



Executive Summary: Advisory on the provision of assistance in proposed 'no dwelling zones'

The Humanitarian Country Team's position with respect to the proposed 'no dwelling zones' is as follows:

1. Emergency support including emergency shelter of a non-permanent type (including tarpaulin, CGI sheeting, timber and fixings) as well as corresponding WASH, health, education, livelihoods, protection and CCCM support should be permitted;
2. Relocation from the proposed no dwelling zones should be a measure of last resort therefore comprehensive hazard and vulnerability mapping should be carried out at the LGU level in all hazard prone areas. Where relocation is justifiable, durable relocation plans should be developed in consultation with the affected communities; and
3. Detailed and effective risk reduction plans should be seriously considered including early warning systems, robust evacuation centres, raised housing, mangrove planting and coastal ditches.

Caution must be taken where obvious risks are evident and where LGUs have already identified relocation sites and are following due process.

National government, to our knowledge, has not provided any official documentation or passed any ordinances on the proposed 'no dwelling zones' notion, implementation and outcome nor on disallowing humanitarian assistance therein. The lack of certainty and official notification is hindering the provision of humanitarian assistance, with mixed messages being given by Municipalities on the consequences of providing assistance. Some agencies, in Region VIII, have been approached by Municipal authorities (often the Mayor themselves) and have been directly told to cease providing temporary shelter assistance.



The provision of assistance in no dwelling zones cannot be considered in isolation. Therefore the impact of meeting the immediate needs of the affected people must also be considered with respect to long term implications. Consequently the advisory identifies issues and provides recommendations around:

- Alternatives to the 40m no dwelling zone with the recommendation that detailed hazard mapping should be carried out by the government not only in the coastal areas but also in other hazard prone areas.
- A comprehensive government compensation package needs to be communicated at all levels along with relocation plans especially as the proposed relocation caseload, it is thought, currently outweighs identified suitable relocation sites.
- Vulnerability and beneficiary selection criteria should be agreed together with the community in accordance with the established NAPC/UNDP Kalahi CIDSS programme. Draft Government beneficiary guidelines should provide for consultation with the affected population. A number of reports state that affected communities are not being consulted; leading to questions of forced evictions. Consideration should also be given to those people who are in proposed no dwelling zones who have not had structural damage to their homes and furthermore, those who may reside in hazard areas (landslide, flood prone areas) that are not near the coastline.

In order to get this right, respect fundamental human rights and to avoid the creation of future slums both in relocation sites and in existing sites, meaningful consideration needs to be given to the implementation of no dwelling zones and the temporary and permanent relocations that are, and will follow.

The HCT recommends that the Government provides an urgent communication that all humanitarian actors are allowed to engage in emergency support in no-dwelling zones, including shelter of a non-permanent type (including tarpaulin, CGI sheeting, timber and fixings) as well as corresponding WASH, health, education, livelihoods, protection and CCCM support.

Additionally viable alternatives should be considered such as the repair of damaged public and private buildings for use as temporary shelter solutions as well as rental and host family support. Advocacy around disaster risk reduction measures (early warning systems and evacuation centres) should also be encouraged for those who remain in areas perceived to be no dwelling zones.