

## KEY HLP PRINCIPLES FOR SHELTER PARTNERS – OVERVIEW

### March 2014

HLP rights must be integrated as a key component of any humanitarian response to disasters. Humanitarian actors should not promote, actively participate in, or in any other manner contribute to, or endorse policies or activities, which do or can lead to HLP rights violations by States. Humanitarian actors should also advocate for the promotion and protection of HLP rights to the fullest extent.

#### **1. Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of housing**

In all phases of disaster response the right to adequate housing should be respected and protected. The right to adequate housing is much more than a shelter commodity, it is the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity and in conditions deemed adequate on grounds of security of tenure; affordability; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; habitability; accessibility and location.

#### **2. All affected persons should have access to information and the right to participate**

All affected groups and persons should have access to information and be able to participate meaningfully in the planning and implementation of the shelter response.

#### **3. The shelter response should be free from discrimination and should ensure the rights of the most vulnerable**

The shelter response should be free from discrimination of any kind.

Further, shelter in the humanitarian response should be targeted towards the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, unaccompanied minors, expectant mothers, mothers with young children, heads of household, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

#### **4. Affected persons should have the right to return, local integration or relocation**

After the emergency phase, affected persons should be granted the right to choose freely whether they want to return to their homes and places of origin; to integrate locally in the area to which they have been displaced; or to settle elsewhere in the country.

Any restrictions on the right to these durable solutions – for example the imposition of a No Build Zone - should only be enforced in limited circumstances and only where international and national standards are met.

Where these restrictions result in the voluntary or forced relocation of populations, further specific international and national standards must be met, including that standards at the site of relocation are adequate under national and international guidelines.

For any further information on HLP principles for Shelter Partners, please contact:

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