

## CONSIDERATION ON THE USE OF TENTS FOLLOWING CAMP CONSOLIDATION

This document is meant to support the decision-making process on the use of tents from IDP priority camps planned for consolidation. It is based on the best knowledge of practice so far collected from and discussed with Shelter and CCCM actors operating in Iraq. To note that most tents have been provided by few actors, primarily MoMD and UNHCR.

Several elements should be considered when deciding whether families should be permitted to take their tent upon departure, including preference of IDPs, potential costs, opportunities and risks. Prevailing preference of beneficiaries seems to indicate their will to take their tents upon departure from the camps. This would allow to offer a second life to tents, and to avoid further costs of collection, transport, cleaning, repair/recycling and storage or disposal. Tents, which have an average maximum lifespan of 1,5 years, will have been used already, and some near the end (or past) of lifespan. Re-use in another camp would be advised based on the physical conditions of the tents. Nonetheless, some risks that may arise are highlighted below, together with related mitigation measures.

Factor	Consideration, Action and Mitigation
Either MoDM, UNHCR or relevant agencies as the owner of the tent must confirm that returnees can remove this asset from the camp (if beneficiaries wish so).	<p><b>Action:</b> The Government Returns Committee (GRC) should seek the approval from relevant entities. Different approaches adapted to local context may apply.</p>
The Office of the Governorate of origin should be consulted as to whether they accept families living in tents on privately owned plots, with the potential they could create informal settlements in other locations. Families who do not own property or lack security could initiate the creation of settlements.	<p><b>Consideration:</b> Arrival in area of origin with an emergency tent outside the context of a camp cannot be considered a shelter solution as it constitutes critical shelter, because of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of perimeter security and ability to secure possessions.</li> <li>- Poor insulation from weather conditions.</li> <li>- Lack of connected basic water and wastewater facilities.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, it may be difficult to record documented cases of plot owners versus people who may settle in informal settlements. If in unsecure tenure, people will settle informally and build a shelter with any type of recovered material (e.g. plastic sheeting, plywood, zinc sheets, cartoons, etc.). At the same time, cut tents could be re-used as plastic sheeting and be a valuable emergency shelter material or temporarily help reinforce damaged shelters.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> A clear policy across Iraq is missing as relevant authorities have not issued instructions on whether to hand over used tents to beneficiaries. Thus, the Government Returns Committee may consider which Governorates are the most frequent people would return to, and contact the Governor's Office for advice.</p> <p><b>Mitigation:</b> People living in sub-standard shelter in their area of origin shall be assisted by all stakeholders (humanitarian, government, development actors), so as to ensure return achieves minimum standards and thus remains durable.</p>
Community tensions may be aggravated when families arrive in highly damaged areas with tents, while others may have not received any shelter assistance.	<p><b>Action:</b> The Government Returns Committee should consider carefully whether the benefit of taking tents outweighs the risk of community tensions.</p>

	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Government, UN and NGO alignment over policy to invest as much and quick as possible in durable shelter solution in the area of origin. Root causes of community tensions must be investigated. Decision of not giving out tents if specific protection issues may arise in areas of origin could be an option.</p>
<p>Allowing families to take tents will encourage other families to enter a camp to collect a tent.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> When camp closure is declared no new arrivals are permitted into the camp. Camps are closed in such an order that there remains capacity to accept new cases within a reasonable distance. In general, security services are present in camps until the complete closure of the camps. At the same time, the reason for people returning to camps is not related to tents, but due to difficulties in accessing services, establishing livelihoods and insecurity in their place of origin.</p>
<p>The storage or disposal of tents could be inefficient or have negative effects including upon the environment as well as the relations with communities/media.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> The Government Returns Committee should consider how best to address these concerns and potential costs before concluding their decision. The re-use of tents has been successful in other locations. Income-generating activities could be thought of. Disposing off tents through burning should be considered only when the tent cannot be reused in any way, especially in light of its condition and potential public health issues such as scabies. Responsibility shall be with the provider of the tents or camp management.</p>
<p>Branded tents could end up in locations or with groups whom are not recipients of aid.</p>	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Tent logos are sprayed over before removal. Responsibility shall be with the provider of the tents or camp management.  Agreement is made with central government for tents to be removed from armed actors if necessary.</p>
<p>Beneficiaries may vandalize their tents in order to get a new one, during their stay or upon departure from the camp</p>	<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Strong messaging shall be given by CwC partners and camp management regarding the fact that for no reason new tents will be provided when intentionally vandalized, or when camp consolidation and closure is announced. No tent replacement should be allowed as soon as the camp consolidation or closure is announced; exception made for extremely vulnerable families or in case of an accident (e.g. fire, flooding, etc.), subject to a prior approval of camp manager.</p>