

SHELTER PROGRAMMES IN WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM: Quick guide on how to mainstream protection

Why focus on Protection in Shelter programming?

While you are already assisting people in need by providing shelter services it is crucial that you take specific steps to ensure that everyone's basic human right to shelter is fulfilled in a way that **upholds dignity and integrity and allows all to feel safe in a way that does not discriminate; lead to harm; reinforce existing inequality; or exclude or fail to reach vulnerable people and those most in need.** Consideration should be given at both programming and implementation stage.

Planning phase: protection matters to consider

- ☐ **Protection and vulnerability concerns** should be part of your **planning phase** – you cannot reach all needs at the same time: consider who are the most vulnerable and what assistance is most appropriate when prioritizing your work¹.
- ☐ **Participation of the community:** (a) to identify their needs and priorities (b) clear information sharing about options is crucial for designing program and responses. It is important to meet not only with traditional community leaders but also women, children, elderly, and people with disabilities who may not otherwise be part of the decision making process. This helps to *minimize the risks that the project may fail and to improve its responsiveness and effectiveness*.
- ☐ **Non-discrimination:** provide support based on urgent humanitarian needs and not dependent on a specific group or geographical area, type of demolition (administrative vs. punitive) or affected individuals/families ability or willingness to stay in their community e.g. due to seasonal movement/livelihood activities; and avoid any form of direct or indirect discrimination. Has everyone been considered for response? Is there differentiation between refugees/non-refugees, Bedouins/non-Bedouins, land owner or renter? Response for female headed households? Who is mapping and addressing any gaps?
- ☐ **Do no harm:** the way assistance is provided should endeavor to minimize exposure to additional hazards and risks as much as possible, and avoid creating divides between groups e.g. location; lack of lighting and privacy which could cause insecurity and reduce use; difficulties moving in and out of a shelter that could exacerbate people with disabilities' isolation. Information collected during need assessment and visits should not be shared without consent from the concerned person. When upgrading existing residential structures/caves, additional consultation with the community and beneficiaries may be required to ensure understanding of all potential risks and ensure informed consent from targeted communities whom will be directly affected by the decision. Needs and risks should be balanced through participative comparative risk analysis with the targeted groups.
- ☐ **Coordination of the response:** What is the mechanism to avoid duplication with other shelter providers and organizations' working on related issues such as Water and Sanitation? What is the coordination with the lawyer(s)/legal aid providers present in the community and other stakeholders.
- ☐ **Legal status:** Incorporate a thorough mapping of the community and households; ensure that a comprehensive legal analysis is provided by qualified lawyer, with close consultation with the PA Anti-Wall & Settlement Commission (AWSC) and communities. Particular attention should be given to communities/structures protected under injunction.
- ☐ **Coping strategies:** analysis should identify existing coping strategies at household and community level. If positive coping strategies (not harmful to the attainment of their needs and well-being) are identified, any intervention should not disrupt these strategies.

In practice: the right to shelter and protection in WB and EJ

- ☐ **Shelter responses:** Have you considered the siting of the shelter so that eventual demolition may be delayed, it is suitable to the geography (e.g. to avoid floods), culture (privacy for women and children), security (lighting, adequately protected), access to facilities like WASH (for people with disabilities, elderly etc.), exposure to further risk (legal status) or alternative support required when construction options are limited? For further information, refer to legal check list.
- ☐ **Access to shelter responses for the most vulnerable:** provide support for female-headed Households (HHs)/widows or divorced women to access housing and property rights. Specific needs of elderly people, people with mobility limitations and spaces for boys and girls should be considered.
- ☐ **Explosive Remnants (ERW) of War:** Ensure that in firing and military zones workers are aware of risks related to ERW and that shelters are located far and free from ERW.
- ☐ **Evidence-based approach/To be counted is to be seen** for needs assessments and monitoring, ensure disaggregation of data related to gender/age/disability/illness/status of all members of household. Having a full picture will assist you in providing appropriate responses.
- ☐ **Security of tenure:** can you develop as part of the project a way for households (including men and women) to gain access to increased security of tenure (e.g. when landownership disputes)?
- ☐ **Protection from external violence:** consider that civilian/beneficiaries are protected from conflict related violence e.g. settler violence and harassment.
- ☐ **Have you considered all aspects?** Land use to be considered; arrangements and existing community tensions; placement of pre-fabs in dangerous areas; people returning to damaged/demolished houses or buildings; use of child labour in construction; alternative support where necessary? While working, continue to gather and incorporate information and refer where necessary. School drop out? Child marriage/engagement? Refer cases to Child Protection Working Group.

¹ Refer to Washington Group Questions at this link on how to identify, include and prioritize the people with disabilities or people with mobility limitations that will require specific attention: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group/wg_questions.htm

“This guide on shelter should be read in conjunction with “Protection & Prioritising Vulnerable Persons in the Humanitarian Response”

We have started our work; how can we include a protection approach now?

Due to current political development on the ground, increased demolitions, possible forced displacement and relocation plans it is clear not everyone can be reached at once, so be creative about how you can identify and find ways to support those with greatest needs first.

- ☐ Develop policy and processes on how to prioritise within the limited resources?
- ☐ Can your organization dedicate time/human resources to support those you prioritise as vulnerable? Coordinate with other partners working at same geographical areas.
- ☐ Can you find a way to fast-track vulnerable individuals and families?
- ☐ Can you expedite support/assistance/ payments to those most in need?
- ☐ Set up a mechanism where individuals or groups can raise concerns about shelter facilities appropriate to the target population?
- ☐ If you are not able to respond, refer cases to shelter partners who focus on the specific need?
- ☐ Can you propose to your management ways to train colleagues in your organization and implementing partners on protection?
- ☐ Do you assess specific needs of people with mobility limitations so as to propose adapted shelter?

Good practices in WB/EJ – Some examples

- ☐ Many actors (MAAN, ACF, PARC, PHC, and GVC) use a community-based implementation approach.
- ☐ Fencing and steel bar window protection in communities exposed to violence.
- ☐ Consortium: integrated protection assessment to define shelter needs and solutions; risk analysis combining legal counseling, community-based consultation and PA consultation.
- ☐ Cash modalities for demolition response when materials provision not attainable.
- ☐ Involve people with mobility limitations in identifying their difficulties and the reasonable accommodations that they will require to ensure the shelter is suitable and usable.
- ☐ Train NGO staff on accessibility basics and encourage them to liaise with Disable People Organizations (DPOs) to better understand the needs of people with mobility limitations.
- ☐ GVC and ACF have regular training and awareness session on ERW for the people living in Area C/firing zones through the Palestinian police.

Check list – make sure you can answer yes to these six questions

Have you generated the proper conditions for a meaningful community participation to gain appropriate representation of different groups’ needs and wants?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you prioritising the most vulnerable? <i>e.g. In the geographic area you work, who are most in need? How do you prioritise time and where do you start?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your planned response appropriate? <i>to local culture; climate (rains/flooding/winterization) and people’s abilities and preferences?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your response avoid doing harm or minimise additional risks? <i>Have you considered if there might be unintended consequences?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you addressing the protection issues related to shelter? <i>(crowded living space; child protection concerns; gender-based violence; sexual exploitation; access for disabled people; lack of legal papers; environment, comfort, windows, privacy)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are households aware of their legal situation and connected with appropriate support for the protection of their shelter?	<input type="checkbox"/>

What should I do if I have protection concerns?

If you are aware of someone in need of protection support e.g. child who may be abused/people with disabilities (including both children and adults)/elderly person who is at risk, forcible transfer, demolition orders, imminent demolitions, contact the Protection Cluster lead/OHCHR, Child Protection Working Group, Legal Task Force, or related advocacy groups who can advise of relevant partner organisations to follow up on the case.