

UK Shelter Forum | 24th April 2015

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1. Updates

Vanuatu response

Bill Flinn (CARE)

CARE has been working in partnership with ShelterBox in rural Vanuatu where destruction of the built environment has been estimated at 90-100%. The shelter response is in a phase of transition and trying to translate the immediate response into more longer term recovery. Separate urban and rural strategies are being employed, but CARE's work in rural environments has been focused on the distribution of shelter kits and related trainings. CARE has also been working with beneficiaries to assess the utility of the kits themselves. It was discovered that some tools may be redundant, such as bush knives, or too poor quality, which in this case was the saws that would break upon hitting the first nail. It was also found that the kits contained far too few nails, which meant delayed reconstruction and people

would try to salvage nails from the destruction. In response to this, CARE has developed a shelter kit proposal that can better respond to the rebuilding needs of the local population.

Towards safe school construction: a community-based approach
Hayley Gryc (Arup)

The development of a new guidance note covering safe school construction in partnership with GFDRR, Risk Red and Save the Children was introduced. The guidance note is aimed at decision makers and government bodies and describes how to organize and facilitate a community-based approach to safe school construction rather than guidance on safe construction itself. It covers methods for how to integrate safety into all phases of the project. It will be published in May 2015 as a 'consultation edition', after which feedback from various development actors, governments and communities using the material will enrich the content. For more information, contact hayley.gryc@arup.com.

"More than just a roof"
Charles Parrack (CENDEP)

The newly released Global Shelter Course "More than just a roof" was introduced. This course is targeted at people engaged in shelter programmes and covers a wide variety of key issues about shelter. It was developed in response to a lack of awareness in shelter coordination and hopes to improve these issues. The course is free, self-directed and available online and therefore easy to access. The course is available on the Global Shelter Cluster website, <http://sheltercluster.org/morethanjustarroof>.

Extending impact
Seki Hirano (CRS) - [website](#)

The majority of people who are affected by disasters are often left outside of the official channels of aid, with only a relatively small proportion of the population receiving help, whether in the form of materials, cash or training. CRS therefore decided to try to measure if their work was reaching further than direct beneficiaries by conducting a multi-country study using a recognized behaviour change methodology. By visiting the sites more than a year later, it was possible to conduct targeted interviews to see if the rebuilding techniques that they had been teaching to some of the affected population were being picked up by others beyond their initial beneficiaries. Whether or not the transfer was occurring was measured by determining if at least three techniques that had been taught by CRS were being used. It was discovered that there was some uptake in the techniques beyond the initially targeted population which presents a hopeful outlook on how broader impacts can be achieved. They are curious, however, to know if other people have had similar experiences. Overall, they found that it is essential to identify local motivators in order to better synchronize external inputs with local dynamics.

Increasing knowledge, capacity and commitment for urban humanitarian response
Diane Archer (IIED)

A three-year programme on knowledge sharing being conducted by the IIED Human Settlements Group was introduced. As part of the programme there are a number of research grants that will become available to researchers and practitioners. These grants will be available from a learning fund and a targeted research fund. The goal of this programme is to increase knowledge, capacity and commitment to urban humanitarian response. For more information about this programme, please contact Diane at diane.archer@iied.org.

2. Discussion session A: Area based approaches to urban crisis

Elizabeth Parker and Victoria Maynard (UCL and HFH)

The purpose of this session was to facilitate a discussion among a variety of practitioners and researchers on the merits and challenges of area based approaches (ABAs). It began with a brainstorming session where participants reflected on what 'area-based' meant and the implications this has for the approach. A number of key ideas about ABAs emerged from this brainstorming:

- They are integrated (not sectoral) and tailored to the specific context
- They involve multiple stakeholders
- They are systems-focused
- They do not necessarily follow government-imposed boundaries, but can respond to how local people define their own territories
- The nature of the area (e.g. peri-urban, informal) defines how an area is approached

There were also a number of questions or debates that emerged from this discussion.

- Should ABAs be socially-constructed or geographically defined?
- Can 'basic service unit's (e.g. churches, schools) be used to define an area?
- Must the physical boundaries be defined or can there be connectivity outside these boundaries?

Following the brainstorming, participants engaged in a 'spectrum' exercise where the facilitators asked a series of questions and asked participants to respond by choosing a spot on the spectrum between two available (opposite) answers. Responses and discussion points included:

- ABAs are part of a wider trend of "expert speak" and there is a need for clarity.
- Nearly all ABA case studies have occurred in the 'development' sector and not the 'humanitarian' sector.
- Implementing an ABA in an urban crisis means there will be a focus on coordination and that it should be community-driven and prioritized.
- The ability to implement ABAs in an urban crisis is complicated by speed and funding issues, such as the challenge of delivering results quickly, funding expertise management or finding complementary partners
- The urban context, in contrast to rural, seems to provide additional complexity in implementation.
- Although the idea of ABAs is not new (topic for last 10, 20 years), it has not been implemented due to donor constraints. So why the discussion now - are we ready?
- Do academics understand ABAs as physical, or could this also be applied to communities physically dispersed throughout a city?

- Can ABAs be compared to a systems approach or a market approach?
- An important feature of ABAs is the holistic analysis, where the attempt is to achieve a holistic understanding although not everything will be addressed.

3. Discussion session B: Disaster Diplomacy: Reconstruction Planning Before A Disaster

Ilan Kelman (UCL)
(did not attend)

4. Discussion session C: Protection Mainstreaming

Cat Cowley (CAFOD, Caritas Australia, CRS and Trocaire)
(did not attend)

5. Discussion session D: Development of the "Refugee Housing Unit"- learning from process

Shaun Scales (UNHCR)
(did not attend)

6. Urban Tripoli in Lebanon and Kirkuk in Iraq

Amelia Rule (CARE)

Two cases of urban rapid assessments were discussed in relation to refugee migration related to the Syrian crisis. One looked at Tripoli City, Lebanon with a shelter and WASH focus while the other was in Kirkuk, Iraq and took a multisectoral approach. In both locations, there is a clear challenge of working with a population of urban refugees which means that they are harder to keep track of or access. It is estimated that 36% of refugees are not registered with UNHCR, and it is often urban refugees who are overlooked in aid delivery. One of the reasons for this is that refugees lose the right to work once registered, making them reliant on aid handouts.

The dynamic between refugees and host communities in these cases was a focus of the study. Generally, people in both locations were willing to host, but for a limited time. In their study they found that the cost of rent was one of the biggest factors that influenced refugees' choice of neighborhood. This concern came before access to livelihoods or social connections. The impact of Syrian refugees on their host communities is complex. For example, they are injecting lots of money into local economies but also straining local services such as water provision and trash collection.

7.All Under One Roof

Valerie Scherrer (CBM) and Graham Saunders (IFRC) - [publication](#)

A new publication that addresses the provision of inclusive and accessible humanitarian shelter and settlement programmes was presented. The publication is a result of collaboration between the IFRC, CBM and Handicap International. It is geared towards volunteers, decision makers and shelter specialists. The need for better awareness and inclusion of people with disability is clear as the WHO estimates that 15% of the global

population are affected by some form of disability. Additionally, those with disabilities are often disproportionately vulnerable to and affected by disasters. The publication provides technical guidance and promotes participation and equal opportunities.

8. Shelter Case Studies

Joseph Ashmore (IOM) - [website](#)

Joseph prompted a discussion on the future and potential of the Shelter Case Studies website that is a repository of over 150 case studies since 2008. There was a discussion around the usefulness of the current case studies as a resource for learning and reference. Overall, people were enthusiastic and supported the current resource as an important resource, but also saw the potential for innovation. Some proposed bringing all the examples together into a comprehensive anthology. Others pointed to the opportunity of moving forward or outwards, perhaps by structuring future case studies by theme. There was no final consensus on this issue, but Joseph will continue to look into the potential for process innovation and welcomes further suggestions.

9. Engaging Humanitarian and Non-Humanitarian Actors in Urban Emergency Response

Eddie Argenal (USAID)

Before beginning his presentation, Eddie made a plug for the position of “Shelter Advisor” that USAID is currently hiring (open to US citizens only) as well as a new online Shelter and Settlement Training Course that USAID has developed.

His presentation focused on the challenge of having limited capacities to respond to urban disasters, which is being met with strategic initiatives. At the macro level, an example of this was providing technical assistance to support urban decision-making. When appropriate, USAID will engage in city-level “emergency urban planning”. At the micro level, the focus is on supporting neighbourhood-based products. Examples of these types of projects include the Debris Management Plans that have been developed with the help of USAID to help prepare for imminent earthquake disasters in Dhaka and Kathmandu. He also described a shift in focus from shelter-based projects, to funding more holistic ‘settlement’ projects.

10. Developing Resilient Habitats After a Disaster

Jan-Willem Wegman (Cordaid) - [website](#)

Cordaid’s ‘Shelter2Habitat’ programme attempts to address the fact that nearly 80-90% of households do not receive shelter assistance after disaster. Additionally, most shelter projects are short-term and only provide temporary relief. The programme is based on the idea of trying to provide ‘habitats’ which are enabling, whole living environments. It is based on the principles of “do no harm”, transparency, scalability and replicability. It is firmly grounded in the ideas of community-driven processes, with the long-term perspective of eventually giving full control to the community. A recurring theme of the programme is that of transition - it aims to transition from humanitarian relief to development work, from subsidies and grants to affordable loans. Cordaid’s role therefore progresses, from acting as a

coordinator between all the stakeholders, to a facilitator and eventually an advocate. By enabling partnerships between communities and other stakeholders, Cordaid hopes to help communities achieve incremental development in post-disaster settings.

11. Q&A on the new ECHO Shelter Policy

Matthew Sayer (ECHO) facilitated by Tom Newby

---- My notes for this are confusing, didn't adequately record who was saying what ---

The new ECHO Shelter Policy provides a 11-187 million euro budget for shelter. The goal is to have experts in country with implementing capacity.

1. What are the core principles in shelter and settlements in humanitarian aid?
 2. At what point is it initiated and at what point does it stop?
 3. What are the gaps and challenges to be addressed?
 4. What strategies can be used to minimize needs and maximize effects?
- There is a need to integrate shelter and settlements
 - Focus should be on people-centered projects and increased accountability
 - Transition from provision to support
 - Manage the link to post-humanitarian (development) projects
 - Balance the need for rapid response and durable results
 - Need for decision tree in emergency humanitarian aid funding

12. Updates and AOB

Aaron (RedR)

Call for expert volunteers for an upcoming hands-on weekend on 19/20 September focusing on 'Shelter in rural contexts: planning and logistics'. Camping and lots of fun!

Upcoming Asia Shelter Forum on 27th May in Bangkok

For more information contact asiashelterforum@gmail.com

Anshu Sharma (India Shelter Forum)

Update on India Shelter Forum - but audio wasn't working

Humanitarian Evidence Programme (HEP) Call for Proposals

Habitat for Humanity and UCL are partnering for a 6-month evidence collection and review

Shelter drinks - London