GLOBAL
SHELTER CLUSTER
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

ENTRY-POINTS FOR DRR MAINSTREAMING IN HUMANITARIAN SHELTER & SETTLEMENT INTERVENTIONS

WHAT IS DRR?

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is the policy objective of disaster risk management – i.e. preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.[1]

Strategies for DRR should be aimed at:

1. Preventing creating new levels of risk
2. Reducing existing risks
3. Building capacity for effective disaster recovery
4. Strengthening resilience to future disasters (economic, social, health and environmental)

These strategies, alongside Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and reducing environmental degradation, are proven approaches to reduce the impacts of future disasters.

Disaster risks emerge when individuals and communities are EXPOSED to natural or man-made HAZARDS, are VULNERABLE to significant damage, and lack the CAPACITY to cope with hazards on their own.

[1] Disaster Risk Reduction Terminology, UNDRR

DEFINITIONS

HAZARDS

Natural hazards: Floods, Earthquakes, Cyclones, Tsunamis, Storm surges, Wildfires, Heatwaves, Landslides, Zoonotic diseases.

Man-made hazards: Chemical spills, Fires, Dam breaches, Nuclear hazards, Industrial Bio-hazards, Conflict.

More on hazard types can be found in the Hazard Definition and Classification Review and Hazard Information Profiles (UNDRR, International Science Council). Many natural and man-made hazards can be exacerbated by environmental degradation or climate change – e.g., floods can become more intensive because of upstream land clearing, and fire risks can be increased by climate change-driven prolonged dry spells.

VULNERABILITIES

Vulnerabilities are the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes that increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards. For example, elderly or differently abled individuals in a community may have higher susceptibility to injury than others in a flood-prone community. Vulnerabilities can be aggravated by external factors such as political conflicts and war, economic crises, climate change, environmental degradation, or a combination of these factors.

CAPACITY

Capacity is the combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within an organization, community or individual to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience. Capacity may include infrastructure, institutions, human knowledge and skills, and collective attributes such as social relationships, leadership and management. It should be noted that individual capacities ultimately make community or organisational capacities. Therefore, successful risk reduction and resilience-building relies on individual action.

DISASTER RISK

Disaster Risk is a combination of the hazards experienced by a community, their vulnerabilities to those hazards and the capacities to cope with them. Risk can be managed by reducing the magnitude and frequency of the hazards along with reducing community vulnerabilities and increasing capacities. This is commonly denoted by the equation below:

$$\text{DISASTER RISK} = \frac{\textit{Hazard Exposure x Vulnerability}}{\textit{Capacity}}$$

DRR strives to:

- ✓ Manage hazards and causes of hazards
- ✓ Reduce exposure of individuals and communities to hazards
- ✓ Reduce individual/community vulnerabilities and drivers of vulnerability
- ✓ Improve individual, community and institutional capacities to cope with hazards
- ✓ Build capacity for effective disaster recovery
- ✓ Build long-term social and environmental resilience

ECOSYSTEM-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (ECO-DRR)

Where possible, DRR strategies should strive to combine natural resources management approaches and sustainable management of ecosystems with other DRR methods, to utilise natural processes and ecosystem services to reduce disaster risks.[2] For example, improving vegetation cover and native vegetation diversity in hilly areas to minimise soil erosion and increase slope stability can reduce landslide risks. The methods used in Eco-DRR, such as soil conservation measures or riparian ecosystem restoration are also defined as Nature-based Solutions (NbS). In addition to reducing disaster risks, the Eco-DRR approach and NbS provide social and environmental co-benefits. For example, revegetation of degraded areas can provide fruits and forest products to a community and create recreational space.

[2] Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction: Implementing Nature-based Solutions for Resilience, UNDRR, 2020

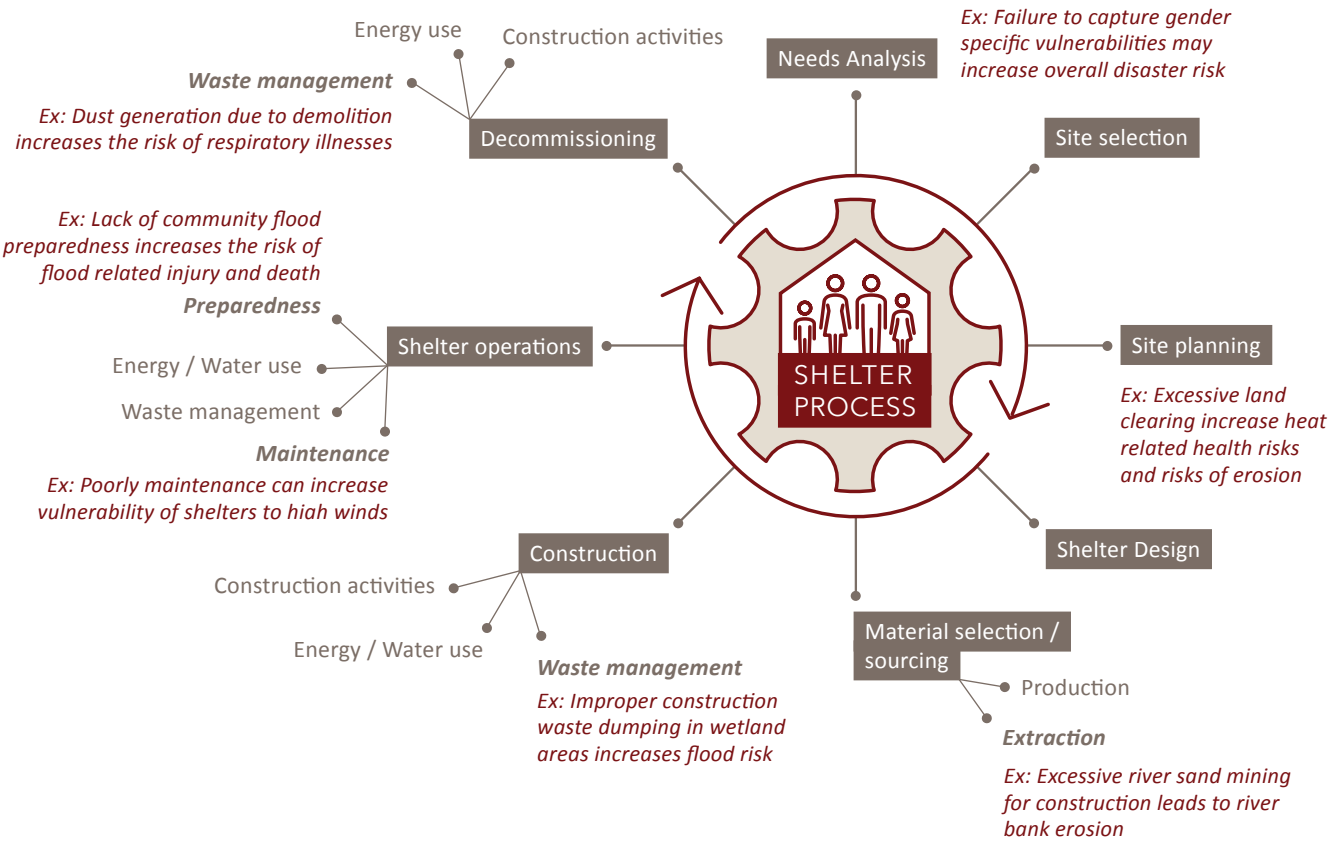
DRR IS INTEGRAL TO HUMANITARIAN SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT INTERVENTIONS

Providing emergency and transitional shelter and non-food items (SNFI) is a key component of humanitarian responses to conflict or non-conflict disasters along with considerations for preparing long-term durable solutions. If well planned and implemented with a DRR perspective, shelter operations present opportunities to reduce existing risks, and make communities safer and more resilient, in line with the vision of the Sendai Framework's Priority 4: *Build Back Better* (and Safer). Conversely, shelter and settlement planning, construction and operational activities can exacerbate existing disaster risks and may also produce new risks.

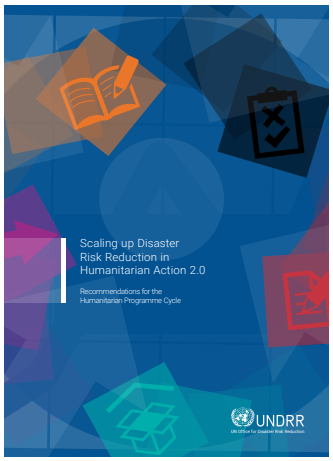
Humanitarian shelter and settlement programs are not limited to providing emergency shelters or tools and materials in the short term. They aim to provide the best possible living conditions in collective shelters and enable families and communities to rebuild and improve their homes, neighbourhoods and cities after a crisis and in the long term to be safer from future disasters. Therefore, DRR should also be planned with a long-term perspective. Regardless of the scale of the humanitarian response, DRR should be planned with a multi-year approach, in partnership with communities and ensuring community engagement at all stages. This will also facilitate understanding local knowledge and increasing ownership.

Shelter activities are diverse and complex. See *Figure 1* for a non-exhaustive breakdown of shelter activities, with some examples of risks created or exacerbated by them.

FIGURE 1 *Shelter activities and examples of related disaster risks*



All humanitarian shelter and settlement activities, in both planning and implementation, should strive to prevent creating any new risks to the community, reduce existing risks, and build communities resilient to potential future disasters. DRR should be incorporated into all stages. This may include the official **Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC)** and **Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans (HNRP)**[3], **Flash Appeals**, **Multi-year humanitarian response plans**, **Shelter Cluster Strategies** and other frameworks.



The **HPC** defines the main stages of humanitarian response as: Preparedness, Needs analysis, Strategic planning, Resource mobilisation, Implementation and Monitoring & Evaluation. For more information on the DRR entry points in each phase, please refer to the UNDRR guidance "Scaling up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action". One critical step of this process is to understand and account for disaster risks in the shelter and settlement needs assessments, as a part of integrating DRR into the Shelter chapter of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) or the cross-sectoral humanitarian needs chapter of the HNRP.

The HPC process is not followed in all humanitarian responses. Conflict-related responses are usually conducted on an annual cycle guided by the HNRP or HNO-HRP process, and non-conflict responses generally use a combination of Flash Appeals and longer-term recovery plans. Therefore, non-conflict contexts offer more time and operational opportunities to insert DRR and CCA measures at different stages. A hybrid approach of the HNRP process and long-term recovery plans would best enable DRR and CCA in humanitarian responses. This type of approach requires the commitment of humanitarian partners at the cluster level and strong inter-cluster collaboration.

Planning and implementing DRR are also contingent upon overarching and cross-cutting considerations, beyond humanitarian shelter operations. UNDRR's Scaling up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action outlines the key overarching considerations for mainstream DRR in Humanitarian Operations as: 1) working across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, 2) adopting a human rights-based, gender-responsive approach and 3) taking a conflict-sensitive approach, and 4) reducing risk at the local level in humanitarian contexts.

[3] The HNRP has replaced and merged the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) into a single document/process.

DRIVERS OF DISASTER RISK AND THE SHELTER PROCESS

Various activities in the humanitarian shelter and settlements process may produce disaster risks, as shown in *Figure 1*.

HAZARDS

Existing hazards in a landscape (e.g. floods, landslides) will continue to pose disaster risks to humanitarian shelter and settlement operations unless mitigated by explicit risk reduction actions. Furthermore, shelter activities may intensify existing hazards or create new man-made hazards (e.g. high-density shelters increasing landslide hazards including due to deforestation and/or creating new fire hazards). The actual risk is, however, mediated by how the shelter and settlement activities modify hazard exposure and vulnerabilities and capacities of the communities and landscapes they impact.

STRUCTURAL AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES

There is an important distinction between structural and social vulnerability in shelter projects. Structural vulnerabilities are construction or engineering issues - e.g. poorly anchored/tied shelters, vulnerable to cyclone damage or locating settlements in risk-prone areas. Structural vulnerabilities must be addressed primarily by shelter providers or by settlement planners. Community engagement in shelter planning and construction and improving technical skills within the community will also help to reduce structural vulnerabilities. Social vulnerabilities exist within individuals and families - e.g. lack of flood awareness and survival skills, or increasing susceptibility to flood damage. These should be addressed by individual and community awareness-raising activities and capacity building. Poorly planned shelter and settlement activities can exacerbate these vulnerabilities in both displaced and local communities. For example, localized over-exploitation of construction materials, such as timber for shelter construction, can negatively impact certain livelihoods (e.g. collection of forest products) of marginalized communities, increasing poverty and making them more vulnerable to disasters.

Emergency shelter construction posing slope failure risk

© Kick Stokvis / IFRC

EXTERNAL FACTORS

Some factors external to the shelter process can also act as risk multipliers: 1) climate change, 2) environmental degradation, 3) conflict, and 4) socio-economic crises (see *Figure 2*). In some cases, shelter activities can also contribute to environmental degradation (e.g.: pollution of water bodies, deforestation, erosion), climate change (e.g. GHG emissions) and trigger conflicts and social crises (e.g. competition for resources), which can trigger a self-reinforcing cycle of aggravated disaster risks. Climate change and environmental degradation also intensify individual and community vulnerabilities – e.g. impacts on livelihoods and chronic health issues. Many SNFI recipients or local communities have limited capacities to adapt to climate change. Conflicts and socio-economic crises cause rapid aggravation of individual and community vulnerabilities, not only due to physical and psychological trauma, but through the destruction of family support structures, dismantling of livelihoods, and persecution of ethno-religious minorities. They also cause erosion of existing institutional capacities – e.g. the dismantling of disaster management structures and loss of elders with local knowledge.

FIGURE 2 *Shelter activities and examples of related disaster risks*

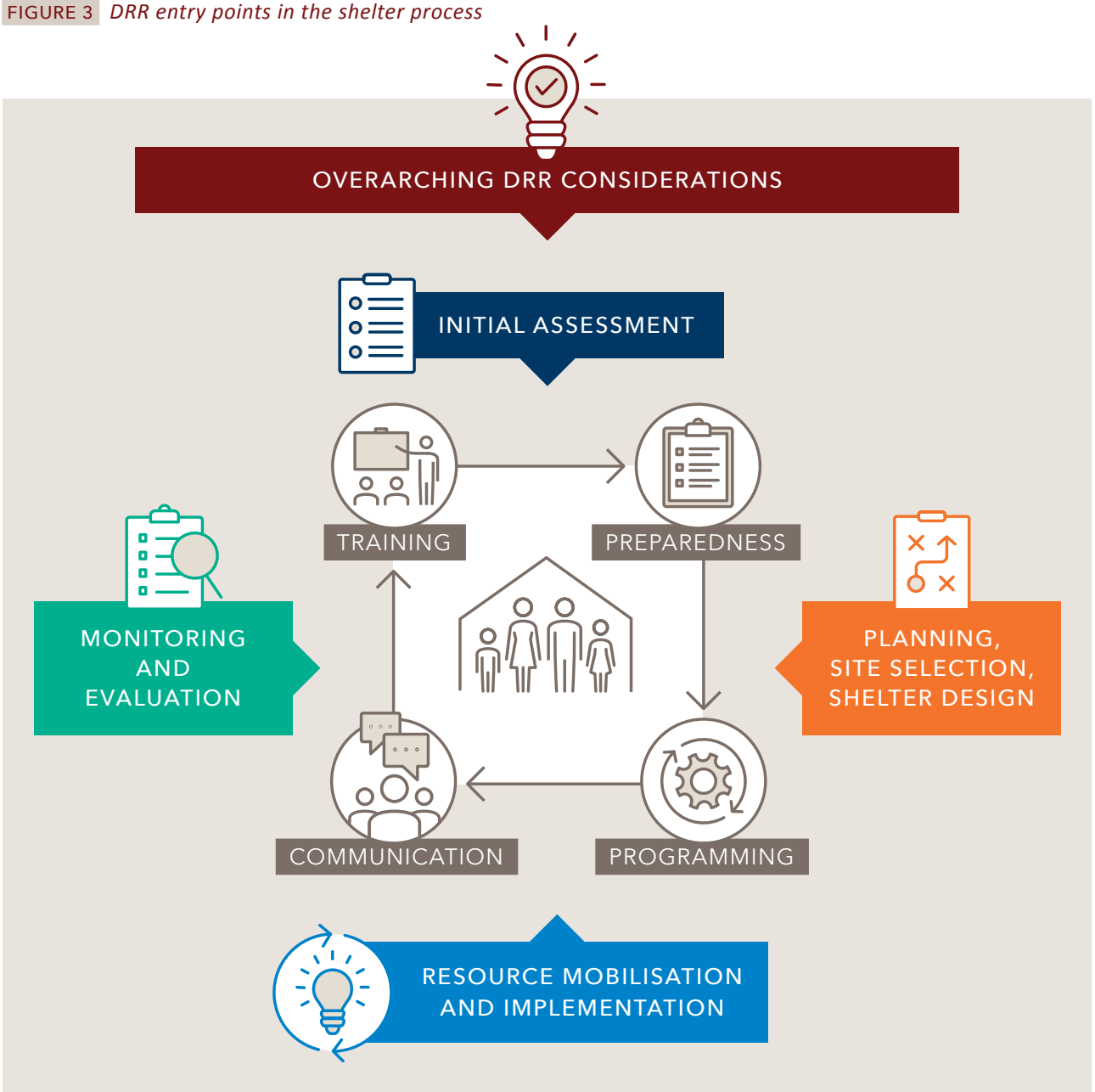
	EXPOSURE	VULNERABILITY	CAPACITY
Existing natural hazards	Some shelter activities increase community exposure to existing hazards e.g. retrofitting buildings without earthquake considerations; planning settlements without adequate drainage	Poorly planned/ implemented shelter activities can increase community vulnerability to existing hazards e.g siting settlements in flood-prone areas or in urban areas without storm-water management systems	Failing to build adequate capacity in the affected communities to cope with existing hazards
Created man-made hazards	Poor shelter and settlement planning and implementation can create new hazards	Existing social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities increase the risk of new hazards	Communities usually cannot cope with new hazards e.g. in addition to conflict and displacement
Climate change and environmental degradation	Increased frequency and magnitude of natural hazards due to climate change and environmental degradation expose larger populations to risk	Climate change and environmental degradation increase the disaster vulnerability of communities e.g. by increasing the frequency and intensity of disasters	Lack of capacity for climate adaption makes communities more vulnerable to increasing hazards
Conflict and socio-env. crises	Conflicts and crises create serious man-made hazards and increase community exposure to existing hazards e.g. forcing IDPs to live in unsafe locations	Conflicts and crises can rapidly increase community vulnerability to existing and created hazards	Conflicts and crises erode the existing community and institutional capacity to cope with disasters

Understanding and reducing these risks and risk multipliers is strongly connected to the Sphere Handbook Shelter and Settlement Standards: Standard 2 (Location and settlement planning) and Standard 7 (Environmental Sustainability).

INCORPORATING DRR IN THE SHELTER PROCESS: HOW, WHEN AND WHERE?

Properly planned humanitarian shelter projects with a DRR perspective can reduce or eliminate present disaster risks (existing and created) and build resilience to future risks and uncertainties. The success of DRR measures however will depend on when and where in the shelter planning and implementation processes they are introduced, and what guidelines and tools are available for DRR mainstreaming. *Figure 3* shows the DRR entry points to the shelter process, and the section below summarises the key recommended actions per stage. Note that there are relevant entry points at each stage of the humanitarian response cycle.

FIGURE 3 *DRR entry points in the shelter process*



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

OVERARCHING CONSIDERATIONS

1 **Shelter Sector strategic approach is aligned with national DRR policy and actors** and is informed by disaster, climate and environmental policies, goals, regulations, and action plans. For example, stakeholder mapping of both shelter and disaster management sectors helps identify the most critical actors for DRR. Also, as many countries have DRR measures and policies in place, it is important that humanitarian actors familiarize themselves with the existing country framework. There should be strong ties between the Shelter Cluster and humanitarian partners and national/local DRR actors including international development actors who work on DRR.

2 **Equitable shelter approach to reduce vulnerabilities and build capacities.** The approach to shelter and settlement planning should be equitable, gender-responsive and inclusive (human rights-based) to prevent or reduce vulnerabilities based on gender, age, special needs, or ethnoreligious inequalities (Scaling up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action – Section 2.2)

3 **Conflict-sensitive shelter approach**, considering existing socio-political conflicts and crises faced by affected and host communities, mindful of how they may influence disaster risks to prevent creating or exacerbating conflicts/crises. (Scaling up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action – Section 2.3)

DRR ENABLERS (Coordination, Preparedness, Communication, Advocacy, Training)

1 **COORDINATION FOR DRR-INFORMED PROGRAMMING:** Make DRR a key agenda item in intra- and inter-cluster coordination (ICC) or existing humanitarian coordination mechanisms in country, e.g. alongside environment and climate change. Incorporate DRR as an item in regular shelter cluster, or shelter working group meetings or ICC meetings. Set up additional arrangements to mainstream DRR in cluster and working group activities such as Technical Working Groups – *eg. Natural Hazards Risk Analysis Technical Working Group, Cox's Bazar.*

2 **PREPAREDNESS:** Consider preparedness for potential hazards and uncertainties at all stages of response planning and implementation. Consult national/local disaster management agencies, and ensure an up-to-date connection with hazard warning systems.

3 **DRR COMMUNICATION:** Develop strategies for effective DRR communication with both humanitarian partners, (local) authorities and communities – *e.g. IEC material, newsletters, webpages, creative awareness methods (e.g. community theatre).*

4 **PROVIDING DRR TRAINING:** Integrate DRR training into SNFI sector training programs. Where possible, allocate resources for dedicated DRR training for humanitarian actors. This may include: 1) conceptual level trainings to incorporate DRR in response plans (HNRP, multi-year or other frameworks) to HCTs or other higher-level networks, 2) specialised technical trainings or incorporating DRR into existing technical trainings, and 3) trainings at local levels to integrate DRR in SNFI operations.

5 **DRR ADVOCACY:** Advocate to integrate "build-back-better" and DRR in shelter programming, for example through ICC and other humanitarian coordination groups, so that adequate resources can be allocated for effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

NEEDS ANALYSIS

1. **Disaster Risk Assessment** should be integral to shelter and settlements needs analysis (*e.g.: HNO shelter chapter, HNRP needs analysis, PDNA or other needs assessment procedures*): Identify existing and potential hazards in the landscape and vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected and host communities (including in institutional capacities), informed by national disaster management data or global tools (*eg. World Bank's ThinkHazard*) and guidelines (*e.g. UNDRR's Words into Action Guide on National Disaster Risk Assessment, and Strengthening Risk Analysis in Humanitarian Planning and Words into Action Guide on National Disaster Risk Assessment*). If critical DRR needs are identified, include DRR indicators. (Scaling up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action – Section 3.2)

2. **Consider Climate Change and other environmental impacts.** Identify potential climate and environmental risks to shelter projects informed by local shelter partners and existing documents, for example, by the World Bank's Country Climate Risk Profiles and the Global Shelter Cluster's Country-level Environmental Profiles.

3. **Engage a local DRR, Climate and Environment expert** where possible: In producing shelter needs overviews and in shelter programming, planning and design and implementation. Explore possibilities for coordinating with WASH and CCCM to reduce costs and enable synergies.

RESPONSE PLANNING (shelter planning, site selection, and shelter design)

1. **"Do no harm" - prevent creating or intensifying risks.** Don't create new risks, don't make existing risks worse, including at area/settlement/neighbourhood level. Carefully consider all possibilities of creating hazards within the site or broader landscape in site selection, shelter planning and design or through an assessment of the (peri-)urban areas where people self-settle. Engage with other sectors in determining possible risks.

2. **Response plan informed by DRR needs.** Clearly link DRR-related needs identified in shelter and other sectors' needs assessments to all shelter activities, based on a Hazard/Vulnerability/Capacity Analysis – i.e. to reduce hazard exposure and disaster vulnerabilities and to build disaster coping capacity. This can be guided by general guidelines – *e.g. ECHO's Resilience Marker, and WWF's Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit (Module 9 – DRR), UNDRR's Words into Action: Implementation Guide for Land Use and Urban Planning (Chapter 2.2)*. Concrete DRR measures, however, have to be identified through project- and site-specific brainstorming.

3. **Safe planning and design of shelters and settlements.** To ensure shelters and settlements have structural integrity, provide protection from anticipated recurring hazards, and have reasonable safety factors to cope with uncertainties. Shelter planning and design should strive to reduce disaster risks even beyond pre-emergency levels, in line with the Build Back Better (and Safer) principle. Numerous technical and management resources exist including: The Global Shelter Cluster's Shelter Compendium, Sphere Handbook (Shelter and Settlement chapter), WWF's Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit (Module 4 – Strategic Site Selection and Development). For an overview of urban adaptation gaps to current climate risks see table 6.4 in Chapter 6 of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

4 **Disaster Preparedness across the shelter project cycle** – i.e. Preparedness among shelter partners to cope with and minimise disturbance to shelter activities by both anticipated recurring hazards and uncertain sudden-onset hazards. UNDRR's Words Into Action: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and Scaling up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action – Section 3.1 provide broad guidelines for Disaster Preparedness during emergency responses.

5 **Integrate DRR, Climate and Environmental mainstreaming measures.** Climate Adaptive planning, and reducing GHG emissions, deforestation, land degradation, resource over-extraction and pollution (Shelter Cluster Tip-Sheet for Humanitarian Response Planning; WWF's Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit).

RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

1 **DRR strategies for shelter construction and material sourcing.** To be followed during implementation, to ensure activities do not exacerbate or create disaster risks, including: debris removal, material sourcing for shelter and NFI (both extraction and production), possibility to reuse/recycle material, energy and water use, waste management and other construction work. Numerous technical and management guidance resources exist including: The Global Shelter Cluster's Shelter Compendium, Sphere Handbook Shelter and Settlement Chapter, WWF's Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit (Module 5 – Materials and Supply Chain, Module 6 – Construction).

2 **DRR strategies for shelter operations.** Strategies to ensure the operational phase of shelter and NFI activities do not exacerbate or create disaster risk, including: energy and water-use, waste management and shelter maintenance activities. Building disaster preparedness among affected communities (along with host communities) at the operational stage will strengthen the overall disaster resilience of the broader community.

3 **Shelter Decommissioning.** Shelter decommissioning is an often forgotten but integral stage of the shelter process. Develop DRR strategies to ensure shelter dismantling activities including energy use and debris management (including disposal) activities do not exacerbate or create disaster risks. Technical and management guidance is sparse for decommissioning. Some general guidelines however have useful advice, *e.g. UNDP's Guidance Note on Debris Management*.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1 **Integrate DRR indicators to project monitoring.** Include indicators related to disaster risk and risk reduction into the regular monitoring plans of shelter and NFI projects – i.e. to understand what disaster risks have been addressed, and to what extent risks remain. HCTs, local humanitarian coordination groups or individual agencies may draw upon the IASC Humanitarian Response Indicator Registry to formulate DRR-specific indicators and include them in HNRP or other collective or individual frameworks. Monitoring of DRR indicators may commence at the shelter implementation/construction stage and continue through operations till decommissioning (where applicable).

DRR INDICATORS FOR SHELTER PROJECTS

Select clear and measurable response monitoring indicators to assess the incorporation of DRR in shelter activities. DRR Indicators should be aligned with other indicators for response monitoring. They may be drawn from IASC Humanitarian Response Indicator Registry and adjusted to specific DRR-related objectives.

DRR indicators should look into 1) understanding of disaster risks in SNFI projects and 2) measures to reduce them. For example, the IASC Registry suggests "Percentage of shelter interventions incorporating hazard mitigation measures" [Code: S1-2-6] as a DRR-related indicator.

In addition to hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity-related parameters, DRR indicators should consider climate change, and environmental degradation as disaster risk parameters.

A few concrete examples are given below:

DRR OUTPUT INDICATORS	EVALUATION CRITERIA / METRICS
# of Shelter and Settlement provision or repair projects which have conducted a disaster risk assessment (hazard/ vulnerability/ capacity analysis) and/ or climate impact assessment	Assessments may be conducted on-site or refer to existing studies and information. They should include at least one of the following: • Reference to existing national and local hazard profiles, climate risk profiles, disaster preparedness plans, and climate adaptation plans relevant to the areas • Identification potential hazards and climate risks in the area have been identified in the plans • Assessment of individual and community vulnerabilities and capacities identified in the plans • Identification of relevant institutional DRR capacities
# of Shelter and Settlement provision and repair projects, with measures to reduce hazard exposure	Measures may include at least one of the following: • Identification of the locations prone to known hazards in the area (e.g. floods, landslides) • Measures taken to locate the shelters or settlements away from the identified hazard-prone locations • Consideration of known hazards in the area when planning the access paths, evacuation routes and other public facilities for the shelter and settlement projects
# of SNFI recipients who have received Disaster Preparedness training	# of individuals who had received any form of Disaster Preparedness training such as flood preparedness, cyclone preparedness, landslide awareness, emergency evacuation or first aid.

The nature and number of DRR indicators used will depend on the time, resources and expertise available to monitor the overall projects. DRR monitoring should be embedded into regular monitoring processes unless exclusive DRR monitoring is required due to grave disaster risks, and if dedicated resources have been allocated.

BETTER PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Some recent examples of better practices incorporating DRR (including CCA and reducing environmental degradation) in different humanitarian responses worldwide are given below. Strong and effective DRR practices are still not widespread in humanitarian shelter and settlement projects. Humanitarian partners may use these examples as guidelines, to plan DRR interventions contextually, and not be limited by them.

INCLUSION OF DISASTER RISK CONSIDERATIONS IN NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

A review of HNOs for 21 countries in 2022 by the Global Shelter Cluster, revealed that 9% had direct DRR needs mentioned, and 57% mentioned climate change or environment-related risks. For example, Yemen HNO (2022) specifically identified people living in flood-prone locations, and highlighted that "most vulnerable groups are living in the most disaster-prone areas." It also noted that in some areas climate change is increasing flood intensity, while deteriorating dams and infrastructure are increasing vulnerability to floods and other natural hazards. This example demonstrates the importance of considering disaster risks posed by natural hazards, environmental degradation and climate change as a whole.

INCLUSION OF DRR MEASURES IN RESPONSE PLANS

A review of 28 response plans in 2022 (23 HRPs, three Flash Appeals and two other types of response plans) showed that 57% included at least one DRR, environment or CCA activity, and 22% had one of them considered in strategic objectives. For example, the Burundi HRP included the following Response Strategy: "With a view to better risk prevention, the sector will ensure that the locations identified for the construction of shelters are not subject to flooding, in order to limit the risks of future shocks, guarantee acceptable and dignified living conditions for the populations, preserve the environment, and gradually move towards the strategy of villagization advocated by the Government of Burundi." This example highlights how DRR-related Response Strategies or Strategic Objectives should be integrated with other social and environmental objectives and aligned with long-term local and national policies and strategies.

The Honduras HRP (2023) includes DRR in all its expected results: 1) Improved capacities for understanding the damage and impact of floods and tropical storms, especially for people already in particularly vulnerable situations; 2) Improved capacities for understanding the vulnerability and resilience of people affected by geo-climatic events and displaced by violence; 3) Raise awareness among the population about risk factors, in environmental and social terms, as well as mitigation and safe reconstruction strategies; 4) To improve the location and construction quality of housing, to minimise the impact of future risks; 5) Strengthening individual and collective resilience and social support structures to empower people at risk; 6) Rehabilitate community infrastructure with a focus on building collective resilience. In addition, the Honduras Shelter Cluster produced an environmental plan for the sector.

DEDICATED MECHANISMS AND EXPERTS FOR DRR, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT WITHIN SHELTER CLUSTERS

The Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) established a Natural Hazards Technical Working Group (TWG) for Cox's Bazar response in Bangladesh, in 2022. The TWG collated existing hazard (flood, cyclone, landslide) maps and data in the area and identified the high flood-risk areas using two computer-based models (TUFLOW - by Arup and D-Flow FM by Deltares). The modelling and the prediction by the TWG helped to minimise flood exposure in shelter planning in Cox's Bazar camps. For more information see: SUMMARY REPORT Natural Hazards Technical Working Group, Cox's Bazar | June 2022.

MADAGASCAR SHELTER CLUSTER DRR STRATEGY AND TWG

The Madagascar Shelter Cluster is developing a DRR strategy (during 2024 - 2025) via a Technical Working Group, that will feed into the broader cluster strategy and link to national contingency planning processes.

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

GSC ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT TEAM

EnvironmentOperations@sheltercluster.org

SCALING UP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION – CHECKLIST

A concrete set of recommendations and accompanying Checklist outlining specific actions for integrating DRR into humanitarian response, including identifying disaster risks and incorporating disaster risk reduction through the phases of the humanitarian programme cycle:
https://www.undrr.org/publication/scaling-disaster-risk-reduction-humanitarian-action

HOW TO APPLY THE CHECKLIST ON SCALING UP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

A guide outlining key steps for applying the checklist effectively. Following these steps enables actors to bolster risk reduction efforts, enhance response capabilities, and foster resilience in humanitarian contexts:
https://www.undrr.org/publication/how-apply-checklist-scaling-disaster-risk-reduction-humanitarian-action

GSC ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (ECOP)

For resources see: https://sheltercluster.org/community-practice/environment-community-practice.
Contact the ECOP via the co-chairs: Anita.VanBreda@WWFUS.ORG and havedisastercallkelly@gmail.com

GSC ENVIRONMENT-CLIMATE-DRR TIP-SHEETS FOR HPC PROCESS (needs overview and response planning)

Guidance on integrating environment, climate change and DRR considerations into the needs overview and response planning processes with a focus on shelter and NFI activities.
https://sheltercluster.org/environment-community-practice/documents/hno-tipsheet-environment-and-climate-change
https://sheltercluster.org/environment-community-practice/documents/hrp-tipsheet-environment-climate-change

UNDRR WORDS INTO ACTION GUIDELINES - IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR LOCAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE STRATEGIES

Advice to local governments (authorities, planners and managers at city or other sub-national levels) on developing and implementing integrated local DRR strategy and building resilience at the local scale.
https://www.undrr.org/publication/words-action-guidelines-implementation-guide-local-disaster-risk-reduction-and

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

GREEN RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION TRAINING TOOLKIT (GRRT)

A ten-module comprehensive manual and training guide for planning post-disaster reconstruction projects safer and greener.
https://envirodm.org/green-recovery/

VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMANITARIAN ADVISER (VEHA) TOOL

An online resource for practitioners and professionals working in response, planning and management teams.
https://ehaconnect.org/veha-tool/

ENVIRONMENT MARKER

A tool that identifies the potential positive and negative impacts of humanitarian projects on the environment so that these considerations can be integrated in work plans and funding proposals. The Marker can be found here, and Sector guidance including Shelter here. It was adapted for use in Sudan and this can be done for other countries.

SHELTER CLUSTER CHECKLIST

For a full checklist of environmental issues to consider in shelter programming, consult the checklist on Identifying Critical Environmental Considerations in Shelter Site Selection, Construction, Management and Decommissioning of the Global Shelter Cluster. These can be integrated into assessments.
https://sheltercluster.org/resources/documents/checklist-based-guide-identifying-critical-environmental-considerations

THE SPHERE HANDBOOK

Settlements Chapter: A self-assessment tool to promote sustainable approaches to relief, recovery and reconstruction Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response has specific standards on Shelter and settlement planning (Standard 2), and Environmental Sustainability in Shelter and Settlements Programming (Standard 7) which include disaster risk considerations.
https://www.spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/

NEAT+

To screen an operational area for environmental risks, the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) can be used. The NEAT+ provides a quick snapshot of the environmental sensitivities/risks of the geographic area of intervention, and the environmental impacts of planned activities. The tool also helps shelter (and WASH and FSL) practitioners to quickly identify the environmental impacts of activities and provide ideas for risk mitigation.
www.neatplus.org

ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS THROUGH THE SETTLEMENTS APPROACH: THEMATIC ANNEX TO THE SETTLEMENTS APPROACH GUIDANCE NOTE

The Thematic Annex and accompanying list of tools and resources provides guidance on incorporating environmental factors into the Settlements Approach. It supplements the Settlements Approach Guidance Note published by the Urban Settlements Working Group of the Global Shelter Cluster in 2020.
https://sheltercluster.org/environment-community-practice/documents/addressing-environmental-concerns-through-settlements

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UNDRR UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction