



Rental Support in Humanitarian Response: Ensuring Shelter for Displaced Populations

Why Rental Support?



Alternative to New Constructions

Rental support promotes dignity, integration, access to services and relies on existing housing stock for displaced populations



Supports Host Communities

Rental support injects cash into local economies, benefiting host communities that provide housing and services to displaced populations.



Flexible and Adaptable

Rental support can be tailored to different displacement contexts, allowing for a more dynamic and responsive approach to temporary housing needs.

Rental support offers a dignified, community-based alternative to traditional camp-based humanitarian shelter, with the potential to benefit both displaced populations and host communities.

Implementation in Practice

Cash-based approach

- ☐ Direct rental payments to beneficiaries or landlords as a flexible and adaptable solution.

Coordination with local authorities and landlords

- ☐ Collaboration with relevant stakeholders to ensure smooth implementation and secure access to rental units.

Considerations: Affordability

- ☐ Ensuring rental support aligns with local market rates and is accessible to the target population.

Considerations: Security of tenure

- ☐ Addressing risks of eviction or secondary displacement through rental agreements and legal protections.

Considerations: Protection risks

- ☐ Mitigating potential protection issues, such as exploitation or gender-based violence, through robust monitoring and safeguarding measures.

Cameroon

- In Cameroon, rental assistance programs provides temporary housing aid to displaced families
- The program offers a monthly subsidy of 29,000 XAF (around \$50 USD) for 3-6 months, aiming to stabilize families while exploring long-term solutions
- Challenges include market inflation, risk of eviction after support ends, and availability of suitable housing options.



Lessons Learned & Best Practices



Market Assessments

Conducting comprehensive market assessments to understand rental rates, availability, and affordability in the local context is crucial for setting appropriate and sustainable rental support amounts.



Landlord Engagement

Proactive engagement with landlords to build trust, negotiate fair rental terms, and establish mediation mechanisms helps prevent issues like evictions or secondary displacement of beneficiaries.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Robust monitoring systems are needed to track to track the use of rental support, identify identify potential misuse, and ensure that that beneficiaries are not forced to relocate relocate due to the end of the program.

By prioritizing these key lessons and best practices, rental support programs can be more effective, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of displaced populations.

Conclusion & Way Forward



Rental support as a key component of humanitarian shelter response

Rental assistance has emerged as a critical intervention to provide temporary housing for displaced populations, complementing other shelter solutions.



Need for advocacy to extend support where needed

Advocate for increased funding and policy support to expand rental assistance programs in protracted displacement contexts.



Strengthening links with durable housing solutions and social protection systems

Integrate rental support with longer-term strategies, such as social housing and cash-based interventions, to ensure sustainable solutions.

Rental support has proven to be an effective and dignified approach to addressing the shelter needs of displaced populations. Continued advocacy and integration with durable solutions are key to ensuring the long-term impact of this intervention.