of tenure and Habitable living space standards) (see diagram 1 Introduction chapter). A crisis will affect each household and community differently, and each will take different paths to arrive at their durable solution according to their capacities, vulnerabilities, assets and preferences. (See diagram 2 introduction chapter)

Combinations of assistance may be required to meet the needs of various groups of the affected populations which is invariably interconnected with the shelter and settlement type, typology and its location.

**For non-displaced;** For those who are able to remain safety in their house or land or are able to return immediately from evacuation, supporting these households to be as near as possible to their original house with shelter kits, household items, tools, or tents will make it easier for households to start retro-fitting or repairing the original house or rebuilding a new house on the original plot. If the process might take unacceptable time, and exposed to protection risks sheltering households temporarily until they are able to safely return other options such as host family assistance, rental assistance, temporary/ transitional shelter, core shelter as options which can be explored. In case the crisis might have changed the security and safety environment, relocation might need to be

considered. example. Newly designated hazard zone due to landslide or flooding or an area newly designated to a specific group.

### ***Sheltering assistance options***

- **Household items:** needed to carry out essential daily activities such as sleeping, food preparation and storage, eating and drinking, lighting, and personal clothing.
- **Shelter kits:** material, tools and fixtures needed to create habitable living space. (Link)
- **Tents:** pre-manufactured portable shelters with a cover and a structure. (Link; Tents; A guide to the use and logistics of family tents in humanitarian relief)
- **Tools:** tools, fixtures and measuring devices for debris removal, construction, and maintenance. Can be provided as a communal or household level, however establish a management and safekeeping plans for communal use before distributing them. Tools has potential of providing future livelihoods activities.
- **Repairs:** construction, maintenance activities to restore the shelter to its original state.
- **Retrofitting:** existing structures that are standing but unsafe (and often inhabited) are made safe by adding new technologies and features originally not there. (Link to build change seismic retrofitting guide)
- **Host family assistance:** people who are unable to return to their original homes often stay with family and friends, or entire communities hosted by a host community. However, if the duration of stay prolongs the strain on the host family and community will start to surface. Options of assisting the hosts to continue sheltering the affected include; 1) Support to expand or adapt an existing host family shelter 2) Financial or household items or material support to the host to maintain running costs. The resulting increase in population density should be assessed and the demand on social facilities, infrastructure provision and natural resources should be evaluated and addressed. (link to Assisting host families and communities after crises and natural disaster A step-by step guide IFRC)
- **Rental assistance:** assisting affected households to rent houses and apartments can inject cash into the host community. This can help mitigate tensions, but also can inflate and exhaust the rental market. Rental assistance is not limited to financial contributions; technical support can promote sound legal tenancy and (See security of tenure standard) and standard and density of habitable living space. Rent is an ongoing expense, thus exit strategies, promoting self-sufficiency or connecting livelihoods activities must be planned early.
- **Temporary shelters:** short term sheltering solutions, which limit costs of the construction. These will be removed once the next stage of sheltering solution is offered. (Link; Post-disaster shelter: Ten designs IFRC)
- **Transitional shelters:** rapid shelters designed from materials and techniques that can be upgraded, re-used, or recycled for use in more permanent structures, or that can be relocated from temporary sites to permanent locations. They are designed to transition affected populations to more durable shelter.
- **Core shelter:** planned, designed and constructed to be eventually part of permanent house but not completing it. It allows the future process of extension by the household through their own means and resources. The aim of a core shelter is to create one or two rooms together with water and sanitation facilities (see WASH standard). It provides safe and adequate living space and necessary household items to support daily domestic activities in and around the home. (See habitable living space standard)

- **Reconstruction:** building permanent housing is often seen as a role for development actors and the host government. Establishing a community-based approach during the reconstruction process can have a profound effect on overall social cohesion during reconstruction efforts. (Link to Safer homes stronger communities World Bank)

### Settlement assistance options

- **Securing tenure:** negotiate housing and land occupation rights for the affected population that guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats. It enables one to live in one's home in security, peace and dignity. (See security of tenure standard).
- **Setting up camps:** camps are an option of last resort when no other practical alternatives can meet the needs of the affected population in time and at scale. They do not provide a permanent sustainable solution. Camps provide temporary protection and assistance, to meet the basic human rights of displaced populations. Camps may be required in areas where security threats increase the risk, or where access to essential services and resources is limited. (See settlement planning standard)
- **Collective centre support:** existing buildings can be used as collective centres or evacuation centres to provide rapid shelter. These building and enclosures can be schools, community buildings, covered playgrounds, religious facilities and vacant properties. Such properties may require adaptation or upgrading, for habitation (see habitation standard). In many countries, buildings are pre-identified for use as collective centres, with associated management and service provision responsibilities. Although school buildings are often used to accommodate crisis-affected populations, alternative structures should be identified immediately to enable schooling to continue. (link to
- **Managing camps and collective centres:** The aim of camp and collective centre management is to ensure that services and protection are provided. (see camp management tool kit 2015)
- **Debris removal:** improves public safety and access to the affected population and site of operation. Where there is the possibility of corpses being recovered during this process, it is essential to consider this in advance to ensure appropriate handling and identification (See Health chapter). The retrieval of personal possessions, and the use, management, ownership of debris must be considered. Mitigating risk from structurally dangerous buildings, geographical hazards, and hazardous materials must be considered. Debris removal may provide opportunities for cash for work programmes and/or require the use of major equipment and expertise to undertake. Opportunities for recycling and reuse should be considered, as should the environmental impact of disposal sites (see environmental sustainability standard).
- **Rehabilitate and/or install common infrastructure:** water and sanitation, (see wash standards) roads, drainage (see site planning standard), bridges,
- **Rehabilitate and/or install community facilities:** access to essential services, including;
  - **Education;** Schools, child friend spaces, safe play areas, (See INEE Minimum Standards for Education)
  - **Health service;** Health centres and hospitals (See health standard)
  - **Communal activities;** Meeting places for recreation and worship, fuel storage, cooking facilities solid waste disposal.
  - **Economic activities;** Markets, land and space for livestock, space for livelihoods and business.
- **Urban/village planning and zoning**

### ***Civil-military co-ordination***

Co-operation is important for shelter activities in conflict and disaster scenarios. In conflict scenarios, humanitarian agencies and the military should share critical information on threats against civilians. This enables them to “enhance security for civilians in those areas, information on population movements and humanitarian needs”, and to ensure co-ordination between military and humanitarian protection activities. In conflict and disaster scenarios, humanitarian agencies can utilise the unique capabilities of militaries. (UN OCHA, 2014 / UN OCHA 2015)

This includes:

- infrastructure support (services that facilitate humanitarian activities), including re-establishing power supplies to shelter infrastructure; or
- indirect assistance (services where military units or personnel are removed from the population and assistance activities), such as transporting shelter building structures (UN OCHA, 2014 / UN OCHA 2015).

### **Links and references to guidelines**

UN OCHA (2014) Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination: A Guide for the Military. Available from: <https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/UN%20OCHA%20Guide%20for%20the%20Military%20v%201.0.pdf>

UN OCHA (2015) UN-CMCoord Field Handbook. Available from: <https://www.unocha.org/legacy/what-we-do/coordination-tools/UN-CMCoord/publications>

## **Shelter and settlement strategies. Standard 1.2: Implementation mode**

Appropriate implementation modes are used to provide shelter and settlement assistance.

**Key action 1:** Conduct pre-and post-crisis market and supply chain assessments of the local context

- Consider the availability, capacity, supply and quality of:
  - construction materials and products;
  - construction design, supervision and management services;
  - financial service providers and transfer mechanisms;
  - construction labour force, skilled artisans and contractors; and
  - housing and land rental markets.

**Key action 2:** Consult with the affected population to analyse the merits of a range of complementary implementation modes such as:

- technical assistance and quality assurance support;
- financial support;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in kind material assistance;</li> <li>• contracting works</li> <li>• commissioned labour; and</li> <li>• capacity building.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key action 3:</b> Select and implement assistance through the most appropriate mode.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider desired outcomes, preferences of people receiving assistance, capacities, markets, and contributions to long-term recovery, among other elements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key indicators</b></p>
<p><i>Percentage of the affected population requiring shelter support who receive assistance through an appropriate implementation mode.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of affected population reporting that they are satisfied with the quality, quantity and timeliness of assistance they received.</i></p> <p>Refer to CHS Commitments 1 and 2</p>
<p><b>What else do I need to know?</b></p> <p><b>Quality controls</b></p> <p>Shelter and settlement assistance options vary, from household items to the construction of a shelter to the construction of a permanent home to rental subsidies. Whatever the assistance modality chosen, quality control and technical assistance to ensure health and safety and build back safer criteria is critical. (Refer to technical assistance standard)</p> <p><b>Indirect impact of the implementation mode</b></p> <p>How people receive assistance can have benefits in addition to the assistance itself. Benefits can arise to the host community, government, and providers of assistance as well as those in need of support. Considering the indirect effects can also influence the choice of assistance to bring the most benefit to the quality of the assistance. For example, owner-driven reconstruction may yield greater satisfaction with the completed shelter than one that is commissioned to a contractor. Employing host communities to construct may offer opportunities for them to interact in a positive way with the displaced population; it also offers livelihoods opportunities which can lead to greater social cohesion. Using cash grants can have a multiplier effect on the local market. Other examples of indirect impacts include improvement of gender dynamics, economic recovery of the affected area, livelihoods creation and market and supply chain recovery. Whatever mode is chosen, avoid child labour. See the Inter-Agency Guidelines on Child Labour in Emergencies.</p> <p>See Annex xx: Delivering Through Markets for further advice and guidance on the use of cash based assistance, supply chain / procurement practices and market analysis.</p> <p><b>Market analysis</b></p> <p>Understanding and accounting for the surrounding markets is critical for a quality shelter and settlement response and numerous tools and guidance exist to support the process (make the link here with the MiSMA – Minimum Standard for Market Analysis.) Yet most of those tools have</p>

been developed with the assessment and analysis of commodities market in mind. Understanding service market systems, like rent or shelter can be especially challenging and may require the help of a market specialist. The need to capture rent and other shelter and settlement service related market systems is likely to increase with the increased uptake of multipurpose grants.

### ***Implementation modes***

#### Technical assistance and quality assurance

Technical assistance is an integral part of any shelter and settlements response, regardless of the assistance option or implementation mode. Whatever form it takes, technical support should be timely, appropriate to the context, adapted to particular assistance options, consistent and clear, accessible, achievable and sustainable. (refer to Technical assistance standard.)

#### Financial support

Financial support can enable households and communities to address their needs where purchasing power is a barrier to accessing goods or services, or carrying out works. Technical support and capacity building must accompany financial support if a specific quality standard outcome is desired.

- Cash based interventions. There are several options to use cash or voucher transfer to achieve the desired outcomes, including: See glossary
  - conditional
    - tranche payment, controls put in place to achieve specified works
    - cash for work; payment made according to specific works or tasks achieved.
  - restricted use of cash or vouchers to access specific goods, or through specific vendors;
  - unconditional;
  - unrestricted; and
  - multipurpose.
- Access to financial services. Supporting affected households to access finance is an option to support recovery. This can be done through savings groups, access to loans, micro-credit, Insurance and offering guarantees.

#### In-kind material support

Purchasing household items and construction materials for distribution to affected households is an option when local markets are not able to supply to appropriate quality, quantity in a timely manner. See Delivering through Markets annex, and guidance on distribution)

#### Contracting

It is also possible to commission a contractor to carry out construction works. This mean that an individual or agency signs a contract agreeing on the exact works to be carried out, agreeing on cost, timeline, and quality.

#### Commissioned labour

Providing shelter and settlement requires commissioned labour (skilled or unskilled). Depending on the complexities, timing and risks associated with the work, this could involve using community labour, contracted labour, or direct labour.

### Capacity building

Capacity building, training and awareness-raising of all stakeholders is important to achieve locally-driven recovery at scale. This applies to the affected populations, local authorities, local built environment professionals, skilled and unskilled labour, landlords, legal experts, and local partners.

### ***Combining response modes***

A combination of these modes may lead to the best result. For example, a combination of technical assistance and inspection services, cash, and in-kind support might be offered to households for a shelter construction project. Vulnerable households that might struggle to manage a construction project, might benefit from having a contractor directly commissioned. To increase the local capacity to deliver at scale, skills training can be offered to local unskilled laborers.

## 2. Enabling environment for shelter and settlement

Security of tenure is normally concerned with protection from forced evictions, but in a humanitarian response, the scope of tenure is broader given the challenges to shelter and settlement in a changing environment. This standard helps to ensure that affected populations have security of tenure during the emergency response and beyond, whether grouped in camps or living in the host community.

A household's ability to earn income and pay rent, for example, must be factored into response as it is clearly connected to security of tenure. Linkages with other sectors, through a multi-sectoral settlement approach are critical, to consider the terms of access to essential services, income generating activities, and social networks.

Sustainability of shelter and settlement options must also be well considered to support quality programming to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

All communities rely on their local environments to provide natural capital and must be understood to avoid future harm (link to protection principle 1 and CHS commitments 3, 9). By considering sustainability through shelter and shelter assistances, it is possible to prevent and mitigate negative environmental impacts. Ignoring the importance of environmental issues in short term interventions can ultimately prove inefficient and compromise recovery. It can exacerbate existing problems or cause new ones that require further investment and intervention.

### Enabling environment Standard 2.1:

#### Security of tenure

**Affected population have security of tenure for their shelter and settlement options**

**Key action 1:** Undertake due diligence in programme design and implementation.

- Achieve as much legal certainty about tenure as is reasonable, given the context and constraints on resources and time (the “secure enough approach”).
- Reduce, as much as possible, the risk that the shelter programming causes or contributes to increasing tensions in the community and conflicts within local communities.
- Take steps to avoid future potential eviction of the beneficiaries.

**Key action 2:** Understand the legal framework and the reality on the ground.

- Map tenure system(s) and arrangements for the different relevant post-disaster shelter and settlement solutions.
- Understand how tenure relations, including dispute resolution mechanisms, are managed and practised, and how they may have changed since the crisis.



**Key action 3:** Include tenure security as an indicator of vulnerability.

- Understand how tenure systems, arrangements and practices affect security of tenure for vulnerable and marginalised populations.
- Ensure that vulnerable families with less secure tenure are included and involved in the design of the programme response.
- Ensure that the response does not bias towards owner-occupier or freehold arrangements.

**Key action 4:** Implement shelter and settlement programmes to support security of tenure

- Use local expertise.
- Adapt shelter and settlements programming to the different types of tenure, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups who may face additional security of tenure challenges.

**Key action 5:** Support protection from eviction.

- In case of eviction (or risk of), undertake internal/external referrals to identify alternative shelter solutions and other sectoral assistance.
- Incorporate legal support and assist in access to documentation.
- Provide legal support and capacity building of stakeholders to strengthen security of tenure for affected populations.
- Advocate to improve security of tenure.

**Key action 6:** Include security of tenure in monitoring and evaluation.

- Continually monitor the security of tenure of the affected population, including evictions, and attempt to mitigate disputes.

**Key indicators**

- *Percentage of affected population that has security of tenure for their shelter and settlement option at least for the duration of their assistance.*
- *Percentage of the affected population that has an appropriate agreement for security of tenure for their shelter option*
- *Percentage of the affected population that is free from forced eviction*
- *Percentage of the affected population with tenure challenges who have accessed -independently or through referral- legal services and/or dispute resolution mechanisms*
- *Percentage of shelter programme beneficiaries that perceive an increase of security of tenure*

- **Percentage of tenure agreements (e.g. lease agreements, ownership titles, or oral agreements) for shelter programme beneficiaries that include women, either in their own or joint names .**

## **What else do I need to know**

### ***Tenure***

Tenure is the relationship among people, as groups or individuals, with respect to housing and land, established through statutory law or customary, informal or religious arrangements. Tenure systems determine who can use what resources, for how long, and under what conditions. There are many forms of tenure arrangements, ranging from full ownership and formal rental agreements to emergency housing and occupation of land in informal settlements (Wyckoff, 2016). Regardless of the tenure arrangement, all persons still retain housing, land and property rights. People living in informal settlements, who are often internally displaced, may not possess a legal right to occupy the land but still possess the right to adequate housing and protection against forced eviction from their home (UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 1997).

### ***Security of tenure***

Security of tenure is an integral part of the right to adequate housing. It guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats and enables one to live in one's home in security, peace and dignity. All persons should possess a degree of security of tenure which guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other threats (UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), 1997). This includes tenure security for all those within households, particularly women.

### ***Urban considerations***

Tenure arrangements in urban areas can be complex due to the many different types of tenure available, the existence of informal housing markets, and rapidly changing environment. The majority of the urban displaced live in informal settlements or in rental accommodation without formal ownership, lease and/or use agreements. Therefore, the risk of forced eviction is a defining feature of their lives (Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, 2015). Shelter programme modes for urban areas should address complex tenure situations and consider incremental tenure approaches for renters, informal settlers, squatters, and others.

### ***Due diligence***

In some contexts, a humanitarian shelter intervention can lead to the eviction of vulnerable groups. In others, highlighting security of tenure issues can increase the risk of eviction for vulnerable groups. A due diligence approach will identify security of tenure risks facing different groups. In some cases, where the risks to security of tenure are too great, it may be best to do nothing at all. The due diligence standard (IOM and Shelter Cluster, 2013) can be summarised as:

- Achieve as much legal certainty about tenure as is reasonable, given the context and constraints on resources and time (the “secure enough approach”).
- Reduce the risk that the shelter programming causes or contributes to increased tensions in the community and conflicts within local communities.
- Avoid future eviction of the persons receiving assistance.

Tenure security can depend on refugees' and IDPs' relationships with host populations and settlement neighbours. A due diligence approach will look at the effects of programme interventions on the wider community. The goal is to avoid creating or exacerbating community tensions that could increase the risk of eviction (NRC, 2016).

Due diligence requires an understanding of existing tenure systems. Humanitarian organisations must work with community members, including landowners, local organisations, local leaders, and governments to gain that understanding. Shelter actors must understand the complexities in tenure arrangements and ensure that their interventions target the most vulnerable and tenure insecure. It is good practice to employ a local lawyer to help with verification, prepare and advise on documentation, and assess high-risk cases. Awareness of local laws, customs, power brokers, gender dynamics, and other context nuances will ensure that the vulnerable are not in harm's way after the shelter assistance is provided.

### ***Vulnerability***

A flexible approach to tenure is necessary to ensure that humanitarian shelter responses are equitable and support the most vulnerable. Processes for selecting people receiving assistance should consider and recognise forms of tenure other than registered freehold titles. Analysis of the legal framework for housing and land rights and an assessment of tenure arrangements will identify those with the highest tenure insecurity in each context. Programme responses should incorporate informal dwellers, tenants without formal agreements, tenants in informal settlements, owners in informal settlements, owners of shelters constructed without authorisation, and collective centre dwellers.

### ***Vulnerable groups***

Shelter actors should understand how gender and minority rights to housing, land, and property are addressed in their operations. It is important also to analyse intra-household tenure insecurity, particularly as it affects women. Shelter programmes should support diverse tenure arrangements, combined with legal support to improve security of tenure for those most at risk. Within households, those who experience discrimination – such as displaced women – require particular attention. This may be accomplished by promoting agreements in the names of both women and men in a household (NRC, 2014d).

### ***Civil documentation and agreements***

Housing, land, and property rights are conditional on possessing personal documentation (for example, birth certificates, marriage certificates, national IDs), and administrative records (for example, customary deeds, registered deeds, oral agreements, tenancy agreements, utility bills, taxes). This becomes a challenge in many crisis contexts, where both civil and housing, land and property documentation is not available due to various reasons:

- There may be no culture of securing and safekeeping of civil or land and property documents.
- Land and property may not have been registered for generations or land transfers and land occupation that occurred during the conflict may not have been registered. Additionally, internally displaced persons (IDPs) or refugees may have lost their land and property documentation during flight or displacement. Cadastral (land survey) documentation may have gone missing during war or may have been deliberately destroyed by the warring factions.
- Following crises, land records, cadastres, property records etc. may be lost. This may occur when IDPs lose documentation or when government buildings holding these records are damaged or destroyed.
- Land records may not be available in areas with informal or customary forms of tenure. There could be challenges with expensive formal tenure processes in areas or countries with weak rule of law or governance. In such instances, other methods should be instituted to ensure that shelter actors provide equitable access to shelter for all persons receiving assistance.
- Civil documentation may not be available for women. They may be included in their father or husband's documentation and may not have the possibility to claim it independently.
- Ensuring agreements for the use, rent or ownership of the land or property (for example, buildings or apartments). Examples of agreements are sale deeds, lease agreements, donations or others, as per the customary practice (which can be formal, informal, written or verbal). Always avoid risk for the person receiving assistance. Establish the roles and responsibilities of each party such as payments, timeframe, liabilities, and dispute resolution. As part of accountability and transparency, share the

agreements with all the parties involved (for example, persons receiving assistance, landowners, local organisations, and authorities). Good practices include ensuring sustainable tenure solutions and facilitating dispute resolution, depending on the context.

- Raising awareness of the importance of safekeeping HLP and other documentation with evidentiary value.

### ***Monitoring security of tenure***

It is important to monitor and evaluate whether the humanitarian shelter intervention is achieving the planned changes and to adapt and adjust the project accordingly. This requires building security of tenure into organisation's M&E framework: building it into programme objectives and defining results to measure from the beginning of an intervention. Programme theories of change should show how the provision of shelter goods and services contribute to tenure security, for example, by measuring occupancy rates as an indicator of quality. It also requires identifying the key results that should be being tracked and assessed as a part of programme monitoring and evaluation. By doing so, humanitarian actors can assess the protective effects of their programmes for immediate and longer-term tenure security.

- Use the initial tenure mapping/assessment to identify the main tenure arrangements present in the affected geographic areas, measure the number of the affected population who had access to those arrangements before the emergency, measure the number of those who have access since the emergency, assess which tenure arrangements can be engaged with through the shelter intervention, and understand how the arrangements can be strengthened as a programme objective.
- Consult with communities about the change they want to see as a result of the intervention and how it should be monitored, then build this into the programme M&E. This can include the community's and individual's own perceptions of security of tenure.
- Develop ways of monitoring and evaluating security of tenure throughout the programme cycle and using this information to adapt programmes.

### ***Common triggers for eviction***

The threat of eviction comes from a complex interaction of factors, as set out below:

- Inability to pay rent. Therefore, restrictions on livelihoods such as the right to work, can affect tenure security.
- Absence of written lease agreements with landlords, making people vulnerable to price increase and eviction.
- Restrictions on improving the housing environment, with those in breach of building permissions coming under constant threat of eviction.
- Personal disputes with their landlord. These may originate from cultural differences; or discrimination against refugees, as women or as members of ethnic groups.
- Occupancy or ownership is not permitted under local land use regulations.
- Changes in the land use regulations may also trigger unexpected evictions, for example, if an area is declared non-buildable due to hazards.
- Inaccessibility to regularisation processes. Users or occupants of buildable areas can face threats of evictions if they are unable to regularise their situation towards the civil administration.
- Housing transactions take place within customary or religious frameworks and are not recognised by statutory law. Women in particular are often not recognised as being able to hold housing, land and property rights under customary law (NRC, 2014d).
- Women may be at risk of eviction after divorce or death of their husband, or in situations of family violence (NRC, 2016b).

### ***Integrated approach for eviction response***

When forced evictions are threatened or carried out, there are various multi-sector response options depending on the circumstances and the context. They include:

- Preventing or delaying the eviction by addressing the causes. Such causes may include non-payment of rental fees, dispute between landlord and tenant, breach of agreement, or failure to obtain an eviction order.
- Checking whether the eviction procedure complies with international standards and national laws and is legally justified, and researching remedies if it does not.
- Providing legal assistance to those affected so they can have meaningful access to legal remedies.
- Addressing the need for shelter and basic services for those facing eviction and who do not have access to alternative shelter.
- Preventing or remediating violations of other human rights that may occur as a result of the eviction (for example, loss of access to education, etc.).
- Advocating for adherence to uphold national laws (where these are in line with international law) and international legal standards.

### **Legal support**

Since tenure security is affected by so many factors, other sectoral interventions can play a key role in supporting shelter programmes. In particular, legal assistance can help promote secure tenure and prevent forced evictions through:

- Assessing and clarifying the legal and policy framework relating to tenure security. This includes steps associated with appropriate documentation to document the lease, ownership, or use
- Advising on contracts to document tenure in a range of shelter modes;
- Advising on permissions or agreements for shelter interventions, as well as any associated taxes and fees;
- Providing legal information to shelter programme participants and landlords regarding of their respective rights and obligations;
- Intervening for those at risk of eviction, or following eviction;
- Providing customised advice and direction on issues such as essential services, status and registration, dispute resolution, and housing land and property issues;
- Strengthening lease agreements and challenging discriminatory or otherwise abusive rental practices, including adding joint male and female heads of households on lease agreements;
- Accessing support to legal stay and civil documentation as a prerequisite to accessing other rights and humanitarian assistance
- Dispute resolution services
- Advocating on behalf of the affected populations who are unwilling or unable to challenge discriminatory or otherwise abusive practices and seek legal remedies;
- Advising local government officials and customary authorities on housing, land and property rights, to help build capacity and strengthen their relationship with the displaced community.

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## **Enabling environment Standard 2.2:**

### **Environmental sustainability**

**Shelter and settlement assistance minimise negative effects on the environment and promotes sustainability.**

**Key action 1:** Identify environmentally sustainable shelter and settlement outcomes that reflect the broader sustainability requirements of the communities involved.

**Key action 2:** Incorporate environmental impact management into all shelter and settlement planning, from strategic to technical assessment and design.

- Assess the following to identify negative impacts and opportunities for improvement of programme quality:
  - the environmental impacts of the disaster/crisis; and
  - environmental impacts of proposed shelter solutions
- Support environmental sustainability for directly impacted and neighbouring communities.
- Develop an environmental impact management plan to address the issues identified. This plan should cover actions to avoid negative impacts, mitigate impacts when unavoidable and supporting environmentally positive results where possible.

**Key action 4:** Use materials and techniques appropriate to the context (familiar, acceptable, affordable)

- Avoid depleting local natural resources, or using materials that could lead to long-term environmental damage.
- Promote use of materials that can be recycled, reused or repurposed, and develop impact mitigation plans when necessary.
- Promote sustainable material production/management.

(See Annex xx: Delivering Through Markets for further guidance on supply chain / procurement practices, market analysis and monitoring.)

**Key action 5:** Protect, restore, rehabilitate and enhance the ecological value of operational sites during and following the intervention (especially for temporary displacement or relocation sites).

- Minimise the removal of natural vegetation and the disruption of natural drainage.
- Coordinate with authorities and WASH actors to restore or establish sustainable waste management practices.
- Remove immediate and obvious hazards from the area and repair (as far as possible) any serious environmental degradation.
- Leave the site in a state that will allow the local population to make use of it immediately and where possible leave the site in better condition than before.

**Key action 6:** Ensure the proper disposal of all non-recyclable materials or waste which could have a negative effect on the natural environment.



<b>Key action 7:</b> Establish, restore and promote safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy sources.
<b>Key indicators</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Percentage of shelter and settlements options that minimise adverse environmental impacts and support environmental sustainability outcomes.</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Percentage of total materials used for reconstruction that have been recycled/reused/repurposed</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Percentage of operational sites rehabilitated during occupation by the affected population and/or after their departure</i></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Percentage use of energy sources ranked against the following criteria: a) safety, b) reliability, c) affordability, d) accessibility, e) sustainability ,f) efficiency</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>What else do I need to know?</b></p> <p><b>Environmental assessment</b></p> <p>Providing shelter for affected populations can have a significant negative effect on the natural environment through the depletion of local natural resources in both urban and rural areas. In such cases, additional environmental management and rehabilitation activities can minimise and mitigate the long-term effects. By assessing the environmental impact of a crisis and the shelter response options, it is possible to respond with the correct mitigating activities.</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consists of the following three elements; a description of the local environment (i.e. the environment against which the assessment is occurring) or “baseline,” an understanding of the proposed activity (in terms of whether an activity presents a risk to the environment) and an understanding of the consequence or the impact that occurs if the risk is realised. An environmental assessment should follow these basic steps. It may be helpful to consult with appropriate environmental agencies.</p> <p>Key points to be addressed or considered in an environmental assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify and analyse pre-crisis access and usage of local natural resources.</li> <li>• consider if the pre-crisis situation was sustainable/appropriate and to consider gender roles and social and economic conditions.</li> <li>• pay special attention to harvesting fuel and construction materials, water sourcing and waste management.</li> <li>• identify and analyse the extent of locally available natural resources and the impact of the disaster/crisis on these assets. When planning temporary or permanent shelter and settlement options for the affected population, prevent damage, misuse or overexploitation of resources and maintain ready and continued access.</li> <li>• consider social, economic and cultural issues. They can therefore assess the broader sustainability of the response and improve its overall effectiveness and efficiency.</li> </ul> <p>Many disasters for example landslides, are often a direct result of the mismanagement of natural resources. Alternatively, existing threats, such as seasonal flooding in low-lying areas, or a lack of safely harvestable natural resources, can cause disasters. As part of the response, an understanding of these threats is essential for settlement planning.</p>



**Environmental management plans**

Environmental management plans address the results of environmental assessments and take them into account in impact management and monitoring plans. They define actions to avoid negative impacts, mitigate impacts when unavoidable and support environmentally positive results. When proposing actions, consider gender roles, social and economic conditions. (see management of natural resources below).

**Sourcing materials**

Assess the environmental impact of sourcing natural resources such as water, timber, sand, soil and grasses, and fuel for firing bricks and roof tiles. Actors need to be particularly sensitive to the role of gender and to the rights and needs of at-risk groups in order to understand access, preference, and relations to use issues. Sustainable sourcing also includes promoting the use of multiple sources, the reuse of salvaged materials, and alternative materials production processes (such as stabilised earth blocks). Additional mitigating activities include practices such as complementary reforestation.

**Site selection**

Temporary, transitional, or permanent settlements should not be physically isolated from existing roads, towns, and markets if possible. Locating settlements in close proximity to existing infrastructure can reduce the environmental impacts associated with building new infrastructure and promote alternative transportation option in urban contexts. Care should also be taken to choose sites that are exposed to increasing climate related risks.

**Energy**

Where possible, programmes should help reduce household energy needs. Energy-efficient design using passive approaches to the heating or cooling of structures helps reduce household costs, while reducing environmental impacts. For example, provision of household lighting appliances like solar lamps. (LINK TO FOOD SECURITY STANDARD 1 for links to household cooking and energy)

**Debris management**

Removing debris following a natural disaster or conflict is a priority in order to effectively provide shelter and establish appropriate shelter assistances. Initiating debris management planning immediately after the crisis ensures the recycling, reuse, repurposing or safe disposal of debris. Key issues include the presence of corpses requiring identification and appropriate handling, and the retrieval of personal possessions. Actors will also have to identify structurally dangerous locations and hazardous materials and determine ownership of salvageable materials for reuse or sale. It is important to consider the use, management, ownership and environmental impact of disposal. The removal of debris may provide opportunities for cash-for-work programmes and/or require the use of major equipment and expertise. Implement safety measures when removing debris with equipment and offer technical guidance and support to the local population and workforce on how to tackle the task.

**Erosion**

Shelters and shelter assistance should retain trees and other vegetation to stabilise the soil and maximise the opportunity for shade and protection from the climate. Using natural contours for elements such as roads, pathways and drainage networks minimises erosion and flooding. When using natural contours is not an option, any likely erosion should be contained. Establishing drainage channels, piped drainage runs under roadways, and planted earth banks minimises water runoff and prevents soil erosion.

***Recycling waste***

Theoretically, it is possible to recycle almost all forms of solid waste found in most humanitarian settings. Organic kitchen waste is compostable while the majority of plastics, paper, glass and metals are recyclable. However, this assumes that the technology and markets for the raw commodity exist and are economically viable. Recycling relies on the extraction of materials from the waste stream. This is often easy to encourage when the high prices of virgin materials such as aluminium makes recycling attractive. Other materials are less attractive but in many settings the collection, sorting and sale of recyclable materials is profitable enough to offer multiple income generation opportunities. Supporting recycling in humanitarian settings and settlements as part of a more systematic solid waste management strategy depends on cultural attitudes to the handling of waste. It also relies on the proximity of businesses willing to purchase the separated materials either from individual collectors or from a centralised handling point. Any funds from the sale of the raw commodity can either be used to pay the individual collectors or to support the costs of the overall waste management system. Humanitarian settings provide opportunities for recycling of traditional materials as well as the inventive reuse of materials such as the canvas from old tents. Encouraging the innovative re-use of commodities reduces the volume of waste requiring disposal as well as provides additional economic opportunities. REFERENCE TO BE ADDED TO WASH SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS – ALSO ADD REFERENCE TO RECYCLING AND REUSING PACKAGING IN FOOD SECURITY CHAPTER Food Assistance Standard 3: Food Quality and Safety

***Management of natural resources***

Where the natural resources required to support a substantial increase in human habitation are limited, a resource management plan is essential. This skill set might not be readily available in the humanitarian context. If not, source external expertise to mitigate unsustainable demands on the natural environment. Where such natural resources are available, the management of temporary settlements should aim to minimise environmental damage. The resource management plan may include providing and managing sustainable external fuel supplies, and options for livestock grazing, agricultural production and other natural resource-dependent income streams. Large well-managed settlements may be more environmentally sustainable than numerous smaller, dispersed settlements that are not as easy to manage or monitor. However, large camps may put more pressure on and potentially have a more negative impact on their immediate host population than smaller dispersed camps. Shelter actors should consider the impact of interventions, such as camps, on the natural resource needs of populations hosting those affected by the crisis. REFERENCE CHS COMMITMENT 9.

***Decommissioning of sites and handover***

When closing temporary settlements, such as camps, shelter actors should address any significant environmental damage that may have accrued during the lifespan of the settlement. This includes damage within the immediate surroundings as well as in the wider landscape. Appropriate environmental rehabilitation measures can enhance the natural regeneration of the environment in and around temporary settlements. Teaching local populations sustainable land management techniques ensures the recovery of the site and the local environment, and leaves a lasting positive impact post-intervention. Local labour should be used in clearance and decommissioning activities where possible. Sites should have a decommissioning plan, ideally developed from the design stage of the intervention.

***Urban and rural contexts***

Although people in rural areas are more dependent on natural capital, natural also exists in the urban context. An urban disaster may need to focus more on the physical capital (debris, infrastructure systems) of the built environment however this physical capital originates from natural capital and urban areas absorb large quantities of natural resources. Particular caution

should be taken when using sand, bricks and cement which have larger environmental, and social, impacts.

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3. Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT): Tool to identify and prioritize impacts and secondary environmental risks from chemicals after a natural disaster. This is only used following the sudden onset of large-scale natural disasters. <http://www.eecentre.org/feat/>
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Environmental shelter and settlement guidance:

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5. Building Material Selection and Use: An Environmental Guide (BMEG) (WWF Environment and Disaster Management Green Recovery Connect), <http://envirodm.org/post/materialguide>
6. Global CCCM Cluster, Camp Closure Guidelines, 2014,  
[http://www.globalccmcluster.org/system/files/publications/Camp\\_Closure\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.globalccmcluster.org/system/files/publications/Camp_Closure_Guidelines.pdf)

### 3. Habitation and physical living space

In the immediate aftermath of a crisis it is usually difficult to think of shelter beyond the physical protection a roof and four walls can offer. However, the concept of humanitarian shelter goes far beyond the structure of a building. Adequate space, physical conditions and quality in construction are important and go a long way in providing safety, security, privacy, protection and dignity.

The location and settlement plan should be safe, acceptable and viable environments that offer access to basic services, livelihoods and opportunities to connect to a broader network. Shelters and settlements are linked to one another and need to be considered as a whole. The location of the shelters and sites, as well as the planning of neighbourhoods and communities where shelters are located are important in supporting the life that people affected by crisis will be able to build for themselves and their future recovery.

A place for a family to dwell and perform the variety of essential domestic activities is a core human need and right. The loss of house and home means more than just the loss of a structure - it is the loss of fundamental protection from weather, the means to secure belongings, the ability to perform basic activities like sleeping and eating, an important family asset, and the basic building block of domestic family life. The dwelling is also an important to enabling livelihoods, access to education, and good health.

This chapter addresses the key considerations and basic standards related to the basic dwelling household unit, to support domestic activities and the habitability of a dwelling.

Technical assistance is an integral part of any shelter and settlements intervention, regardless of the assistance option or implementation mode. It supports the self-recovery of large numbers of the affected and host populations and improves the quality and safety of their shelter and settlement options. It is essential when affected households or communities are actively involved the design of shelters, determining the site layout in choosing materials, erecting the shelters or executing or supervising construction. Technical assistance is also necessary to support cash transfer programming for quality assurance.

#### **Habitation and physical living space. Standard 3.1: Shelter location and settlement planning**

**The affected population lives in safe and secure locations with adequate private and shared space and access to essential services and livelihoods.**

**Key action 1:** Work through existing planning processes and regulations and negotiate terms to ensure that the affected population is accommodated in optimum locations.

- For existing sites mitigate against existing threats, and minimise potential for new ones.
- Locate new sites at a safe distance from actual or potential threats and hazards.
- Negotiate terms with the relevant authorities and owners that permit the affected population to stay in the most appropriate location for the appropriate duration. (see Standard Security of Tenure).
- Take account of and capitalise on the natural features of the site, such as slopes, sun orientation, prevalent winds, rainfall, and vegetation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan settlements through investigating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ topography slopes, sun orientation, prevalent winds, rainfall, and vegetation.</li> <li>○ risk zones; floods, contamination, landslides, fault lines</li> <li>○ access routes; pedestrian, vehicles, service transportation.</li> <li>○ presence and breeding sites of vectors such as mosquitos and rats ;</li> <li>○ formal and informal neighbourhood or administrative subdivisions;</li> <li>○ land use zoning and regulations and ownership of land and property</li> <li>○ markets livelihoods and income generating activities. including access to natural resources.(See Annex xx: Delivering Through Markets, for further guidance.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Key action 2:</b> Involve the affected population and all major stakeholders in all stages of site/settlement selection and planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult both displaced and host populations in the planning process.</li> <li>• Consider adopting an integrated community or neighbourhood / settlement / area based approach which accommodates a holistic approach.</li> <li>• Acquire an understanding of historical, social and cultural dynamics and norms, including group dynamics and potential factors of discrimination, such as age, gender and disability. gender roles and responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key action 3:</b> Ensure all parts of the population can access essential services and livelihoods opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Key action 4:</b> Plan the use of space to ensure sufficient surface area for all functions, accessibility to all shelters and services and adequate safety measures throughout the settlement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate and or organise space according to existing social norms and practices.</li> <li>• Consider the use of shared resources like water and sanitation facilities, communal cooking facilities, and food distribution points when making space allocations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key indicators</b></p>
<p><i>Percentage of shelters and/or settlement sites located in areas with no or minimal known natural or man-made threats, risks and hazards.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of affected population having access to appropriate and adequate essential services within an acceptable amount of time and with acceptable expense.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of the affected population that feels safe in their shelter and settlements option.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of sites that offer sufficient public space to carry out private and public outdoor activities appropriate to the context (for example, culture, climate)</i></p>

***Percentage of affected population that their shelter and settlements option offers sufficient privacy***

***Percentage of the displaced population and hosts that participate in decisions related to their private and shared space and their access to essential services.***

Refer to CHS commitment 4 KA. 4.3

## **What else do I need to know?**

### ***Planning processes***

Comply with existing planning regulations or negotiate with authorities for exceptions on the ground of humanitarian needs. Governments or local authorities often introduce new policies regarding no-build zones or buffer zones immediately after a disaster or crisis. Consider this while advocating for risk-informed planning and appropriate assistance options in the interim (“no-build zone” does not mean “no-assistance zone”).

### ***Setting***

Urban and rural environments, as well as planned or self-settled camps, will require different shelter and settlement responses. Urban settings tend to be more complex than rural settings. Variables include the number and variety of actors, cultural, socioeconomic and linguistic diversity, and the nature of regulatory frameworks. Other differences include financial literacy, availability of cash, communication infrastructure, public services, transportation and access, and market systems. Urban settings may have more and better resources, services and markets than in rural settings.

Urban interventions may require specific attention to neighbourhood/area based approaches, land tenure and security. Any community-based intervention in urban areas must take into account the network of communities to which people associate themselves.

### ***Organising principles***

Site layouts should be based on urban design and town planning principles by using components such as gateways, nodes, intersections, and parks. These components are to be connected by a network of access routes and plots for housing designed accordingly. These components, informed by physical, social, environmental and economic factors, form the spatial plan of the new settlement.

### ***Essential services and facilities***

Affected people returning to their original homes, and those hosted in temporary settlements require safe, secure and equitable access to essential services, such as:

- safe and accessible water;
- safe and accessible sanitation facilities; refer to WASH standards
- adequate cooking facilities (including stoves and fuel);
- adequate communal and household lighting solutions;
- adequate food provision and storage;
- health facilities
- solid waste disposal;
- schools;
- social facilities;
- places of worship;
- meeting points;

- recreational areas including child-friendly spaces; and
- space for livestock accommodation (ensuring adequate separation of any such livestock from residential spaces).

#### ***Site planning for temporary settlements***

Neighbourhoods should support existing social networks, allow opportunities for new networks to form (for example, through shared work, or child care), contribute to security, and enable self-management by the affected people. Consider the allocation of sufficient open space for flexible community activities, such as markets, sports, ceremonies, and recreation. Maintain the privacy and dignity of separate households when creating the plot layout for temporary settlements. Each household shelter should open onto common space or a screened area instead of being opposite the entrance of another shelter. Provide safe living areas for all vulnerability categories. Apply the principles of retaining social connections by closely grouping families and extended families and groups who come from similar backgrounds together to retain the social bonds. Consider the needs, preferences and habits of different age, sex and disability groups.

#### ***Surface area of temporary planned or self-settled camps***

For camp-type settlements, a minimum usable surface area is 45 square metres per person. This can be used to calculate the necessary space for:

- roads and footpaths;
- external household cooking areas or communal cooking areas;
- educational facilities and recreational areas;
- public spaces;
- sanitation;
- firebreaks;
- administration areas;
- water storage;
- distribution areas;
- markets;
- storage;
- kitchen gardens for individual households; and
- site drainage

When planning, consider possible changes in the population, such as the addition of newcomers or transitional populations. The minimum usable surface area per person can be reduced to 30m<sup>2</sup> from 45m<sup>2</sup> where communal services like schools, clinics, or markets exist, are accessible or are in existing or additional facilities outside of the settlement. Mitigate the consequences of higher-density occupation when the minimum surface area must be reduced. It is important to ensure adequate separation and privacy between individual households, and to reserve space for the required facilities.

*Site drainage; paragraph from WASH to be inserted in final text.*

#### **Vector-borne disease risks**

Low-lying areas, debris, potholes, vacant buildings and excavations, can provide breeding grounds for pests, and pose health risks to nearby populations. The impact of vector-borne diseases on affected populations is mitigated by appropriate site selection for temporary settlements. Site cleaning and drainage in and around the shelters and settlements reduces the risk of standing water. (see WASH Vector control standard and essential health service communicable disease standard.)



### **Access**

Consider the condition of local roads and the proximity to transport hubs for the supply of relief assistance. The supply of relief assistance must avoid damaging the local road infrastructure. Consider seasonal constraints, hazards and security risks. The site and any primary storage and food distribution points must be accessible by heavy trucks from an all-weather road, and other facilities must be accessible by light vehicles. Provide safe, secure roads and pathways within settlements, and all-weather access to all individual dwellings and communal facilities such as schools and health centres with consideration given to people with visual, mental and physical impairments.

### **Fire safety**

Fire risk assessments should inform the site planning of temporary settlements and the grouping of individual household shelters. Mitigating actions should include the provision of 30-metre wide firebreaks between every 300 metres of built-up area for camp like settings. Establish a space of at least 2 metres between buildings. If possible, that space should be twice the overall height of any adjacent structure. This prevents collapsing structures from touching adjacent buildings. Consider the preferred cooking practices (such as type of stoves, and location of the activity) and the use of stoves or heaters. Consider providing safe stoves, fire safety equipment and awareness training to site inhabitants. Prioritise construction with slow-burning materials where possible and appropriate. Provide accessible information on fire prevention and management to residents.

### **Disaster risk reduction at settlement level**

Undertake regular hazard and risk assessments. Consider threats posed by conflict, earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, flooding or high winds when planning shelter and settlement solutions. Consider climate change adaptation measures when planning a settlement. Locate settlements in areas free of diseases or contamination, and that have minimal vector risks. Keep in mind that potentially hazardous materials such as asbestos are often exposed during and after a crisis. In addition, mines and unexploded ordnance can be present due to previous or current conflicts.

Technical specialists should assess the stability of buildings and other structures in inhabited areas affected by disasters. For collective centres, it is important to determine the ability of existing buildings and structures to accommodate any additional loading. Analyse the risk of the failure of building components such as floors, internal dividing walls, and roofs.

Consider the actual or potential security and health threats and risks due to:

- age
- gender:
- disability;
- social or economic status;
- dependence of affected populations on natural resources and;
- the relationships between affected populations and host populations.

Avoid the creation of isolated or screened areas for special groups.

### **Debris removal**

Initiate debris management planning immediately after the crisis to ensure that debris can be recycled or identified for separation, collection and/or treatment and offer access to affected areas.(see Environmental Sustainability standard and WASH Solid Waste Management standard).

### **Schools, health centres and community infrastructure**

Promote equitable access to essential services including schools, health centres, and communal meeting areas. Offer safe areas such as Child Friendly Spaces, Sex-disaggregated Adolescent Safe



Spaces, Women's and Girls' Spaces, Mother-Infant Spaces. Temporary structures may be used to provide immediate, short-term facilities where the repair or construction of public buildings is subject to the development of new settlement plans or other regulatory processes. Provision of services in temporary or permanent structures should meet agreed standards.

#### ***Livelihood support***

Consider pre-disaster economic activities and potential opportunities for affected people when settling the affected population in the post-disaster context. Considerations should include land availability and access for cultivation and grazing, and access to market areas and local services for economic activities. Shelter and settlement programs have the opportunity to offer local employment dependent on the mode of implementation. Labour and skills market research should be made to estimate and plan if large scale construction is envisaged. Training and education programs to boost local construction capacity may be needed to achieve results within a set time frame.

#### ***Operation and maintenance***

Develop plans to sustain facilities, services and utilities (water, sanitation, drainage, waste management, schools, etc.) after the humanitarian intervention. Involve stakeholders such as the public sector, authorities, communities, and/or local organisations when planning how to sustain services. Project the costs in the project budget or define a business and/or management plan when considering how to sustain facilities, services and utilities.

#### ***Evacuation routes***

Make evacuation plans with local authorities, communities, those facing mobility or accessibility barriers such as older people and persons with disabilities. The occupants of buildings used as collective centres must have alternative escape routes and live within a reasonable distance from a minimum of two clearly visible exits.

#### ***Crime prevention***

Consider ways in which the design of the settlement plan can design out crime. Design considerations might include:

- shelter or building location, orientation, and accessibility;
- night lighting;
- distance of toilet and bathing area to the shelter
- passive surveillance through visual lines.

#### ***Settlement planning and environmental protection***

Use existing settlement patterns and topographical features to understand how to minimise negative effects on the natural environment. (see Enabling Environment Standard 2: Environmental Sustainability).

## **Habitation and physical living space Standard 3.2:**

### **Habitable living space**

**The affected population has safe and adequate living space and necessary household items to support daily domestic activities in and around the home.**

**Key action 1:** Ensure that each affected household has appropriate and sufficient covered living space to perform basic domestic living functions.

- Consider sleeping, food preparation and eating
- Provide basic roof protection for occupants and their household assets.

**Key Action 2:** Provide access to items that enable households to maintain essential domestic activities.

- Provide access to items for sleeping, food preparation and storage, eating and drinking, lighting, and personal clothing.
- For fuel for cooking refer to Food and Nutrition Standard.
- For water containers, hygiene item and soap refer to Wash standard 2.
- For mosquito nets refer to vector control standard WASH.

**Key action 3:** Develop safe and private enclosures which:

- respects local culture and lifestyle
- considering specific vulnerabilities
- offers privacy and separation as required between the sexes, between different age groups and between separate families within a given household.

**Key action 4:** Ensure enclosures with optimal thermal comfort, protection from climatic condition and free from human threats.

- For energy for space heating and cooling refer to X

**Key action 5:** Ensure space immediately surrounding household dwelling supports safely external living functions.

- Consider outside cooking, livelihoods functions, socialising, play areas and safe egress.

### **Key indicators**

***Percentage of affected population reporting their household living conditions are appropriate to support their recovery and to sustain their lives and livelihoods in dignity.***

***Area of covered living space.***

- Minimum 3.5m<sup>2</sup> covered living space per person in tropical or warm climates, excluding cooking facilities or kitchen
- 4.5m<sup>2</sup> to 5.5 m<sup>2</sup> covered living space per person in cold climates or urban settings, including kitchen and bathing and/or sanitation facilities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal floor-to-ceiling height of at least 2 metres (2.6m in hot climates) at the highest point.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Percentage of affected population reporting that children have a safe space to play.</i></b>
<b><i>Percentage of affected population with sufficient space around their shelters to carry out their daily activities.</i></b>
<b><i>Percentage of affected population having access to sufficient and appropriate quality clothing.</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum two full sets of clothing per person.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Percentage of affected population with sufficient and appropriate quality items for safe, healthy (bed nets) and private sleeping.</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum one blanket and bedding (floor mat, mattress) per person. Additional blankets/ground insulation required in cold climates.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Percentage of affected population with sufficient and appropriate items to prepare, eat and store food.</i></b>
<b><i>Percentage of population with sufficient items to achieve thermal comfort during the day and while sleeping.</i></b>
<b><i>Percentage of affected population with safe and sustainable means of artificial lighting.</i></b>
<b><i>Percentage of affected population with sufficient, safe and affordable energy supply to maintain thermal comfort, food preparation, and lighting.</i></b>
<b><i>Percentage of people that are satisfied with the size, functionality, and quality of their living space.</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to CHS (reference)</li> </ul>
<p><b>What else do I need to know?</b></p> <p><b><i>Covered Living Space</i></b></p> <p>Covered living space should provide for the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sleeping, washing, and dressing;</li> <li>care of infants, children, and the ill or the infirm;</li> <li>storage of food, water, household possessions and other key assets;</li> <li>cooking and eating indoors when required; and</li> <li>the common gathering of the household members.</li> </ul> <p>Maximise the use of internal space and any adjacent external area in planning the covered living space, particularly the location of openings and partitions. .</p> <p>A covered living space that is smaller than the specified minimum requirements may be appropriate to save lives and provide short-term shelter immediately after a crisis. This may be necessary, for example, in extreme climatic conditions where shelter materials are not readily available.</p>

In such instances, the minimum requirements should be achieved as quickly as is feasible. If the minimum requirement cannot be met, or is greater than the space typically used by the affected or neighbouring population, consider the impact on dignity, health, and privacy of a reduced covered living space.

Figures indicated in this standard are applicable in the emergency phase and when applied to temporary or transitional shelter solutions. However, when the duration of stay extends notably in protracted crisis or when security of tenure cannot be resolved, the habitable space standard must be revisited and be made appropriate.

Overcrowding increases the risk for disease and outbreak. Households with persons with disabilities, particularly those with intellectual disabilities who may become agitated in overcrowded environments, often require additional space.

### ***Cultural practices, safety, and privacy***

Consider existing practices/customs for the use of covered living spaces, and how that affects the need for internal subdivisions (curtains, walls). For example, design the dwelling to accommodate sleeping arrangements for extended family members.

In collective accommodation, well-planned, well-lit access routes through the covered living space and partitions to screen personal and household space can provide personal privacy and safety.

In collective accommodation, group related families or peers (for example, some LGBTI individuals prefer living with friends and peers rather than with their own families).

### ***Protection considerations***

Ensure that there are multiple exit paths from the dwelling and that interior spaces open into public areas. Ensure that conventional, community-based child protection mechanisms that identify, prevent, and respond to possible risks due to shelter arrangements, including abuse within the home are in place. Women, girls, and those needing assistance with personal hygiene inside the home or shelter often require additional space.

### ***Psycho-social effects***

Home layout and design should reduce the opportunity for those traumatised by crisis to isolate themselves. Typically, people affected by trauma became depressed and reclusive over time. Open, public household living space reduces the risk of reclusive behaviour by increasing socialisation.

### ***Thermal protection***

Space heaters and coolers must be suitable for the living condition and culturally acceptable.

### ***Ventilation and vector control***

Adequate ventilation and vector control measures helps maintain a healthy internal environment. Ventilation will minimise the effect of smoke from indoor household stoves that can cause respiratory infections and eye problems. Local building practices may provide guidance on commonly-used vector control measures, the shelter patterns of shelter and material selection.

### ***Supporting household items***

Take into consideration access to household items for essential activities such as sleeping, cooking, and food storage for any shelter programme living space. When specifying the type, quantity and quality of the items, consider:

- essential daily activities;
- cultural norms and traditions;

- intended period of use and need for replenishment;
- quantity of each item as per the needs of an individual or the group;
- living conditions and arrangements;
- local availability ; and
- the categories of the affected population including women, girls, men, and boys, older persons, persons with disabilities, infants; and vulnerable, at risk, and marginalised individuals and groups.

Provide access to items:

- for sleeping;
- that provide sufficient thermal comfort for sleeping;
- that enable safe sleeping arrangements with appropriate privacy;
- that provide sufficient vector control, such as mosquito nets (reference bed nets WASH);
- for food preparation (including cooking stoves that are safe, energy-efficient, and appropriate to the local cooking culture);
- to promote fire and smoke safety;
- to support eating, drinking, and storing food, and that are safe, hygienic, and culturally appropriate, and which protect food from vector contamination;
- for artificial lighting that is safe and sustainable; and
- that maintain an acceptable level of thermal comfort in the shelter.

### ***Climate and context***

In urban settings, household activities typically occur within the covered living space as there is usually less adjacent usable external space.

A lower ceiling is preferable in cold climates to minimise the internal volume that requires heating. The internal floor-to-ceiling height should be at least 2 metres (2.6m in hot climates) at the highest point.

Shelters occupied throughout the day require heavyweight construction with high thermal capacity. For shelters only occupied at night, lightweight construction with low thermal capacity and substantial insulation is more appropriate.

Minimise air flow, particularly around door and window openings, to ensure personal comfort while also providing adequate ventilation for space heaters or cooking stoves.

In warmer climates, consider the use of adjacent shaded/covered external space for food preparation and cooking. Where materials for a complete shelter are not available, prioritise provision of roofing materials for the minimum covered living space. The resulting enclosure may not provide the necessary protection from the climate nor security, privacy, and dignity. Therefore, take steps to meet these needs as soon as possible (explore other alternatives such as communal fencing around clusters of shelters).

In warm, humid climates, design and orientate shelters to maximise ventilation and minimise entry of direct sunlight. An attached covered outdoor space helps reduce direct sunlight, protects from rain, and provides a space for other living activities. The roof should have a reasonable slope for rainwater drainage with large overhangs, except in locations vulnerable to high winds. The shelter construction should be lightweight with a low thermal capacity (such as timber). Ensure adequate surface water drainage around the shelter and use raised floors (minimum 200mm) to minimise the risk of water entering the covered living area.

In hot, dry climates, heavyweight construction (such as earth or stone) ensures high thermal capacity, so that changes in night and day temperatures alternately cool and heat the interior. Alternatively, use a lightweight construction with adequate insulation. Pay close attention to the structural design of heavyweight construction in seismic risk areas (heavy wall and roof construction need careful design in seismic areas, such as corner bracing and small window openings). Provide shaded and ventilated places where possible and appropriate. If only plastic sheeting or tents are available, provide a double-skinned roof with ventilation between the layers to reduce radiant heat gain. Door and window openings positioned away from the direction of the prevailing wind will minimise heating by hot winds and heat radiation from the surrounding ground. Provide internal flooring that meets the external walling without gaps to minimise dust and vector penetration.

In hot and humid climates, a higher ceiling is preferable, because it helps air circulation.

### **Habitation and physical living space. Standard 3.3: Technical assistance and quality assurance**

**The affected population lives in safe and technically sound shelter options that are durable, healthy, affordable, and appropriate to their culture and context.**

**Key action 1:** Identify the strengths and weaknesses of local pre-crisis building practices, available materials, expertise and capacities.

**Key action 2:** For damaged or destroyed shelters, identify the structural risks and hazards in context, and the reasons for failure or what may fail in the future.

- Consult with affected populations, local building professionals, and authorities to agree safer building practices, safer materials, and required expertise for quality assurance. Capitalise on and improve the local practices and techniques if possible.
- Comply with the applicable building codes, material specification and quality standards appropriate for the intended life span of the shelter, settlement and household item.
- Provide appropriate and timely technical assistance according to each of the shelter and settlement options in line with the mode.

**Key action 3:** In situations where existing housing stock is occupied, host family or rental provide appropriate support to ensure secure tenancy and quality of shelter.

- Identify the housing standards of the host community's housing market.
- Identify protection and social cohesion issues of affected people being hosted or renting property.
- Consult legal professionals and housing experts for securing tenure.
- Provide appropriate and timely technical assistance to ensure safe and dignified habitable living space.

<p><b>Key action 4:</b> Ensure good practices are retained and propagated widely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the effectiveness of knowledge transfer in promoting safer building practices among the affected population, local built environment professionals and industry.</li> <li>• Improve and innovate when possible.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key action 5:</b> Ensure access to additional support for members of the affected population who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not have the capacity or ability to undertake construction-related activities in a safe and technically sound manner; or</li> <li>• Do not have the capacity, ability or opportunity to negotiate occupancy of an existing safe and technically sound property.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key action 6:</b> Manage materials, cash, labour, technical assistance and regulatory approval requirements through appropriate tender, bidding, procurement and construction management practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the use of locally available and familiar technologies, tools, materials and resources for maintaining and upgrading shelters</li> <li>• Procure specialist building skills and manual labour locally to support the livelihoods of the affected population.</li> <li>• Promote the reuse of materials salvaged from damaged buildings, where the rights to such material and its quality can be confirmed. (see Annex Market and supply chain standard)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key indicators</b></p>
<p><i>Percentage of affected population that lives in safer and technically sound shelters, constructed/repaired/retrofitted/upgraded/maintained with safe construction techniques, quality materials and technical expertise.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of habitable shelter units constructed/repaired/retrofitted/upgraded/maintained according to the agreed safe building practices for the specific context and hazards.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of affected households that have applied the technical assistance and guidance they received.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of programmes where local authorities are involved in defining construction standards and in the monitoring of construction activities.</i></p>
<p><i>Percentage of households that have received appropriate technical assistance and guidance.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to CHS commitment 1</li> </ul>
<p><b>What else do I need to know?</b></p> <p><b>Importance of technical assistance</b></p> <p>Technical assistance is an integral part of any shelter and settlements intervention, regardless of the assistance option or implementation mode. It supports the self-recovery of large numbers of the affected and host populations and improves the quality of their shelter and settlement options. It is essential that affected households or communities are actively involved the design of</p>



shelters, determining the site layout, choosing materials, erecting the shelters or executing or supervising construction. Technical assistance is also necessary to support cash transfer programming for quality assurance.

### ***Scope***

Technical support activities fall into three main categories:

- Providing built environment expertise. This includes advising on issues such as site planning, spatial planning, construction, local construction techniques, damage assessment, demolition and debris removal, site management and supervision, assessment of existing building stock, assessment of rentals, material, labour markets, and legal and administrative support (REFERENCE TO SECURITY OF TENURE STANDARD).
- Developing and implementing agreed standards. Standards and guidelines should be agreed on with the relevant authorities to ensure that they meet safety and performance requirements. Assess whether applicable local or national building codes are customarily adhered to or enforced. If not, reach agreements regarding incremental compliance. These should reflect local housing culture, climatic conditions, resources, building and maintenance capacities, accessibility and affordability. Ensure that households are meeting agreed standards, especially in programmes using cash transfer to meet shelter needs. Where there are no existing standards, establish minimum standards in collaboration with the local authorities and relevant stakeholders.
- Increasing community capacity. Contribute to training and awareness raising among the affected and host populations, including local authorities, local built environment professionals, skilled and unskilled labour, landlords, legal experts and local partners.

Appropriate technical design, construction and management expertise should complement the skills and understanding of the affected population while providing guidance based on established technical and regulatory processes.

In locations vulnerable to seasonal or cyclical crises, involve technical specialists and local experts who have previous experience with appropriate local solutions or best practices. These people can inform design and building practices and help develop improved solutions.

### ***Participation of affected populations***

Participation should be compatible with existing practices. Training programmes and apprenticeship schemes can maximise opportunities for participation during construction, particularly for individuals lacking the required building skills or experience.

- Provide opportunities for women and persons with disabilities to participate.
- People less able to undertake physical tasks can contribute to activities such as site monitoring, inventory control, administrative support, childcare, or food preparation for those engaged in construction work.
- Be aware of other conflicting demands on the time and labour resources of the affected population.
- Volunteer community labour teams or contracted labour can complement the efforts of individual households, particularly for female-, child-, and elderly-headed households, households or people with disabilities. Women, girls and persons with disabilities may be at particular risk of sexual exploitation when seeking construction assistance. People with mobility difficulties, older people and others who might have difficulties undertaking construction activities may also need assistance.

### ***Sourcing materials***

Informed by a rapid market assessment and analyses, and environmental impact assessment, provide shelter solutions either as separate components or as a predefined kit. Also provide



access to appropriate construction tools. This enables the affected population to erect or construct shelters themselves.

Be aware that sourcing materials locally may have a negative effect on the local economy or the natural environment. In some situations, adequate quality materials may not be available. In those situations, consider using alternative materials or production processes, or proprietary shelter systems.

#### ***Crisis prevention and risk reduction***

Construction resilience should be consistent with known climatic conditions and natural hazards. Consider adaptations to address any environmental impacts of construction activities and the potential local impacts of climate change. Analyse areas where local environmental practices contributed to the impact of the disaster. Apply changes to building standards or building practices in consultation with the affected population and the relevant authorities.

#### ***Safe public buildings***

Construct or repair temporary and permanent public buildings, such as schools and health centres, so that they are disaster-resilient and they ensure safety and access for all. Such facilities should comply with existing sector-specific building standards and approval procedures. This includes accessibility requirements for those with mobility, visual or communication difficulties (when possible coordinate with active organisations of persons with disabilities). Consult with the appropriate authorities when repairing and constructing such buildings. Establish an affordable maintenance strategy.

#### ***Procurement and construction management***

Develop a construction schedule that includes key milestones such as target start and completion dates, and the dates and duration of the relocation of displaced people. It should also note the expected onset of seasonal weather patterns, and include a contingency provision to accommodate for unforeseen events. Establish a construction management system for materials, labour and site supervision. Ensure that those working on construction have signed a code of conduct covering child safeguarding. This should address sourcing, procurement, transportation, handling, and administration throughout the supply chain.

#### ***Upgrading and maintenance***

Initial shelter responses typically only provide a minimum level of enclosed space and material assistance. Initial construction methods and materials should enable households to maintain and adapt or upgrade the shelter to meet their longer-term needs. Adaptations and enhancements should be done using locally available and affordable tools and materials.

#### ***Tools***

Establish procedures that set out how to use, maintain and safely store communal or shared-use tools and materials.

#### ***Technical support for renters***

Technical rental support ensures that families using rental shelter options live in spaces that meet safety and technical standards. This might involve facilitating access to legally-binding contracts, or working with landlords to negotiate improvements so shelters meet established standards.

## **References**

If references are being added, included: Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2012), Standard 24: Shelter and Child Protection of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in

Humanitarian Action. <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/minimum-standards-child-protection-humanitarian-action>