

# Rapid interagency shelter Assessment

## Marsh Harbour: Abaco

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### Assessment team:

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### Visited:

Mudd (26.529495, -77.065310), Doundas, Murphey town (26.550499,-77.095695) and Spring city (26.477969,-77.092265)

### Recommendations:

- All site plans should consider that shelters will be extended, requiring 50-100m<sup>2</sup> of shelter construction space each (per unit) in the long term. As a result future planning and plot allocations should enable shelter expansion without compromising fire safety or access.
- Many homeowners, or those with a formal claim to land, are able to rebuild on site (Dundas, Spring City), though many are short of resources to do so. Insurance coverage is patchy and many homeowners are uninsured.
- For those with totally destroyed shelters, some transitional shelter (on own land or on relocation site) may be acceptable to affected people to enable them to move back and remain on Abaco whilst reconstruction happens.
- People require clarity is required on what they are allowed to do
  - Building inspectors need to return to clarify what (re)construction is possible, and monitor construction.
  - Clarity is required on what construction is allowed (planning permissions).
- Labour shortages are currently an issue and the areas are currently heavily depopulated.
- Reasons inhibiting return include: Lack of Schools, lack of fuel, lack of police station, lack of functioning markets, lack of banking, lack of materials, and debris. This list was not prioritised.

Methodology: shelter remains were visually inspected and informal interviews were held with people living in Murphy and Spring City.

### Observations: Mudd:



*Example of the slab remaining from a destroyed shelter in Mudd. Remains of multiple rooms can be seen.*

Mudd is an informal residential area which was demolished entirely. Occupants have no formal land tenure. The site has been designated no-build and has zero occupants.

All shelters are built on all concrete slabs max 2 ft tall and often tiled. **Average size was 72m<sup>2</sup>**, but the observed range of shelter sizes was 30 to 156m<sup>2</sup>. It is not clear how many had a second storey.

Shelters were built incrementally, building one room as families have resources available. Several show traces of verandahs, and most show visible remains of baths latrines and ditches inside the houses.

**Shelter superstructure:** timber frame, plywood or timber paneled (light studded) walls (on wide centres with light weight timbers often 2"x3")

Shingled roofs, with no CGI visible in the debris.

Total destruction primarily due to tidal surge. Unknown damage due to wind. Debris is mixed with containers and other materials from the port.

### Observations: Dundas / Murphey Town



*Example of a house with roofing damage in Murphey Town. Work is underway to make repairs. Note that damage is variable.*

Every house has at minimum some roofing damage. some houses are totally destroyed. Dundas has larger houses (wealthier district) than Murphy

Houses are larger, on defined plots with infrastructure (power and water) than Mudd. There are utility lines into the houses.

Walls: Mixture of stud walled and ply or timber planks as cladding and concrete hollow block construction.

Roofs: mixture gable and hipped

All roofs had missing shingles. Many had missing ply and several had failed completely. Rain coming through the roofs had caused collapse of many ceilings (in some cases made of plasterboard) leading to significant damage.

### Observations: Spring City:



*Destruction was localized as twisters passed through the settlement*

Spring city is a government housing scheme, with timber frames structures built and mortgaged to occupants. Some have been bought outright. Many, but not all, have insurance.

Timber frame houses with timber cladding and ply/ shingles on roof. All o the units are damaged, some totally destroyed by the wind and localised twisters/tornadoes that passed through the settlement.

### Needs:

From informal interviews, one significant constraint on construction was the approvals required from government to move forwards, both to start construction and for regular works given the absence of building inspectors.

**Tools and fixings:** Note the tools used are of contractor quality (known brands, powertools etc) are required to speed up construction and enable workers to get back to work.

Table of shelter sizes as assessed in Mudd and Murphey.

location	size (m2)	rooms (bedrooms and livign rooms)	kitchen	bath	toilet	
Mudd	80	2	1	1	?	
Mudd	50	2	?	1	?	
Mudd	63	2	1	1	?	
Mudd	90	3	1	1	1	
Mudd	52	1	1	1	1	
Mudd	156	3	1	1	1	
Mudd	110	2	1	1	1	
Mudd	70	2	1	1	1	
Mudd	61	2	1	1	1	
Mudd	65	2	1	1	?	
Mudd	80	3	1	1	1	
Mudd	63	2	1	1	1	
Mudd	50	2	1	1		
Mudd	63	2	1	1		
Mudd	47	1	1		1	
Mudd	65	3	1	1	1	
Mudd	80	3	?		1	
Mudd	120	3	1	1	1	
Mudd	50	2	1	1	1	
Mudd	64	5	?		?	
Mudd	30	1	1		1	
Murphy	160	4	1	1		duplex 1200 plot size plot size 1600 plot size
Murphy	400	6	1	2	2	
Murphy	180	5	1	1	1	
Murphy	55	3	1	1	1	