



DISABILITY INCLUSION IN SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMMING

Baseline Mapping Report | July 2019

KEY MESSAGES

The following key messages seek to strengthen disability inclusion across the sector globally and are aligned with the priorities raised by shelter and settlement actors in the Baseline Mapping.

SHELTER CLUSTERS

Strengthen Vulnerability Assessment Tools – Vulnerability assessments should identify the different needs of women, men, girls and boys with different types of disabilities, as well as the skills, capacities and resources of individuals and households when targeting of shelter services and assistance.

Support the Development of Context-Specific Guidance and Tools – Bring ministry staff, shelter actors, disability organizations and even communities together to develop contextually adapted guidance, complete with infrastructure designs and risk analysis tools, at field levels.

Strengthen national shelter systems – Explore opportunities to institutionalize universal design within government regulations and accredited training programs during preparedness and recovery phases.

Advocate to Donors to Invest in Disability Inclusion – Meeting the needs of persons with disabilities in large-scale emergency responses requires very tailored and integrated approaches, which takes added staff time and resources to deliver. As such, donors should be called upon to match their commitments to disability inclusion across all sectors with adequate support to shelter and settlement programs, so that they can deliver a quality response that reflects the diversity of the affected community.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Strengthen monitoring and reporting on disability inclusion – to identify who is and is not getting reached, and the strengths and weaknesses of programs – a critical step in accountability.

- Include technical support on disability inclusion in response plans and proposals and at cluster-levels in appeals.
- Include questions on disability and consult with persons with disabilities in shelter evaluations, so that over time we can learn more about effective strategies and approaches in disability inclusion in shelter and settlement programming.
- Integrate approaches for consultation with and questions about persons with disabilities into standardized post-distribution monitoring and reporting processes and tools.



SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT ACTORS

Disability inclusion is a component of good shelter programming, and helps us to address the needs of a wider community, while ensuring that we “do no harm”.

In preparedness and recovery phases, work with other sectors (most commonly the WASH, communicating with communities and protection sectors), local OPDS and disability service providers, as well as government partners to:

- Outreach to and consult with OPDs at country levels to build an understanding of their specific skills, capacities and priorities in humanitarian response. Such organizations can play a role in sensitizing staff on disability inclusion, contribute to development of context-specific approaches and designs, and act as an information hub for persons with disabilities in an emergency.
- Establish criteria for inclusion of persons with disabilities and their care-givers community-decision making structures and processes, including training which enhances capacities (and in turn reduces risk).
- Adapt standardized non-food item (NFI) catalogues and infrastructure designs in partnership with persons with disabilities to ensure that context-appropriate options are available in an emergency.

In the emergency phase, shelter and settlement actors can:

- Adapt risk analysis and mitigation tools (e.g. contextual analysis, post-distribution and quality assurance monitoring) to include questions and actions with a particular focus on breaking down isolation and ensuring the dignity of persons with disabilities and their care-givers.
- Integrate case studies on persons with disabilities into standard training packages relating to core shelter & settlement programming, highlighting the intersection with quality programming and risk mitigation.
- Seek technical support for disability inclusion, through protection colleagues, operational partnerships with disability-specific organizations and / or deployed experts.
- Plan for inclusive recovery by integrating disability into needs assessments and engaging OPDs in planning processes.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT DONORS

Effectively responding to the shelter and settlement needs of women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, their care-givers and family members requires tailored interventions – The diversity of persons with disabilities and their families requires integrated and individualized approaches.

- Invest in the shelter and settlement staff required to deliver this type of tailored response.
- Support integrated shelter and settlement activities, particularly those that have a coherent model for identifying and responding to protection and WASH needs of persons with disabilities and their families.
- Ask shelter and settlement partners to report on the quality of interventions, including how they consulted with persons with disabilities about their needs and adapted their activities.