

GUIDANCE FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS REDLAC-Shelter COVID-19 WORKING GROUP



REDLAC - Shelter
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter
Coordinando el alojamiento de emergencia



Table of contents

Situation	3
Objectives	3
Scope	3
Composition of the REDLAC-Shelter COVID-19 working group	4
GUIDANCE	6
Target Groups	6
Gaps identified in the working group	6
Actions and recommendations for emergency shelter sector preparedness and response considering the COVID-19 pandemic	8
Other useful references	17
INFOGRAPHICS	
Poster of prevention measures in temporary shelters. Shelter, Energy and NFI cluster - Venezuela	8
Practical recommendations in hygiene, sanitation and management of spaces for migrants. Catholic Relief Services	9
Step by Step cycle overview – Guide for Rental Assistance. International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	11
Advocacy Messages for the shelter sector - Global Shelter Cluster	12
Poster of preventive measures against COVID-19 for homes, collective shelters and care centers for migrants. Catholic Relief Services	16

Situation

On 31 December 2019, the WHO was informed of a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown origin in Wuhan City, Hubei province in China. The first cases presented symptoms in early December, and it was later determined that these people with pneumonia were infected with a new coronavirus (nCoV), later called COVID-19.

On 11 March 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Its global impact was already significant by then, constituting the most serious global health threat from a respiratory virus since the 1918 influenza pandemic.

Aiming to facilitate humanitarian actions in response to COVID-19, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) convened the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) (*See Annex 1 - Definition of the REDLAC-Shelter sector working group*). The emergency shelter working group commenced meetings on 8 April 2020 to identify the gaps and resources available for this sector to address the health emergency.

Objectives

This note is intended to guide the efforts to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic's immediate indirect effects on shelter, especially for the most vulnerable communities, modelling our actions on those taken by various humanitarian aid agencies. We aim to provide technical and programmatic guidance to all those actors whose pandemic response activities require incorporating habitability considerations at the city, neighbourhood and household level. This note does not purport to be exhaustive - given that operations are currently underway and that the needs, and therefore the response actions, are constantly changing - furthermore, it can be adapted to different needs as they evolve. After four months of continuous work, we believe that we have managed to identify lessons that we trust will be valuable both for the humanitarian community and for the actors involved in shelter and housing efforts during this pandemic.

We urge all who find this guide useful to advocate for greater capacities and resources for taking anticipatory action and the necessary measures to protect vulnerable populations from the compound impacts of both sudden and predictable events, including pandemics, and geological and climate-related threats that can trigger disasters of considerable magnitude. We advocate for the most vulnerable people and those living in exclusion in informal settlements and slums to be prioritized at all times, and that the agencies involved in decision-making and resilience-building actions be supported.

Scope

Specifically, this note is the result of the knowledge and experiences exchanged during COVID-19-related meetings of the REDLAC-Shelter working group (*more information available in the working group's virtual space link below*), which is made up of 13 agencies actively working in the emergency shelter sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. It aims to provide insights and recommendations for emergency shelter support operations targeting vulnerable communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, both those identified in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) members' COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) as well as those not included in the HRP but that face greater challenges and require greater attention, or differentiated attention, as a direct and/or indirect consequence of the pandemic.

Composition of the REDLAC-Shelter COVID-19 working group

Coordination: Lilia M. Blades Martínez. Emergency Shelter Coordination Focal Point
 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – Global Shelter Cluster.
 Email: coord.americas@sheltercluster.org

REDLAC – Shelter Working Group	Name of focal Point
Catholic Relief Services	Tulio Mateo
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Denisse Solis Pablo Medina (Global Shelter Cluster)
TECHO Internacional	Jonathan David Muñoz
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Luz Tantaruna
Habitat for Humanity	Mario Roa
Consejo Noruego para Refugiados	Javier Parra
Norwegian Refugee Council	Rafael Mattar Neri Miguel Urquía (Global Shelter Cluster) Adriana M. Durán
Save the Children	Pablo Urrutia
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	John Fallgren
Other REDLAC sectoral groups	
Gender	Evelyn Vallejo (IFRC) Nuria Martin (UN Women)
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)	Nicolás Vexlir (IOM)
Agua, Saneamiento e Higiene	Alban Nouvellon (UNICEF)
Protecction	Daniel Macguire (UNHCR)
Health	José Antonio Ponce (IFRC)
Communications	Veronique Durroux (UN-OCHA)

Presencia geográfica





Photo: Cluster Accommodation, Energy and Equipment — Venezuela, Shelter Cluster

GUIDANCE

Target groups



Displaced populations



- Internally and externally displaced people as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- People displaced prior to the COVID-19 pandemic due to other causes, for example, migrants in collective centres.



Non-displaced persons



- Beneficiaries of ongoing emergency shelter operations
- Communities in a context of violation of rights with precarious housing conditions (children, adolescents, women, men the elderly indigenous communities and people with disabilities).

Gaps identified in the working group

While housing is not directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the physical and social conditions in which people live can affect the spread or containment of the disease and the effectiveness with which families can protect themselves. Overcrowded areas are of particular concern, especially those in informal settlements and slums in overpopulated cities in which it is extremely difficult to maintain social distancing and containment measures to prevent contagion. Other risk scenarios persist simultaneously, such as those involving health and the potential impact of natural and anthropogenic events at the neighbourhood and household level. The people who reside in these areas have very limited public spaces and no or limited access to basic services such as drinking water, sanitation and health facilities (for mental, physical or psychosocial well-being).

The following are among the emergency shelter operations directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic:



Identification and adaptation (including design) of temporary shelter spaces for displaced and migrant populations.

Several people are amassed at borders due to border closures, mobility restrictions and politicization. This situation exacerbates the vulnerabilities of mobile populations, particularly children as well as women, men and people with disabilities. Adapting spaces to provide shelter that ensures protection for communities stranded at borders, especially vulnerable communities, is urgently required. In addition to the increased risk of contagion, these communities, especially women and children, face an increased risk of becoming victims of human trafficking.

This has implications on the spaces' design, on living space requirements, and especially regarding the incorporation of health criteria into collective centre management.



Other vulnerability aspects are being aggravated because of the health emergency, significantly increasing the risk of disasters caused by hydrometeorological events and other climate-related emergencies.

The direct impact on livelihoods and the situational stress have led to an increase in manifestations of interpersonal and gender-based violence in specific temporary shelter contexts and households. In non-displaced communities, support is required to adapt housing to cope with quarantines during and after the pandemic.



Difficulty with the continuity of response operations because of border closures and mobility restrictions.

The activities currently affected are mainly the construction and improvement of permanent housing and temporary shelters. In the event of a natural disaster, it is necessary to consider the role of humanitarian aid providers as well as the need to take additional measures so that they do not compromise an already vulnerable population. Containment measures, mobility restrictions as well as the need to prevent contagion could all affect response operations, including rapid needs assessment processes, programmes supporting the transition from collective centres to permanent housing and technical training in various shelter support tools. Up until August 2020, few countries are allowing personnel and supplies from outside their borders into the country. If international assistance is required, personnel will have to be tested in advance for COVID-19, in many cases quarantined for two weeks before they are allowed to deploy to the field, and required to wear protective and hygiene equipment and respect social distancing and disinfection measures in force in the country. If we add the implications of these measures to the provision of lodgings and services for humanitarian personnel, it becomes necessary to consider the increase in operational and logistics costs required to adapt the humanitarian action to the health emergency. Furthermore, the restrictions on commercial air travel requires the adoption of alternative measures to ensure the deployment of the necessary humanitarian aid.



Increased spread in slums and informal neighbourhoods.

Meeting habitability standards necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is a challenge given the environment and circumstances in these locations. Many are overcrowded, both at the neighbourhood and household level, and have very limited public spaces and little or no access to water, sanitation and health facilities. General recommendations on how to self-protect against COVID-19 - frequent hand-washing, self-isolation and physical distancing - are very difficult to implement. In addition, the urban poor are the most affected by measures that restrict access to sources of employment and food. Staying at home is often not a feasible option for them.

The latent issues that could be aggravated include the lack of security of tenure, which puts vulnerable communities in an even more precarious situation. The threat of eviction due to decreased incomes resulting from lockdown measures is real, which generates particular protection risks in especially vulnerable populations such as female domestic workers, single parents, migrants, among others.

Actions and recommendations for emergency shelter sector preparedness and response considering the COVID-19 pandemic

Displaced populations

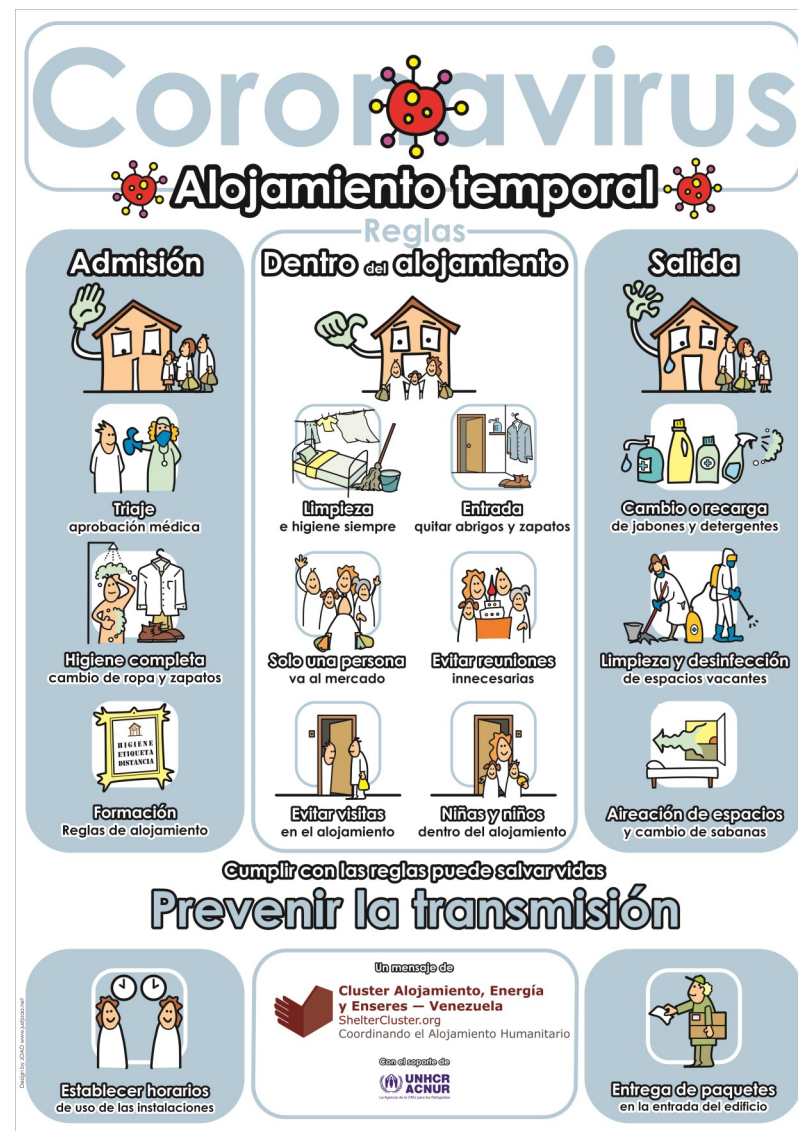
Gap: Need to identify and adapt temporary shelter spaces for displaced and migrant populations as well as people amassed at borders.

PREPAREDNESS: Mapping of collective centre services and reception centres available to migrants and/or internally displaced people. Incorporation of population characteristics into collective centre mapping, considering who the displaced are based on gender, age, disability, among other diversity characteristics.

RESPONSE: Provision of collective centre services and reception centres that meet dignity, accessibility, participation and security criteria. Development of informational materials and updating of referral procedures related to assistance in shelters for migrant and displaced populations. (See the work of the CCCM-LAC working group below).

Identification and adaptation (including design) of temporary shelter spaces for displaced populations. Adaptation of temporary shelter spaces considering security, including separation by sex. Consideration of the sociocultural context and inclusion of family spaces, especially for children and women heads of household. Incorporation of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and care measures.

RESPONSE ACTION: Several National Red Cross Societies in the region have assisted their governments in the adaptation, partitioning and dimensioning of spaces to receive migrants so as to prevent the spread of the virus. This support was accompanied by sharing of experiences and lessons learned through webinars and training sessions facilitated



Poster of prevention measures in temporary shelters. Shelter, Energy and NFI cluster - Venezuela

by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). A series of webinars aimed at building the capacities of National Societies and other partners involved in coordinating and managing collective centres in the Caribbean were organized together with the *Camp Coordination and Camp Management Sectoral Working Group (CCCM-LAC)*.

IFRC and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) prepared a guidance document on the spatial adaptations required in collective centres in a COVID-19 context, with visual information for easy use in the field.

CRS helped the teams in charge of managing migrant reception spaces in Mexico and Guatemala to adapt them so as to reduce the spread of the virus. There are more than 130 migrant reception centres in Mexico. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CRS has prioritized outbreak prevention and management, considering the limited space and the difficulty of applying physical distancing measures indoors. Food and hygiene items were provided to cover basic needs, in coordination with the national Caritas chapter. In addition, CRS produced six practical 90-minute webinars, two of which focused on spatial and hygiene management within collective centres. Posters conveying key messages were prepared for each.

Practical recommendations in hygiene, sanitation and management of spaces for migrants. Catholic Relief Services

CLAVES PRÁCTICAS EN HIGIENE, SANEAMIENTO Y GESTIÓN DE ESPACIOS PARA PERSONAS MIGRANTES

A medida que evoluciona la pandemia del COVID-19 estamos aprendiendo a crear comportamientos seguros de higiene y saneamiento en nuestros espacios comunes, aquí algunas claves:

1 Integrar las buenas prácticas de higiene como reglas de convivencia en el albergue o casa, tal como si fueran reglas de disciplina, principalmente la sana distancia en todos los servicios y espacios.



2 La salud de todos empieza por la responsabilidad individual:

- Cada persona debe lavarse las manos en momentos críticos:

Antes y después de comer	Antes y después de entrar al baño	Antes y después de preparar alimentos
--------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------
- En esta fase, cada persona debe disponer de cubrebocas y usarlo según disponga la gestión de la casa. En caso de estar en contacto con casos COVID-19 se debe considerar el uso del equipo de protección personal.
- Deberían hacerse rutinas en las que cada persona debe colaborar en la desinfección e higiene de las superficies de alto contacto, como pasamanos, soportes de cama, etc.

3 En los espacios comunes todas y todos colaboramos con creatividad y disciplina (aunque sea molesto).

Cuidado y sanitización de lugares compartidos.

- La instalación de lavamanos portables o dispensadores de gel, en particular en la entrada a las instalaciones y en la entrada a los baños.
- El uso de indicaciones visuales "teoría del empujón" en espacios comunes y hacia los baños, usando huellas o marcas para movilizar hacia el baño o a guardar la distancia.
- Disposición de espacios separados o cajones plásticos para el almacenamiento de artículos individuales para las personas migrantes, así se evita que se toquen los artículos de otra persona.
- Desinfección o limpieza regular de los espacios y superficies con el uso adecuado de materiales de higiene recomendados.

Espacios para dormir

- Alternancia de camas y separaciones provisionales.
- Uso de cubrebocas, incluso cuando se duerme en espacios o habitaciones con mucha gente.
- Limitar el uso de ventiladores cuando puedan favorecer difusión del virus, por ejemplo, en las noches donde todos están en una habitación y aquellos con síntomas no están aislados físicamente.
- Agrupar de forma separada a las personas sintomáticas confirmadas.


Para más información sobre este tema consulte los materiales de los previos webinars
<https://caritasmexicana.org/acervodigital>






En esta epidemia, modificar nuestros comportamientos individuales, nos hace como grupo más fuertes







Fuentes: Diversos materiales Catholic Relief Services y Guías provisionales para la prevención y control de COVID-19 en instalaciones cuidado de largo plazo.



RESOURCES AND GUIDANCES

COVID-19 Guidance note – Prevention and response in shelters, reception centres and hotels. UNHCR. 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/covid-19-and-shelter/documents/covid-19-guidance-note-prevention-and-response-shelters-reception>

Interim guidance on shelter and settlements response to COVID 19. UNHCR. 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/global/documents/unhcr-interim-guidance-shelter-settlement-covid19>

IASC Interim guidance for COVID-19 Readiness and Response in camps and camp-like settings. 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/global/documents/iasc-interim-guidance-covid-19-readiness-and-response-camps-and-camp-settings>

COVID-19 response guide by the R4V platform (in Spanish). 2020.

<https://r4v.info/es/documents/download/75610>

REDLAC Working Group on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM-LAC)

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/latin-america-and-caribbean/cccm>



Gap: Aggravation of existing vulnerabilities due to the health emergency, significantly increasing the risk of disasters caused by hydrometeorological events and other climate-related emergencies.

The direct impact on livelihoods and the situational stress have led to an increase in manifestations of interpersonal and gender-based violence in specific temporary shelter contexts and households.

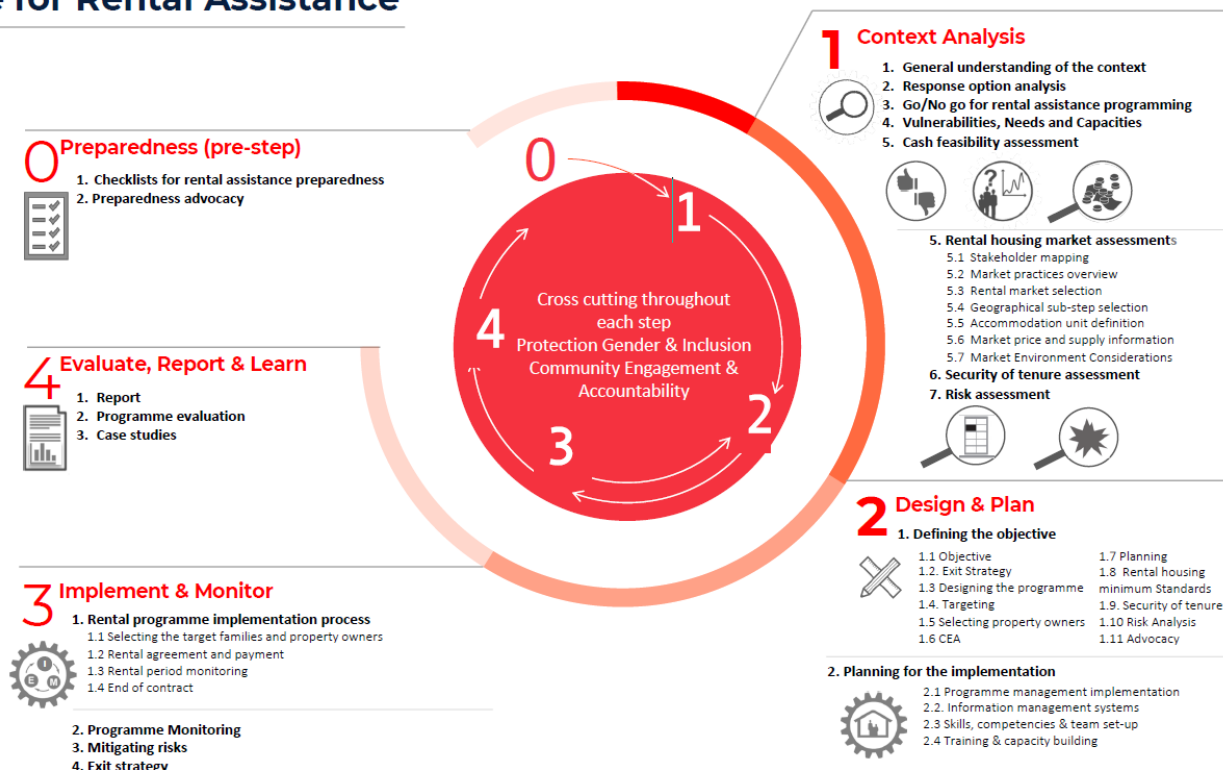
RESPONSE: Support through rental assistance programmes to families who have lost their livelihoods and are in need of temporary shelter. The duration of this measure will depend on the context in which it is implemented.

RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 in precarious contexts. Possible measures from the perspective of basic habitability - ICHAB (Instituto de Cooperación y Habitabilidad Básica - Escuela de Arquitectura, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (ETSAM) (In Spanish)

<http://www.cuhab-upm.es/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/La-MITIGACI%C3%93N-del-IMPACTO-del-COVID-19.pdf>

Step-by-step cycle overview Guide for Rental Assistance



Step by Step cycle overview – Guide for Rental Assistance. International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

[Key measures for responding to the health emergency with the gender approach. REDLAC-Gender Working Group \(in Spanish\)](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Claves%20de%20g%C3%A9nero%20para%20la%20respuesta%20ante%20emergencias%20sanitarias%2C%20mayo%202020.pdf)
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Claves%20de%20g%C3%A9nero%20para%20la%20respuesta%20ante%20emergencias%20sanitarias%2C%20mayo%202020.pdf>

Minimum standards for protection gender and inclusion in emergencies. IFRC 2020.
<https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/document/minimum-standards-protection-gender-inclusion-emergencies/#:~:text=It%20provides%20practical%20guidance%20on,operations%20%E2%80%9Cdo%20no%20harm%E2%80%9D>



Non-displaced persons

Gap: Difficulty with the continuity of response operations due to border closures and mobility restrictions.

PREPAREDNESS: Communications and advocacy campaigns aimed at achieving the inclusion of humanitarian shelter criteria in health emergency operations. Help and guide the communities with whom we work to adopt contagion prevention measures. Include messages targeting populations with specific vulnerabilities (women and girls, people with disabilities, the elderly, LGBTIQ+ population, among others). Aid providers, whether volunteers, builders, responders, etc., should be given visibility in performance reports and in all public communications.



5 ways Shelter and Settlements programs help mitigate the spread of COVID-19



Distributing **essential humanitarian assistance** in a way that avoids spreading the disease.



Inadequate shelter can increase respiratory diseases which aggravate the impact of the virus.



Decongesting and reducing human density in settlements to maintain social distancing and reduce transmission.



Expanding the shelters of vulnerable households to **reduce overcrowding** and mitigate the spread of the virus.



Planning and building **isolation areas and medical facilities** according to health criteria.



For further information related to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak please visit the following page:
ShelterCluster.org/COVID19

Advocacy Messages for the shelter sector - Global Shelter Cluster

PREPAREDNESS: Incorporation of biosecurity measures in ongoing construction works.

RESPONSE: Training local partners in emergency shelter support mechanisms, including but not limited to rental support, assistance to host families, cash transfer modalities with a gender perspective.

We stress the importance of “localizing” humanitarian response, which prioritizes demand and actions initiated from the communities. Local leadership for humanitarian action can be promoted from the emergency shelter sector, specifically by ensuring that communities participate in decision-making and coordination at the national and sub-national levels, and that the response incorporates local construction practices, employs local capacity and native materials, and uses tools designed to build resilience through participatory approaches such as the Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA).

It is necessary to build partnerships with local actors and community support networks around humanitarian principles. Responsible partnering must be based on principles of equality, transparency, a results-oriented approach, accountability and complementarity, as well as on the sharing of responsibilities and information. The well-being and safety of all stakeholders must be ensured by reassessing risk-sharing approaches – above all, avoid causing further harm. NGO forums and sectoral working groups can be a vehicle for the development of such partnerships.

RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE

General recommendations for humanitarian actors working with affected populations. 2020. (in Spanish)

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/americas-covid-19-working-group/documents/recomendaciones-para-agencias-involucradas-en-operaciones>

[Social distancing guidelines and recommendations for construction sites – CRS.](#) 2020. (In Spanish).

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/covid-19-and-shelter/documents/recomendaciones-de-seguridad-para-obras-de-construccion-durante-la>

Resource repository for the COVID-19 response – Shelter and NFI cluster in Venezuela. 2020.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sxREYNR5tpqNaZ8BLZhj4cERAkfwldKy>

COVID-19 Scenarios. ACAPS. 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/covid-19-and-shelter/documents/covid-19-scenarios-acaps>

PASSA – Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness - IFRC.

<https://www.ifrc.org/PageFiles/95526/publications/305400-PASSA%20manual-EN-LR.pdf>

IASC Interim Guidance on Localisation and the COVID-19 response. May 2020

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/covid-19-and-shelter/documents/iasc-interim-guidance-localisation-and-covid-19-response-may-2020>

Reinforce, reinforce, reinforce: Localization in the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response – ICVA. 2020.

https://www.icvanetwork.org/system/files/versions/ICVA_Localization_COVID19.pdf



Gap: Increased spread in slum areas and informal neighbourhoods, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities such as evictions, lack of security of tenure, etc.

PREPAREDNESS: Establishment of collaboration mechanisms with private and local partners. Strengthening of community networks and participation in advocacy processes.

Constant monitoring of tenure conditions, particularly during the pandemic. Mapping shelter-vulnerable areas is suggested, e.g. households in danger of being evicted, including a profiling of the populations that would be most affected.

The global protection cluster organized a series of webinars dealing with Housing, Land and Tenure (HLP) issues (*see link in Resources*).

RESPONSE: Support through cash transfers to pay rents.

RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE

IASC Interim Guidance on Public Health and Social Measures for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operations in Low Capacity and Humanitarian Settings. 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/covid-19-and-shelter/documents/iasc-interim-guidance-public-health-and-social-measures-covid-19>

Protecting the right to housing in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. 2020.

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/COVID19RightToHousing.aspx>

Urban land conflicts and evictions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

https://www.suelourbano.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-report-urban-land-conflicts-suelo-urbano_spread.pdf

Constant risks, looming disaster: the urgent case for a moratorium on evictions. Somalia Protection Cluster. 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/covid-19-and-shelter/documents/somaliagpcadvocacyevictionscovid19042020>

Step-by-step guide for rental assistance to people affected by crises – IFRC. 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/shelter-and-cash-working-group/documents/ifrc-step-step-guide-rental-assistance>

Land Portal – Land, Housing and COVID-19 Webinars. September 2020.

<https://landportal.org/news/2020/09/land-housing-and-covid-19>



Gap: Aggravation of existing vulnerabilities due to the health emergency, significantly increasing the risk of disasters caused by hydrometeorological events and other climate-related emergencies.

The direct impact on livelihoods and the situational stress have led to an increase in manifestations of interpersonal and gender-based violence, particularly in temporary shelter contexts and households. Support is required to adapt housing to cope with quarantines during and after the pandemic.

PREPAREDNESS: Monitoring of habitability conditions in the communities with whom we work. Development of communications material and guidance for home adaptations

Several members of the working group are ensuring the pre-positioning of emergency shelter supplies such as shelter kits, construction tools, as well as other non-food items.

RESPONSE: Flexibility in operations is essential for reducing the pandemic's impact on vulnerable communities. It is important to maintain dialogue with communities and be able to adapt to their actual needs, for example, by prioritizing activities that are more helpful such as the distribution of household goods and food. This could involve providing complementary assistance (food kits, hygiene kits including menstrual hygiene products) as well as information on home adequacy to people identified as in greater vulnerability and/or in precarious housing conditions.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTION:

At the beginning of the health emergency, Techo Internacional and its country chapters decided to suspend their normal housing support activities as a safety measure. They instead strengthened communications with beneficiary communities via existing social and communication networks, through which Techo conducted information campaigns on prevention and protection measures, distributed other humanitarian aid supplies that are essential during pandemics, and strengthened support networks in favour of vulnerable communities. These campaigns are governed by a protocol that guides humanitarian aid distribution, which focuses on three aspects: 1) Protection of the people involved in the distribution chain; 2) Simple communications that are easily understood by both the humanitarian workers and beneficiary families; and 3) Adherence to regulations and measures established by governments and relevant authorities.

Once field activities were resumed, they were governed by the "Roadmap for the implementation of housing and habitat projects in the Covid-19 emergency context", which sets out practices to minimize contagion risks and protect the health of all the people involved in the operations. It establishes guidelines for personnel management, distribution of construction materials, hygiene and protection considerations, community work and training. The guide was organized in three phases - aligned to projects' implementation times: ex ante, during and ex post - indicating the relevant actions and procedures in each phase.



RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE

Emergency Shelter Cluster's template for management of emergency shelter supplies and NFIs in Venezuela (UNHCR). 2020.

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/global/documents/venezuela-contingency-stock-management>

Protocol for distributing humanitarian aid – COVID-19 emergency - TECHO Internacional. 2020. (in Spanish)

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/americas-covid-19-working-group/documents/techo-internacional-protocolo-guia-para-la-distribucion-de>

Roadmap for the implementation of housing and habitat projects in the Covid-19 emergency context - Techo Internacional. 2020. (In Spanish)

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/americas-covid-19-working-group/documents/ruta-general-para-la-ejecucion-de-proyectos-de-vivienda-y>

MEDIDAS PREVENTIVAS ANTE COVID-19
PARA CASAS, ALBERGUES Y CENTROS DE ATENCIÓN DE PERSONAS MIGRANTES

La actual epidemia representa nuevos retos para el personal que atiende a las personas migrantes. Algunas soluciones alternativas pueden implementarse con algunos pequeños ajustes a espacios disponibles.

RECOMENDACIONES

CONSTANTE LAVADO DE MANOS
Es recomendable en esta epidemia la habilitación de lavabos en distintos puntos del albergue.
Instalar en lugares clave desinfectante para manos de entre 60% y 80% de alcohol.

DISTANCIA SOCIAL DE 1 METRO Y MEDIO ENTRE PERSONAS EN ÁREAS COMUNES FRECUENTADAS
Para el uso de los sanitarios se pueden implementar turnos o bien ubicar señales visuales para guardar la sana distancia.
Se pueden distribuir turnos para realizar actividades en espacios abiertos como jugar con niñas y niños.
En caso de hacer fila para los alimentos debe guardarse más espacio de acuerdo a las medidas sugeridas o bien establecer turnos para el consumo.
Ubicar mamparas o divisiones a dormitorios comunes de acuerdo a los estándares internacionales.

HIGIENE Y SANEAMIENTO
Se pueden preparar soluciones desinfectantes alternativas ante la escasez de algunos insumos para ser aplicadas en la higiene personal y en los espacios comunes.
Llevar a cabo limpieza a profundidad de lugares comunes 2 a 3 veces al día y tener un conjunto de medidas para permitir el acceso a estos lugares usando la sana distancia.
Habilitar contenedores o espacios para el buen manejo de la basura y residuos sólidos que reduzcan el riesgo o brote de otro tipo de infecciones.
El espacio de la cocina debe estar restringido y se deben tomar medidas adicionales de higiene y saneamiento para la preparación de los alimentos.

Área de cocina restringida

“En esta epidemia, la limpieza de nuestros lugares comunes nos hace más fuertes”

Fuentes: OMS / IASC (Orientaciones provisionales)

Movilidad Humana, CEPS, CÁRITAS MEXICANA, CRS, COALICIÓN PRO-DEFENSA DEL MIGRANTE, A.C.

Poster of preventive measures against COVID-19 for homes, collective shelters and care centers for migrants. Catholic Relief Services



Other useful references

Virtual space of the REDLAC-Shelter working group

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/working-group/americas-covid-19-working-group>

REDLAC-Shelter Terms of Reference

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/americas/documents/terms-reference-redlac-shelter-group>

Updated recommendations and guidance for emergency shelter operations in COVID-19 contexts

<https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/covid-19-and-shelter>

COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan. 2020.

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/programme-cycle/space/document/covid-19-global-humanitarian-response-plan>

Information and Coordination platform, COVID-COVID-19 CEPREDENAC – SICA (In Spanish)

<https://plataformaregional.cepredenac.org/portal/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/34923cd9a6dd48b08c5a34b5c65c8b3e>

Continuously updated information on access restrictions in Latin America and the Caribbean

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/latin-america-caribbean-covid-19-external-and-internal-access-restrictions-25-may-2020>

Latest updates on COVID-19 global humanitarian activities

<https://reliefweb.int/topics/covid-19-global>

ANNEX 1 – Definition of the REDLAC-Shelter Working Group

At the regional level, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates the Risk, Emergencies and Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) Working Group, which facilitates a more coherent inter-institutional preparedness from the regional to the national level. For all members, participation by regional leaders of sectoral groups (also called clusters) is playing an important role in facilitating understanding and developing appropriate mechanisms when responding to emergencies. Established in 2003 and inspired by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the group's main strategy is to improve disaster response in the region through a consensual approach stressing improved coordination and exchange of information. Based on the global cluster concept, REDLAC has been establishing subgroups that are active to a greater or lesser extent depending on the circumstances, doing so both by technical areas, such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) or Emergency Shelter, and by cross-cutting areas such as Protection or Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).

Emergency shelter is the humanitarian process whereby people affected by crises regain the right to adequate housing. Housing recovery begins immediately: households begin the process of rebuilding their lives as soon as possible, especially after natural disasters. Aspects involved in this process include but are not limited to : Distributing household-related non-food items (NFIs), emergency and long-term shelter support, housing construction and reconstruction, and support to human settlements such as site planning and urban planning. The humanitarian process includes a variety of methods to provide support in these areas, which may or may not involve construction. Emergency shelter options vary according to context, protection aspects, weather and other conditions, and are defined in collaboration with local governments in line with current regulations.

The purpose of the REDLAC-Shelter working group is to improve coordination and predictability of actions, roles and responsibilities of actors within the emergency shelter sector, as well as with other sectors at the regional level, in order to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness of interventions in disaster-affected countries.

Specific objectives

- To structure and continuously update the network of sector participants in Latin America, helping them to understand their roles, responsibilities, capacities and interventions at various levels - national, subregional, regional and global - as well as specifically identify their capacities to support sectoral coordination.
- To promote coordinated work with other groups already established in REDLAC in all stages of humanitarian work, under the principle of protection in humanitarian action. Within this framework, to promote actions that ensure that assistance reaches as many people as possible, that consider long-term impact and that support local recovery strategies.
- To conduct preparedness and response capacity building activities and training, promoting the use and contextualization of global instruments and tools at the regional and national levels. To participate in the crafting of policies, standards, guidelines and relevant documents related to the sector to increase coherence and appropriateness of actions.
- To promote the exchange of knowledge and tools among sector members in order to ensure adequate technical and strategic advice for any event requiring humanitarian assistance.

- To strengthen the sector's response approach to affected communities, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups, support self-recovery and promote mechanisms for accountability and responsibility to beneficiary populations.
- To advocate that humanitarian emergency shelter and preparedness needs be recognized, considered and included in contingency plans,

action plans, response mechanisms and government policies, achieving the sector's increased participation in country-level, or even local-level, processes as part of the humanitarian platform.

- To strengthen relations with authorities, partners, academia and civil society regarding crisis preparedness and response.



REDLAC - Shelter

Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter
Coordinando el alojamiento de emergencia



Global Shelter Cluster
Email: info@sheltercluster.org

