



Name of Event: [Preparatory Event] Shelter Sector

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1) Outline

The event *Linking Humanitarian Shelter to Reconstruction* discussed the continuity from shelters to completed housing. Group discussions were held on 1) Institutional roles and responsibilities and on 2) Promoting the “one housing” approach.

Key issues raised in relation to the institutional roles and responsibilities:

- Currently the shelter sector does not provide much input into the policy work
- Interface with the government can be challenging as normally there is no line ministry as a counterpart, need for greater coherence
- Important to build more capacities and skills in the sector
- Reconstruction of shelters is closely linked to the provision of basic services
- after the shelters, the next step is a settlement and the stabilizing livelihoods
- Need for a long-term commitment, including monitoring
- Need for flexible “enlightened donors”
- Community-led projects with local/national governments and international actors to contextualize response (respect for local processes)
- Rather to support housing processes than delivering assets
- Need to create predictable mechanism so everyone know their role and so that the process can be clearly presented to the government
- Gaps in the basic standards of government support
- Currently there is no agreed end state
- Accreditation of agencies working in the shelter sector

Key issues raised in relation to the “one-housing” approach:

- Important to highlight the continuum from shelters to continuous housing, from temporary to permanent
- Agencies mandate is an important institutional issue – where do the mandates allow agencies to go as for permanent housing?

- Staff capacity and institutional memory are issues which need to be considered
- Housing process is owned by communities and stakeholders of the communities – agencies are there to support this
- We cannot think about housing process as a separate issue but its linkages with the other clusters, livelihoods, etc.
- Agencies involved in reconstruction need to go back to the areas later on to see how the decisions have affected the people on the longer term
- The importance of the land issue cannot be overemphasized
- Risk identification and assessment is very important and relevant
- Social needs of the community need to be considered and to be sensitive to the local context
- Communication between national, sub-national and community levels is very important
- Technical partnerships still need to be build up on

2) Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- The cluster approach has widened the community involved in the shelter and housing but by that the division has fragmented what is an integrated discipline. Therefore there is a need to communicate the message that sheltering is a continuous process from immediate needs through to a completed reconstruction.
- It is essential that tools are developed to strengthen the accountability of donors and providers with the beneficiaries so that the decisions and impacts are properly reviewed and to improve the downward accountability between those assisting and being assisted
- In view of the declining flow of financial resources and expanding problems, there is a need for a greater coherence and cooperation between all shelter actors to maximize their efforts and to make a clear and consistent approach which is often lacking
- Capacities, skills and institutional memory within the sector need to be developed further and the required skill sets need to be identified, build and invested in
- High-level of consensus was expressed in the meeting on developing a much more process oriented view
- Many participants emphasized the broaden context of shelter on livelihood security, public safety and links with basic services (water, sanitation etc.) and land entitlements emphasizing the multi-disciplinary nature of the work

3) Conclusions

There is clearly a need to expand the recovery planning to something maybe more long-term, involving more local communities, and active planning process. Related to the governance issues, the task force examples from Gujarat and Pakistan are encouraging where line ministries are responsible for different aspects of the reconstruction. Finally the education and training is an issue which needs to be addressed. The young professionals need to be offered better education, more self-education is needed, and also the occupants need to be educated on the housing solutions.