



## Malawi Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group (TWG) on Promoting Safer building Practices

**Notes of the meeting held on 18.02.2021 from 10h-11.30h via ZOOM**

**Participants:**

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## Agenda:

1. Introduction and recap of last meetings findings and conclusions
2. how to promote better foundations?
  - analysis of foundations proposed in the safer house construction guidance
  - experiences and potential solutions from the field (CRS & Cadecom)
  - expertise CRAterre
4. what kind of IEC do we need to best reach the identified target groups in a larger scale?
  - local councils, housing officers, VCDCs
  - vulnerable communities
5. AOB, suggestions for way forward

welcome, introduction and short recap	Action	who
<p>After all participants introduced themselves, Cecilia gave a quick recap of the TWiGs main objective to promote safer building practices with a special focus on how to reach people that self-recover after disaster with technical assistance to build back safer and the work of the TWiG so far.</p> <p>To find the best ways to disseminate technical guidance to different groups of stakeholders, the TWiG is following a step-by-step protocol to identify context specific issues, analyse key stakeholders and different communications channels and review existing IEC materials and dissemination approaches.</p>		all
how to identify and address most important construction weaknesses through technical improvements?	Action	who
<p>Presentation by CRS of a tool they used to identify weaknesses and failure mechanisms of houses and rank them according to importance (“from Structural element, life-threatening if fails” to “aesthetic, not important for safety, health or carry out daily activities”) and frequency of how often those weaknesses were observed (from “always” to “rare”) <a href="#">See tool here</a>.</p> <p>In a second step, they ranked suggested solutions to address these vulnerabilities on a scale from “easy” to implement to “difficult”.</p> <p>This tool helps with programming to target the most important vulnerable elements of a house and promote the easiest solutions to build safer.</p>		



<p>The tool can be used by “non-technical” people with basic experience or training in shelter &amp; housing. The ranking of elements can be done with participation of the community or other involved stakeholders. In their presentation they particularly highlighted the importance of looking at weaknesses that could be addresses through repairs or strengthened through retrofitting, as preparedness and DRR activity to avoid to ideally avoid failure in a disaster.</p>		
<p><b>Discussion on key audiences to reach and what kind of IEC are most suitable to address the different audiences?</b></p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>	<p><b>who</b></p>
<p>→ All agreed that the affected communities were the main target group, given the very low awareness of safe construction practices and their high exposure to risk and huge negative impact if their house is damaged.</p> <p>→ The second target groups will be the local builders were the most important target group to be addressed. This confirms what other participants in the previous meeting also agreed.</p> <p>→ To best reach those communities with safer construction guidance it was emphasized, that the services for community mobilisation that exist at district council level should be made best use of. Therefore, another key target group to train in promoting safer building practices are these capacities, such as housing officers, VDCs, Community Development Officers and other community mobilizers.</p> <p>→ All agreed that the dissemination and promotion of safer building practices needed to be institutionalized and integrated as part of community mobilisation at council level.</p> <p>→ There was common understanding that the that the key messages to disseminate need to be adapted to the different contexts and the respective hazards, local building cultures, available materials etc. What messages to chose for which area who and how these decisions could be taken, will need further discussion. It was suggested to involve communities and councils in the process.</p> <p>Further points and suggestions were discussed and agreed:</p> <p>→ It was emphasized that the dissemination of safer house construction practices should be mainstreamed into general DRR awareness raising campaigns and not wait until after disasters as well as into NGO programming to ensure that resilience of vulnerable houses is strengthened before a disaster strikes!</p> <p>→ Messages about safer settlement patterns and safe site selection in risk areas should be included in the messaging.</p> <p>→ As bottleneck for more successful institutionalisation and promotion of safer housing construction it was mentioned that the institutional structure and division of responsibilities between the Ministry of Land, Dep. of Housing and the Ministry the Public Works was not clearly delineated.</p>		



<p>→ Suggestion to involve Teveta and other providers of technical trainings and academic institutions in the discussion and also reach out to Ministry of Education. To discuss how safer construction messages can be integrated into curricula and vocational trainings.</p>		
<b>AOB and next steps</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRAterre shared the latest version of the <a href="#">Shelter Response Profile</a> that consolidates information related to hazards, legal framework and policies, local building practices, and other important information related to housing recovery in Malawi. Feel free to h a look at the document. If you have comments or feedback please contact <a href="mailto:e.sevillano.gutierrez@gmail.com">e.sevillano.gutierrez@gmail.com</a></li> <li>• CRAterre announced the series of webinars that are openly available for interested participants to learn about context analysis and local building practices. the first session will focus on the objective of the approach and provide an introduction to the methodology and the tools we developed. Dates for the next session will be shared with the group. Anyone interested to join or know more about these webinars, feel free to contact Olivier Moles <a href="mailto:olivier.moles@neuf.fr">olivier.moles@neuf.fr</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It was agreed that the TWG should focus on pre-selecting key messages for different hazards and other important context-conditions (EQ, floods, black cotton soil) and suggest them for promotion on district level.</li> <li>- It was agreed to have bi-weekly meetings on Thursdays at 10h;</li> <li>→ the <b>next meeting will be on Thursday March 4th at 10h Malawi time.</b> Invitation will be sent as calendar invite.</li> </ul>		