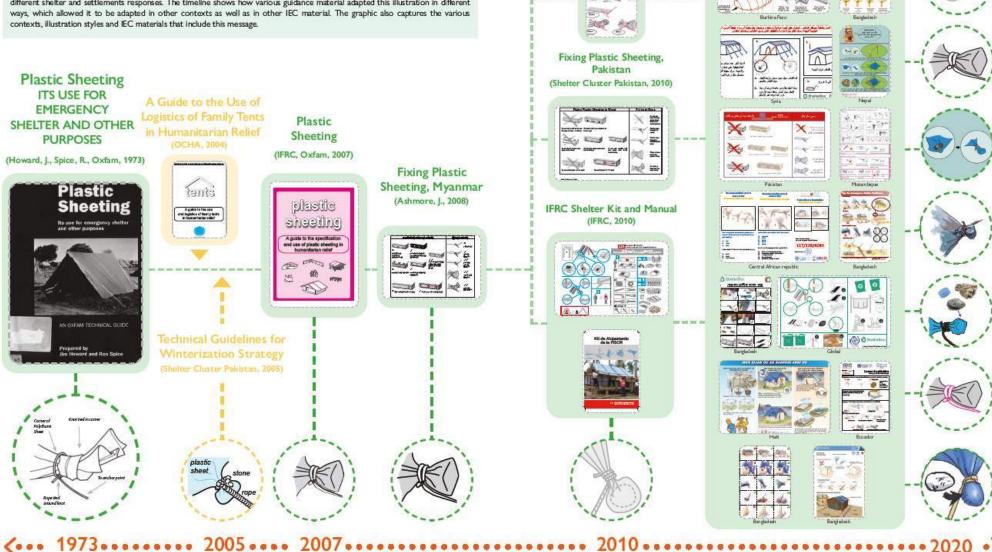
# Plastic Sheeting IEC Material Overtime

Messaging on plastic sheeting is one of the most used in the shelter sector. The illustrations are recurrently being used to create different material and can be traced back to "Plastic sheeting: A guide to the use of plastic sheeting in humanitarian relief: Oxform, IFRC 2007". This inter-agency booklet itself was an update and drew heavily on the content and illustrations of Jim Howard and Ron Spice's original book on plastic sheeting in 1973.

This tree chart demonstrates the development and use of one of the illustrations depicted in the booklet, and its uses over time for different shelter and settlements responses. The timeline shows how various guidance material adapted this illustration in different



Tarp Installation, Haiti

(CARE, 2010)

**IEC Material Compendium** 

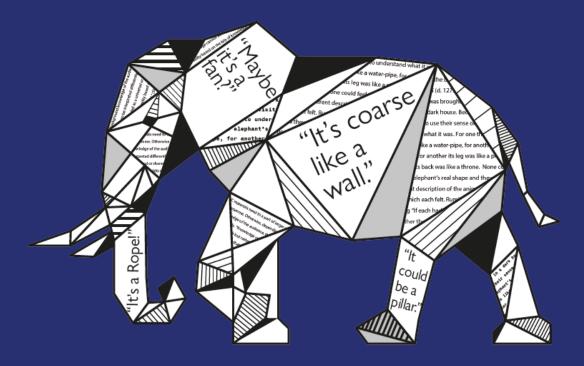
2020 •>

Different iterations

- B.1 IFRC Shelter Kit
- B.2 Fire Safety
- B.3 Fire Prevention
- B.4 Prepare Your Shelter for Bad Weather
- B.5 Preparedness Messages
- B.6 Right to Shelter Radio Messages
- B.7 Safe Demolition
- B.8 Material Reuse
- B.9 Temporary Shelter
- B.10 How to Build
- B.11 8 Building Back Safer Messages
- B.12 Self-Construction Key Messages

- B.13 Tips to Build Back Safer
- B.14 4 Key Messages for Construction
- B.15 Concrete Mix
- B.16 Emergency Sandbag Instructions
- B.17 Winterizing Tents
- B.18 How to Keep Warm in Winter
- B.19 Advice and Guidance for Tenants
- B.20 Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms
- B.21 NFI Care and Maintenance
- B.22 Emergency Cash Transfer
- B.23 Winterization Support





"The Elephant in the Dark Room" is a well-known story from Rûmî (d. 1273). The story tells of an elephant that was brought to be exhibited and was kept in a dark house. Because of the darkness, visitors had to use their sense of touch to understand what it was. For one, the elephant's trunk was like a rope, for another its ear was like a fan, for another its leg was like a pillar, for another its back was like a wall. None could feel the elephant's real shape and they gave a different description of the animal based on the part which each felt. Rumi ends his poem by stating "If each had a candle and they went in together the differences would disappear."

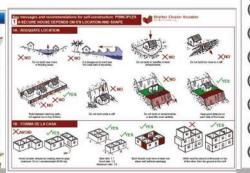
IEC materials need to a part of larger social engagement programme. Otherwise, depending on the background knowledge of the audience, the message can be interpreted differently; "Knowledge cannot be regarded as a universal or shared truth but rather as a model for reality based on the bits of knowledge that are revealed." (Stehr, N. (2009) 'What is socially relevant science?', Social Science and Public Policy)















Blong mekem haos blong yu

# **B.4**

# Prepare Your Shelter for Bad Weather - Cox's Bazar, 2020

Type of Hazard/Risk



### Type of Response













**Building Material:** Bamboo; Rope; Sandbags; Pegs

Building Component: Roof; Joints; Shelter Drainage

This IEC material was shared with the distributed kits along with conducting hands-on training for the affected populations. Additionally, posters were placed around the community and a radio message was broadcasted. Read more about this at Section A - Case Studies and Opinion Pieces.



# Technical Accuracy

"Messages are technically accurate."

"All the techniques were tested and assessed."

"Messages are accurate, however some parts are a bit generic." The message on drainage could be developed; it is vague to just suggest digging drainage. There are additional ways to reinforce this aspect such as larger roof overhang or temporary sandbags at the base, depending on the context. However, it is a large topic for limited space, and though generic, it can be well-received by its audience."

"More information should be provided on the materials used to hold the tie-down to the ground (brick, sandbag, etc.)"

"The message on PSEA is ok; however, it is unclear how beneficiaries can complain to said 'complaint desk'"



# Technical Complexity

"It mixes a lot of details which makes it a bit complex."

"Some of the details related to tying down are complex and very context specific."

"It is simple and a bit generic."



# (X) Graphically Clarity

"The graphics are fine; however, it could be better organized to be clearer, and some details could be marked better to make it easier to understand."

"Imagery on tying down can be difficult to interpret. Needs an image on why tie-down is needed. Other imagery clear connections and drainage."

"Imagery for the second and third message is simple and intuitive, but the first message is confusing: it is not clear that the arrows will show the zoomed detail and the details themselves are also very hard to understand. It takes some time to catch the differences between the second and third way of fixing the ropes to the ground."

"The sandbag detail is small and needs a closer zoom. It is hard to determine where the sandbag/stick, and other methods of fixing the rope that are pictured in the left corner, are related to."

"The fourth image that shows the foundation is complex and very small to see."



# Text clarity

"Text is not needed to understand the imagery. It is mostly used to link the images to the messages that were distributed over radio."



# Contextual appropriateness

"This material is based on assessment of weaknesses observed in construction in Cox's Bazar and the identified gaps."



## Adaptability to other contexts

"The first and the third part could be adapted to many places. The second part about the connections could be adapted to contexts that use bamboo, and probably mostly rural / peri-urban areas."

"Tie down using metal pegs or sandbags as well as strengthening connections and drainage can be easily reused in another context. Tying down to the footing is very specific to the context."



### Potential to cause unintended harm

"No risk of being misunderstood. However, you can misunderstand the right and wrong if you look quickly at the two middle drawings in the 'strengthen your shelter' section."

"One of the difficulties when developing this IEC was how to clearly present in 3D a tie down of a shelter, as there are several important structural elements that needed to be omitted from the image (bracing, wall cladding, wall structure).'

"It can include a picture of a shelter that was not properly prepared and got damaged."



### Explaining consequences

The perceived risk is a significant determinant of affected households' adoption of the recommended hazardresistant construction practices. If these materials are used along with supporting evidence of the consequences of poor building it would add to the impact on the viewer.

Read more about factors influencing households to adopt hazard-resistant Construction practices in post-disaster settings in this report: 'Extending Impact', CRS, 2015 https://crs.org/our-work-overseas/researchpublications/extending-impact

The overall grade is calculated as the average of the overall evaluation of the IEC by different reviewers (and not accounting for individual review criteria).



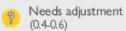
\* Needs adjustment (0.4-0.6)

★☆☆Not recommended (0-0.3)

Each IEC material has been reviewed by different experts and their individual feedbacks under each criteria have been compiled. The green, yellow and red marks show the average score under each criteria.

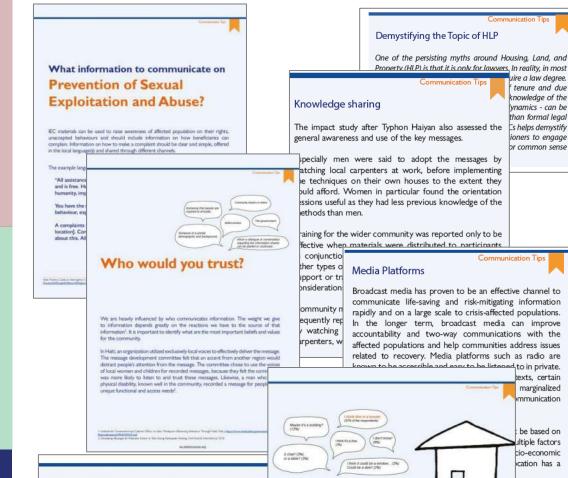


Good (0.7-1)









Familiar Characters in Messaging



Several of the posters deve character had been develo a multi-year, multi-agency Reduction (DRR) related co was a "trusted ambassador'

During initial field testing of and the association with DF engaging in the focus group materials.

In 1975 a study conducted in various villages in Nepal to test the communication effectiveness of some drawings and understand if people can see what the artist had intended to convey. This highly simplified drawing of a house was one of the images that was used at this study

What is this?

There were large regional differences in response to this drawing. While 91% in the east and 78% in the west/central region recognized it as a building, only 26% in the far west give this response. The fact that the houses in several parts of the far west of Nepal have flat roofs, not sloping as in the drawing, could have contributed to this. If the drawing had included some more clues to give an idea of its scale, it might possibly have been a little more successful."

# Diaspora and IEC Materials

The diaspora are able to provide a valuable role in IEC material creation and dissemination through their unique understanding of the socio-cultural and linguistic contexts of the countries of origin of which the response is taking place, as well as their broad outreach. They often use informal methods of communication (i.e. social media, apps, etc.) to distribute vital messaging before, during and after a crisis, in ways that are often not used by institutional shelter actors, and they are able to reach communities not previously reached. Moreover, the diaspora's engagement in their countries of origin is sustained over time, and in this sense, the diaspora could provide an added value in phases of preparedness and recovery.

Increasing coordination among diaspora and institutional actors with the testing of IEC material on diaspora allows for more culturally effective, clear and streamlined messaging. Moreover, such cooperation will be aimed at increasing communities' knowledge, self-reliance and understanding in shelter practices for increased resilience.

Communication Tips

# Explaining consequences

you listening

506105500-

Humanitarian

contentAsset/

Disaster Risk

d that Panda-ii

IEC materials.

this character

liked by those

use on the IEC

The perceived risk is a significant determinant of affected households' adoption of the recommended hazardresistant construction practices. If these materials are used along with supporting evidence of the consequences of poor building it would add to the impact on the viewer.

Read more about factors influencing households to adopt hazard-resistant Construction practices in post-disaster settings in this report: 'Extending Impact', CRS, 2015 https://crs.org/our-work-overseas/researchpublications/extending-impact

# Interpretation of Commonly-Used Symbols\*



In 1975 a study was conducted in various villages in Nepal to test the communication effectiveness of some illustrations in order to understand if people understood the intended imagery.



The study found that ticks and crosses were used in Nepalese schools to indicate "right" and "wrong", but unschooled villagers were not familiar with these signs. Only about one per cent of the respondents stated that "tick" meant "right", and only one respondent connected the sign with the picture beneath it. It is likely that some respondents may have answered based on their own opinion regarding the message rather than "reading"

Most of those who mentioned the tick and cross either said they did not know what they were, or gave them a pictorial interpretation; such as "plough", "hook", "spade" (for tick); "fan", "airplane", "bananas", (for cross); or "sticks", "rods" for both (tick and cross),

\*NDS, UNICEF, (1976), Communicating with Pictures in Nepal. (P. 35).

## Communicating with different groups\*

Affected communities in Nepal were consulted about their information needs immediately after the earthquakes and seven months later (in November/ December 2015). The research underlined the difficulties when people are sending messages, or hearing information from new sources, and also misconceptions about access to media.

- Most information came from family members and friends using mobiles.
- Generally communities looked to the government and local officials for information, particularly when it came to issues around shelter and finding long-term solutions.
- There was a preference in most contexts for face-to-face information exchanges and discussion.
- Information about distributions for particular communities usually reached people through their community leaders and local government officials. Only rarely had people heard about relief distributions on the radio, although agencies used this medium
- Information channels reaching men and women varied considerably. Men usually had better access to information from local government representatives and from discussion
- their relatives and friends as well as social wo Marginalized groups were generally less well-ser

\*'Are you listening now?', CDAC, 2016 http://www.cdacnetwork.

# What information to communicate on Cash-Based Interventions?

Affected populations need clear, simple and accurate information on

how the cash or voucher assistance will work.

The IEC material needs to clearly define:

The purpose of the intervention

- How much the beneficiaries will receive (transfer value) and potentially what this is based on:
- How the assistance will be delivered to the beneficiaries (transfer mechanism)
- If they will receive only one payment or more;
- Who will receive the assistance (eligibility criteria)
- Feedback and complaints mechanisms; and
- Any rules that may be attached to the interventions, such as conditions, meaning any activity that a beneficiary must undertake as a prerequisite to receive the assistance, or restrictions for spending the amount on specific items or in specific places.

Remember not to use technical jargon that the beneficiaries might have a difficult time

Be careful not to include information that might increase risks, such as abuse or fraud, and security risks for people receiving the assistance, such as attacks or theft. The exact nature of this information depends on the context. It should be decided following a risk assessment and evaluation of the situation. In some cases, it might be appropriate to exclude certain information and instead provide a toll-free phone number or contact information where beneficiaries can receive additional information.

### IEC materials may not be used as expected...

The majority of the images in this IEC material show ways to fix plastic sheeting. Shelter grade plastic sheeting is one of the most essential shelter items distributed in humanitarian crises. It provides basic protection from the elements and cover for shelters as well as having multiple other uses. When well installed, plastic sheeting that meets international specifications can last for two or more years. However, it is well documented that if plastic sheeting is poorly used it lasts for a much shorter amount of time. A few key principles can make it last longer. These are 1) to stop it flapping in the wind 2) to prevent it from rubbing against sharp objects, and 3) fix it with multiple points.

This poster responded to a global and very broad brief-

# Is a picture worth a thousand words?

and then used with limited adaptation in another cd Although both words and pictures have the pur communicating, they have their advantages and lin and when used together, they each serve a cor different purpose. Words can explain things detail; however, when the literacy rate is low and populations with different languages come into pla may not be effective. Pictures can be understood I people, regardless of the language they speak or h they read.

Pictures and images are more likely to be remember words. They can also show a specific material or o well as simple actions or spatial relation. Messagi



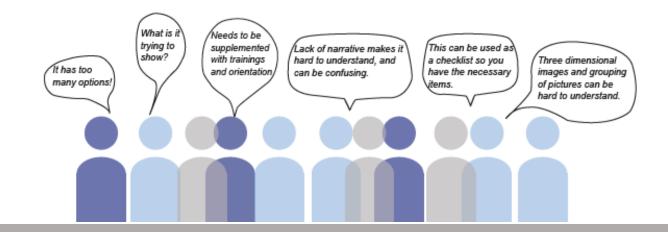




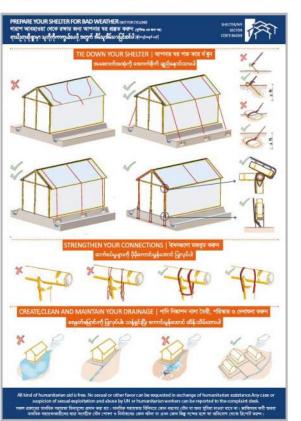
# Feedback against the reviewing criteria

This graph shows the feedback received from thirty experts reviewing the IFRC Shelter Kit IEC material on different criteria.









Communication Tips

# **Explaining consequences**

The perceived risk is a significant determinant of affected households' adoption of the recommended hazard-resistant construction practices. If these materials are used along with supporting evidence of the consequences of poor building it would add to the impact on the viewer.

Read more about factors influencing households to adopt hazard-resistant Construction practices in post-disaster settings in this report: 'Extending Impact', CRS, 2015 <a href="https://crs.org/our-work-overseas/research-publications/extending-impact">https://crs.org/our-work-overseas/research-publications/extending-impact</a>

"It can include a picture of a shelter that was not properly prepared and got damaged."

B.11 8 Build Back Safer Key Messages - Philippines, 2013

Type of Response

0









Type of Hazard/Risk

黄黄食

**Building Component:** Joints/Bracing: Roof

This IEC material was developed in response to Typhoon Haivan as a comprehensive set of shelter technical guidelines. Messages were coordinated with the government both at local and at national level and ultimately it became a part of governmental recovery policy and thinking. It was used extensively throughout the recovery phase and has so far been reused in several other responses in the Philippines and the broader Asia-Pacific regions. Read more about this at Section A - Case Studies and Opinion Pieces.

The outcomes of the shelter response to Typhon Halyan were later assessed by the Global Shelter Cluster and partners." The research addresses a series of questions including the use of the 8 key messages. Some key findings are summarized over the next pages.

Shelter Compendia



"IEC material is technically accurate with some smaller discrepancies. Examples show possible incremental steps; really good to see that several different options of foundations were suggested, the same for tie down methods."

"Messages need some technical adjustments."

Sheet 1, Foundations: 'The foundation drawings show two concrete block shapes. The cut off pyramid is more simple to construct and position. It also has more volume weight ratio to Its shape. The drawings show inconsistent ground level for the foundation block. Picture A shows that the concrete column has 1/4 height below the ground and 3/4 above (drawing actually shows 1/2 and 1/2), details B to F show the ground level at top of the foundation block."

"Timber posts positioned into the ground are misleading on their strenath grading,"

"In no cases should a softwood timber be placed in the ground for transitional or permanent shelter. Softwood can not within years. so the third option doesn't work. Placing hardwood into concrete is a bad idea. It is a modern invention-traditional houses do not do this, because they know it doesn't work."

"It should mention Properly treated softwood or a naturally durable hardwood-which there are not many of, and many hardwoods are not durable. Therefore, this should still not ideally be placed in the ground."

Sheet 2, Tie down: "The detail showing cord and rope connections is misleading in its effectiveness and strength

7 question the validity of the drawing showing additional tying

Sheet 3, Bracing: "Additional detailed images may be needed (similar to those in joint section) as it was observed that in several occasions bracing was installed in a wrong way and not secured properly - braces under the flooring or in the ceiling fell off."

"None of the drawings show physical construction details or give technical specifications for materials proposed."

"There is no horizontal diagonal bracing shown to resist building twist at eaves level."

Sheet 4. Strong Joints: "Nails anly work in shear not pull out (as for as Lam aware there is no benefit of outting noils at an angle, it just adds to the possibility of splitting the timber)."

"Cut timber joints are shown in simple details, these joints require a more advanced degree of carpentry skill to avoid weakening the cross section of the timber frame. There is a minimum timber size for using cut joints in structural timber components."

### Sheet 5, A good roof: "Simple to follow details."

"No details on purlin to rafter connection.

"Nails shows regular wire nails as a too weak option, this is

"It may be good to include note on CGI thickness as using very

remaining trees close to their new/fixed shelters to avoid trees collapsing. If trees did not already collapse in the typhoon, would

Sheet 8, Be prepared: "Needs to be part of a community

ground necessitating a suspended timber floor construction with

Sies/docs/shelter recovery outcome essessment may 2016.pdf

"Wire and used re-bar bracing needs to show connections to frame otherwise it will not work.

"Nail timber and agreenized steel straps' is misleading."

Sheet 6, siting: "Image D resulted in some families cutting down

they really present immediate danger?

approach. Good to indicate what should be known.

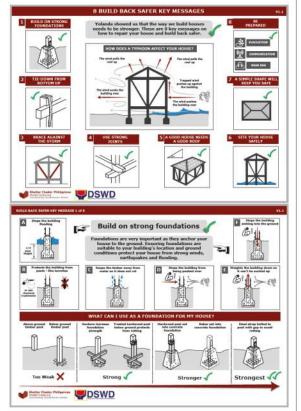
### Suggested details to be added:

"Floor construction details: it suggests that the floor is raised above

"There are no wall construction details, it suggests a sheet construction is necessary for walls. Many of the bracing details will not be compatible with a sheet wall construction."

"It should include a note that all superstructure timber should be property treated softwood or a naturally durable hardwood."

Read more about impacts of the key messages in this report "TYPHOON HAMAN (YOLANDA) SHELTER RESPONSE OUTCOME ASSESSMENT, Shelter Cluster Philippines, 2016. https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/



ier, shelters luster ore

### Impact assessment

The impact study after Typhon Haiyan showed that all of the advised methods were generally used to a greater extent, reportedly due to increased awareness following message dissemination and due to people simply observing what structures better withstood the typhoons.

Communication '

Strong foundations: Foundations were challenging for beneficiaries to implement correctly. It was also felt to be time-consuming considering that owners want to complete the house quickly after the disaster. Wooden posts were often seen to have been embedded directly into the ground.

Tie-down: Some communities awaiting relocation reported stopping the use of tie-down techniques as they wanted the shelters to be easy to dismantle when they moved. Metal straps and plates were often felt to be out of reach for many due to cost.

Bracing: Guidlines on bracing were felt to be insufficient in areas where destroyed structures had mostly been made of concrete masonry, as the guidelines focused on wooden structures. Bracing between roof trusses were almost twice as likely to be seen compared to bracing in walls.

Strong joints: Lack of capacity amongst carpenters to construct strong joints was raised by both communities and shelter agencies.

Good roof: People reported using wide spacing between nails despite knowing that this made the roof weaker, partly because nails were felt to be expensive but also due to plans to transfer the roof to another location in the future.

Safe site: Lack of access to safe sites often meant that households were not permitted to build strong structures on the current site; and that they had little incentive to build back safer in any case due to the tenuous land tenure status at sites considered as no build zones.

Simple shape: Households that had been sensitized about the key messages and had fully followed the advice in all other aspects were seen to specifically ignore advice on simple shape related to separation between extensions and main roofs, frequently attaching the roof on their subsequent extension with the roof of their main structure.

Preparedness: Preparedness was consistently said to have improved since Haiyan, with many communities feeling that preparedness had not been practiced as it should before the typhoon. Many had not understood the meaning of 'storm surge' and did not, therefore, act on warnings ahead of Yolanda making landfall. The typhoon was said to have fundamentally altered communities' attitude towards the importance of preparedness.

### **B.8** Material Reuse - Nepal, 2015



## Type of Response









Type of Hazard/Risk



Building Material: Timber; Bricks; Stone

Material Production and use

Technical Accuracy

"Not sure why it lists stones, rubble, longstones and bricks with pictures and what the message is."

"The last line of the second message refers to a 'tie stone'. It might not be clear what it is unless the use of it is explained."

"The 1m standing test seems specific for a certain section size of timber and could be misleading. The idea is to recommend checking that the timber is fit for purpose, and this message does not convey this."

"The standing test may break timber that does not need to be broken."

fall). On the image showing timber storage, the elements such as spacina, elevation and cover may be highlighted."

"More attention may be given to safety when illustrating the messages."



### Text Clarity

"Text is clear but there is a lot of it, and it could easily be replaced with images that would make the IEC material clearer and easier to understand."



Contextual Appropriateness

# Potential to Cause Unintended Harm

"The unclear illustration of the first message can cause harm. Proper considerations should be taken so that the message conveyed would not be misunderstood for suggested practice."

### Technical Complexity

"Salvaging materials has many facets and so can be complex. This IEC material goes into detail in some areas and is thin in

"Messages are not complex but may be difficult to understand."



## Graphical Clarity

"It is not clear why there are images of stones/bricks etc. The standing test is clear but not sure how people would do this and seems obvious you would not use a broken piece."

"Most of the images are unclear without the text. There could be more images with cross and tick rather than incorporating text."

"Message 1, the illustration is unclear and could cause harm if people only refer to the graphical information without reading the text."

"Message 2, the illustration could be changed to show a person dropping at arm's length (to avoid hitting one's feet). It is important to add that the bricks are tested on a hard surface."

"Message 3, the graphic could have a recommended height measurement (so if the timber breaks, the person is not far to

# Adaptability to Other Contexts

"I think it should be rethought entirely, and would need to be specific to the country/area based on materials, etc."

"Messages and ideas conveyed are good, but they may need to be revised to make it easier to understand prior to using elsewhere."

### Potential to Cause Unintended Harm

"The unclear illustration of the first message can cause harm. Proper considerations should be taken so that the message conveyed would not be misunderstood for suggested practice."

### Overall Comments

"Not particularly helpful. This could be easily expanded upon while maintaining the simplicity, making it much more

"The message that the IEC material tries to convey is good but the presentation is unclear."

"This poster is very useful for material reuse after disaster, but it might need some additional information for clarity."







### Communication Ti

Affected communities in Nepal were consulted about their information needs immediately after the earthquakes and seven months later (in November/ December 2015). The research underlined the difficulties when people are sending messages, or hearing information from new sources, and also misconceptions about access to media.

Most information came from family members and friends using mobiles.

Communicating with Different Groups

- Generally communities looked to the government and local officials for information, particularly when it came to issues around shelter and finding long-term solutions.
- There was a preference in most contexts for face-to-face information exchanges and discussion.
- Information about distributions for particular communities usually reached people through their community leaders and local government officials. Only rarely had people heard about relief distributions on the radio, although agencies used this medium for this purpose
- Information channels reaching men and women varied considerably. Men usually had better access to information from local government representatives and from discussions in teashops, while women relied more on personal contacts for information - their relatives and friends as well as social workers and health workers active in their communities.
- Marginalized groups were generally less well-served with information, as were more remote communities.1

1 'Are You Listening Now?', CDAC, 2016 http://www.cdacnetwork.org/i/20160506105500-lcmu2

