2013 SHELTER FORUM REPORT

KEY NOTE PRESENTATION: CURRENT TRENDS IN SHELTER PROGRAMMING

Graham Saunders, Head of Shelter and Settlements Department
International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Geneva

Summary:
The context for humanitarian shelter programming has changed in the past 20 years. Disasters caused by hydro meteorological events are rising exponentially. In 2012, 32.4 million people were displaced by disasters. The estimated economic cost per year is $200 billion. Relief and Development are being repackaged as Disaster Risk Control, Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency. In addition to material and technical support, now cash programming and on the ground communications with the help of better IT are integral parts of disaster relief.

A majority of disasters don't receive wide media coverage and international attention, meaning disaster relief is predominantly a national business. The military and private sector are increasingly involved and most funds sit with national governments. What does this mean for International Assistance?

Global Networks are growing and we are better connected. There is more mutual learning and as a result there are increased humanitarian standards. There is still high need, an estimated 20% of those affected get shelter support, the rest do it themselves. We need to re-examine urban programming as a sector to collectively address its complexity. We need to think about how we can better engage with the private sector

CASE STUDIES

SCOPING STUDY: SHELTER AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Dr Esther Charlesworth and Dr Ifte Ahmed
Humanitarian Architecture Research Bureau (HARB), RMIT University, Melbourne

Summary:
The project undertook an evaluation of two shelter projects in the Cook Islands and Sri Lanka, with the aim of piloting a practical evaluation matrix which could be used by local agency staff. The tool looks at evaluation in the specific context of disaster risk reduction and shelter. The tool kit has 3 stages: pre-assessment, assessment and consolidation, each stage with guided activities.

BUILDING RESILIENCE OF URBAN SLUM SETTLEMENTS: A MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH TO CAPACITY BUILDING IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH

James Schell, International Program Manager, *Habitat for Humanity Australia*
Dr Ifte Ahmed, *Humanitarian Architecture Research Bureau (HARB), RMIT University, Melbourne*

Summary:
Funded under AusAID's Innovations Fund, the project focused on building resiliency in an urban slum community in Bangladesh. The project is a collaboration between several Shelter Reference Group Members, implemented by Habitat for Humanity with technical inputs from ARUP and Architects Without Frontiers.

The project used a resiliency framework to train staff and community members to undertake a participatory assessment of the risks faced by the community in one slum in Dhaka. Based on the assessment two sets of activities were delivered in parallel: one, a pilot set of infrastructure improvement activities (WatSan, housing, drainage) and training; the other, the development of a longer term community development plan. The longer term plan is to further refine the training modules and roll out this approach in other urban slum communities throughout Asia.

CULTURE, CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CHANGE: HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY ISSUES IN STATELESS SOMALIA

Brett Moore, Shelter and Reconstruction Specialist, Global Rapid Response Team, *World Vision International*

Summary:
In the complex context of stateless Somalia, afflicted by conflict, tribal and cultural divisions, and climate extremes, stakeholder engagement has been vital in implementing this shelter project which aimed to construct 1200 houses. Without government, the primary points of contact were local community groups, council elders, the Sharia court, and the local community. The stakeholder engagement process was vital, as these groups would decide where we could build and who we could work with.

Stakeholders were engaged in developing vulnerability criteria to determine who would be eligible for support. While the housing design was a simple community led process, land acquisition was complicated. In Somalia, land is collectively owned and women are not allowed to own land. Once land was acquired there was a strong focus on encouraging individual ownership. In this respect, gender considerations became critical to ensure that vulnerable women were able to secure land tenure.

Shelter projects can, and should, be key interventions for fragile contexts. Keeping all the stakeholders informed from early stages is critical, as is being accountable to the community and expanding donor perceptions on what a project can achieve. In this case, by focusing on inclusion, shelter became a bridge between hosts (traditional land users) and displaced communities.

RESILIENCE OF SHELTER: MINIMUM STRUCTURAL DESIGN FOR CYCLONIC WIND, EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI RESISTANCE

Rod Johnston, President, *Partner Housing Australasia*

Summary:
In many developing countries, there are lax or non-existent building regulations, and engineering considerations of shelter construction are often inadequately addressed. A review of shelters in the Pacific which have withstood natural disasters showed that bracing and construction quality are critical factors in improving resilience.

Key technical considerations include:
- Right amount of reinforcement in footings, floor slabs and beams
- Covering concrete to avoid reinforcement corrosion
- Sub-floor bracing, and proper detailing
- Wall bracing for upper floors
- Proper tying of roof and anchorage of roof framing
- Fixing masonry into the structure
- Quality of bricks, blocks and mortar.

Simple improvements can be made to existing design and material preferences, to make these structures more resilient. Recommend that the Shelter Reference Group establish a working group to undertake a review of existing standards, and develop sensible guidelines for contexts where standards are rarely enforced.

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE (UCCR)

Kirsten McDonald, Senior Associate, *Arup*

Summary:
UCCR is the capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function and prosper. It includes the ability to understand potential impacts and to take appropriate action before, during, and after a particular event, such as a typhoon, major flooding or prolonged drought, to minimize negative effects and maintain the ability to respond to changing conditions.

The Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network. (ACCCRN) is an 8 Year US$60 million program funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and implemented by a range of organisations in 10 cities in Asia. The ultimate goal is to catalyse action at a local and global level to influence policy and financing at national and provincial level, ultimately leading to cities that are resilient to climate change impacts. City resilience strategies are being developed, and identified projects implemented in each city.

The program has a strong focus on learning, and sharing knowledge between countries in this emerging area of work. Learning is facilitated through meetings, an online hub, and interest groups. The project works from bottom up, as well as top down, aiming to influence policy change particularly planning policies at local and national levels. Engaging a range of stakeholders has been a core part of the project, and will be critical to ongoing success and funding beyond the initial RF funding.

REGULATORY BARRIERS TO SHELTER: HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY ISSUES, LAND USE PLANNING AND BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT AFTER A DISASTER.

Tessa Kelly, Disaster Law Program Coordinator – Asia Pacific, *IFRC*

Summary:
- The group looked at examples of tenure insecurity. What can be done with people who don't have land title after a disaster has happened? Those without title are the most vulnerable.
- Land mapping is important post-disaster, particularly in urban environments. Google maps and other technology are making it easier to compare pre and post disaster.
- Simple interventions such as distribution of zip lock bags can be critical in helping households keep property (and other) documentation safe.
- NGOs and other actors needs to work with Government in developing DM policies and plans.
- Need to recognise traditional legal systems, not impose western systems as further regulations, as this can be counterproductive.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS THAT MAKE UP A RESILIENT BUILT ENVIRONMENT?:

Graham Saunders, Head of Shelter and Settlements Department, *IFRC*

Summary:
- Tenure: Cultural, ecological and even the spiritual need to be considered
- Livelihood: To keep a community going, some notions of buying and selling, some economic base.
- Knowledge and Education: Skills and capacity building.
- Risk Management: Planning spaces, Public/Private space, Smart Design, look at physical environment (Technical Regulations, etc)
- Changing our thinking, think as a system process from beginning to end in a holistic way. What should we be doing? Policy guidance (Technical Standards). And our sector positions? Health and education first and then shelter could be the vehicle through which those two happen.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DRIVEN PROCESSES TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN URBAN SLUMS

Dr Ifte Ahmed, *Humanitarian Architecture Research Bureau (HARB), RMIT University*

Summary:
Looked at a resilience framework tool which has been used in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Key issues include:
- 'Knowledge and Health' and 'Being Organized'. : Knowledge is key link to health, eg people don't have the awareness or motivation to drink clean water. Leadership structure helps ensure safety. Building awareness through that leadership network so that knowledge is transferred to the community.
- 'Being connected' and 'having good infrastructure in shelter': developing livelihoods in the building sector, assimilating with the wider society.
- 'Economic opportunities' and 'natural assets': microcredits, skills development, literacy. Taking advantage of natural assets eg through rain water harvesting.