

# Lessons Learned shelter support for light and medium repairs by NRC in Ntabah village NWR.



## Background

The socio-political tensions in the NW/SW regions of Cameroon that started in 2017 has witnessed considerable destruction/burnings of houses in some affected villages. This has caused a good number of people to be displaced to neighbouring communities for shelter and safety. Recently, some of the owners of the burnt/destroyed houses have started to return to their communities of origin to rebuild or repair their destroyed houses to enable them to have shelter for their families. Some of those struggling to do repairs lack the finances and materials to do these repairs due to loss of livelihood activities, thus they use some temporary materials to do the repairs while others resort to live in partially completed building. Other households could be seen mobilising some local materials to do some repairs to the destroyed houses. The Norwegian refugee council through the shelter core competency and using funds from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) piloted a shelter support programme for minor and medium repairs for houses that were destroyed because of the crises. The target population was returnees or host community members in conflict affected areas whose houses were destroyed during the conflict and who are in the process of carrying out some repairs or who desire doing some repairs to the destroyed houses. The location of the project was Ntabah village in Ndu sub-division, Donga-Mantung subdivision Northwest region, Cameroon.

## Needs Assessment:

The shelter team assessed the community in question to determine and establish the needs for shelter repairs. It is important to carryout a desk review of the communities that have suffered burning of houses during the conflict and select from the communities. A field visit to confirm the destructions of the houses and establish the presence of people living in the community or carrying some repair work in the destroyed houses is paramount. This will help to ascertain the success and sustainability of the project. We can not ignore the security situation of the location. It is preferable to implement such a project in a location where hostilities have reduced to enable the works to proceed smoothly. A market

assessment is very important for the desired location. This assessment will help to determine the functionality of the local markets, availability of the construction materials in the local markets, the prices of the construction materials and hence the modality to use during the implementation of the activities.

## Community mobilization and Creation and training of Shelter committee



This is an essential part of getting the community to accept and own the project. Community engagement meetings through focus group discussions and meetings with community leaders enlightens the team to understand the context in the community, the available local materials, the capacity and number of technicians or builders in the community. These meetings can help you to identify some persons of integrity who are trusted by the community and available to set up the shelter committee of the community.

This is best in situations where the shelter team will not do regular visits to the community for supervision. The shelter committee will serve as a supervisory team to ensure that the repairs are done following the standards set in place. The shelter committee should comprise of some technicians and builders who can contribute to the repairs in the community. The shelter committee can help in establishing the BOQs of the different households to be repaired.

## Due Diligence Process to establish ownership of property.

It is important to establish the rightful owners of the different houses to be repaired. This is because in times of crises, there is a possibility of housing, land, and property conflicts. Therefore, it is very important for the shelter team to ensure that they identify the owners of the houses and have their approval before proceeding with assistance for repairs. The shelter committee and leaders of the community can help in identifying the rightful owners of the houses. It is advisable to liaise with the ICLA colleagues who are experts in HLP issues to provide support with the due diligence process for this activity.

## Bill of Quantities for repairs of each house unit



When the rightful owners of the houses have been identified and their consent obtained, the shelter team can proceed to establish the BoQ for the individual households. This will inform the team on the cost to repair a single household. Given that the degree of damage is not the same for all the houses in the community, it will not be appropriate to do a uniform distribution where all beneficiaries receive the same amount of items or cash if cash modality is used. It is always advisable to use the BoQ

established to determine what a particular household will be receiving as materials or cash.

## Modalities of implementation



A market survey at the beginning of the process is necessary to determine the functionality of the markets, the access to the market, the prices of items in the market and the availability of the shelter in the market. This will inform on the modality to use. If the markets are functional, the team can use the cash modality through either paper vouchers, E-vouchers or direct cash. But if the markets are not functional, and in-kind distribution should be considered. Some measures have to be taken when using the in-kind method. Some of the measures to be taken when doing the in-kind

method is.

- 1) Develop a concise distribution plan according to the different stages of the repairs.
- 2) Avoid doing a one-off distribution of all the items. Let the households request for materials upon completion of the previous stage of works.
- 3) Provide transport support to the beneficiary households to enable transport the materials to the site.
- 4) Set up a robust monitoring team that will follow-up to make sure that materials are not misused.

## Implementation and monitoring plans



the activities should be planned in the dry season to avoid the rains disrupting repair works. Map out the zone of intervention and schedule the work according to the different zones. This will facilitate supervision and monitoring of the repairs work. Ensure that the households that have been selected are willing to return to the house after it has been repaired or that they are currently repairing the house to avoid the houses to be abandoned after repairs.

Note: the security situation in the area should permit or enable the repairs of houses if not please do not proceed with the repairs works.

## WASH facilities

If the houses undergoing repairs lack some WASH facilities, look for measures of also improving the WASH facilities for the different households if the funding permits, if not, kindly encourage the households to construct WASH facilities

## Post Distribution monitoring

It is always important to return to these same households for a post distribution monitoring to evaluate the impact of the interventions, get lessons learnt and identify areas to improve upon.

