

Shelter Cluster Feedback on Shelter-related Questions

Multisectoral Needs Village Assessment

The Shelter Cluster in the Northwest and Southwest regions in Cameroon held a workshop in Bamenda the 21st and 22nd of June and in Buea on the 24th and 25th of June. One of the main goals and outputs was to revise the Multisector Needs Assessment tool before the second round of data collection this year. This note is a summary of the recommendations to be done to the questionnaire as recommended by Shelter Cluster partners:

1. Clearer Labelling of Settlement Type: Because each line of data is the result of a triangulation of various sources of data collection methodologies employed in that village and to be a separate line of data, the location should surpass 20 households; it is sometimes not possible to determine all the settlement types in the data set. Therefore, it is suggested to add a column to label each “village” or location as the following:
 - a. Officially recognized
 - b. Bush Settlement
 - c. Collective Shelter
 - d. Informal Settlement
2. Type of Terminology for the Shelter Types for IDPs: There are some challenges with the terms. There is no definition of “sub-standard” and “non-damaged” implies that the other choices should be damaged. “Emergency shelter” is a type of shelter response and does not provide further light on the type of shelter. It is recommended for clarity to follow the shelter types that were listed in the [Shelter Cluster strategy](#). This would require improving distinction between tenure type and shelter type as well:
 - a. Question F1: Please change “self-settled” to “squatting” or staying in the shelter without any formal position:
 - b. Question F1.1 Shelter types can be the following # of HHs in each of the following:
 - a. Good condition Mudbrick House
 - b. Good condition Timber/Wood House
 - c. Good condition Cement/Concrete House
 - d. Good condition apartment
 - e. Makeshift shelter
 - f. Cocoa Ovens
 - g. Other Agricultural Infrastructure
 - h. Unfinished Mudbrick House
 - i. Unfinished Timber/Wood House
 - j. Unfinished Cement/Concrete House
 - k. Unfinished apartment
 - l. Damaged Mudbrick House
 - m. Damaged Timber/Wood House
 - n. Damaged Cement/Concrete
 - o. Damaged makeshift shelter
 - p. Damaged apartment
 - c. F2.1 for hosted types, Use the same shelter type as above but removing the makeshift shelter option- # of HHs in each of the following:
 - a. Good condition Mudbrick House
 - b. Good condition Timber/Wood House
 - c. Good condition Cement/Concrete House

- d. Good condition apartment
 - e. Cocoa Ovens
 - f. Other Agricultural Infrastructure
 - g. Unfinished Mudbrick House
 - h. Unfinished Timber/Wood House
 - i. Unfinished Cement/Concrete House
 - j. Unfinished apartment
 - k. Damaged Mudbrick House
 - l. Damaged Timber/Wood House
 - m. Damaged Cement/Concrete
 - n. Damaged apartment
- d. F3.1 Put the same options: # of HHs for each of the shelter types
- a. Good condition Mudbrick House
 - b. Good condition Timber/Wood House
 - c. Good condition Cement/Concrete House
 - d. Good condition apartment
 - e. Unfinished Mudbrick House
 - f. Unfinished Timber/Wood House
 - g. Unfinished Cement/Concrete House
 - h. Unfinished apartment
 - i. Damaged Mudbrick House
 - j. Damaged Timber/Wood House
 - k. Damaged Cement/Concrete
 - l. Damaged apartment
- e. If presence of damages noted in the responses to the previous questions, we suggest adding a question to the cause of the damage to the shelters. The choices for the enumerators could be:
- a. Burnt intentionally
 - b. Damaged accidentally during conflict
 - c. Natural disaster (Storm: flood, wind, etc.)
 - d. Degradation
 - e. Lack of Maintenance
 - f. Other
- f. F4: As we have more Shelter Cluster partners looking at rent and operationalizing it, it would be good to break down the average rent by type of shelter and size of shelter at least. We would propose to put the additional following options to the key informant:

For displaced persons who are renting, how much on average do the majority pay per month?	
One room (4x4) apartment/Studio	
Two room (4x4) apartment	
Three rooms (4x4) or more apartment	
Mudbrick House (2 rooms or less)	
Mudbrick House (3 rooms or more)	
Wood/Timber House (2 rooms or less)	
Wood/Timber House (3 rooms or more)	
Cement/Concrete House (2 rooms or less)	

Cement/Concrete House (3 rooms or less)	
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- g. F5.1 For the question on top materials of makeshift shelters:
 - a. Instead of saying “top” materials change the question to “commonly used”
 - b. Change “Straw” to “Thatch”
 - c. Add Bamboo
- h. Question F6: The categories of the shelter conditions of makeshift shelters are unclear. For example, what would be a “good condition” makeshift shelter? Given that we have integrated a number of the questions on number and conditions of the makeshift shelters above, this question could perhaps be removed.
- i. To the question of living in public buildings, add the choice community halls.
- j. F8 is currently the only question posed to returnees in the MSNA. This year’s Shelter Cluster strategy highlights that there are shelter needs that exist not only for IDPs but also for returnees (returning to damaged shelters) and non-displaced people (who are acting as hosts and also may be living in damaged shelters). The Shelter Cluster recommends adding the Shelter type questions for returnees as well. In the workshop, we aimed to tighten the definitions of damages to make them clearer. Destroyed means the shelter is completely ruined/gone, while damaged indicates any type of partial damage. In the questionnaire, this question should be classified as an attempt to estimate the conditions of the returnee shelters ie that is the shelters that they own:

# of returnee HHs mudbrick houses in good condition	
# of returnee HHs timber/wood houses in good condition	
# of returnees HHs in concrete/cement houses in good condition	
# of returnee HHs mudbrick houses damaged	
# of returnee HHs timber/wood houses damaged	
# of returnees HHs in concrete/cement houses damaged	
# of returnee HHs apartments damaged	
# of returnee HHs shelters destroyed	

- k. We would also recommend to add a question if they say that there are returnees homes that they return to that are damaged or destroyed, to ask where the returnees are staying at the moment. The choices could be the following:
 - a. Within the shelter
 - b. With neighbours/relatives nearby
 - c. Renting a house/apartment nearby
- l. Following the question on returnees, we also recommend adding a question on number of non-displaced households living in damaged shelters, within that community. It may also be good to capture the members of the community who are non-displaced to be able to estimate which proportion are living in the damaged shelters and also to understand how some villages have had their population increase with an increase in internally displaced.
- m. For questions on the damages for returnees, it would be good to connect these questions with the questions on causes of damages as stated in point 1e above.



3. Question F9 on availability of the following items in your community should be changed to the availability of the items in the market, so the choices should be just two to reduce the confusion.
 - a. Available
 - b. Not available
4. Still on the same question of F9 on market availability of items, in addition to the items listed on NFI, we would also like to add the following missing items:
 - a. Mattresses
 - b. Toothpaste
 - c. Spoons
 - d. Cups
 - e. Plates/Dishes
 - f. Knives
 - g. Solar lamps/Flashlights
 - h. Umbrellas
 - i. Construction tools (hoe, hammer, pickaxe, nails, handsaw, etc.)
 - j. Plastic Sheets/Tarpaulins
 - k. Gravel
 - l. Cement
 - m. Plywood
 - n. Timber
 - o. CGI Sheets
 - p. Kerosene
 - q. Sawdust
 - r. Charcoal
5. Section M on Assistance and Needs:
 - a. M 2.3 and M 3.3 The choices of when the assistance was last received is too broad, especially when considering how certain shelter items may perform and their lifespan when exposed to extreme weather etc. The following categories are proposed:
 - i. Less than a month
 - ii. 1-3 months
 - iii. 4-6 months
 - iv. Over 6 months
 - b. It was suggested to separate INGO from the UN in the type of organization.
 - c. On question M10, given the dynamics of this crisis, it was also suggested to add additional choices to those who are not able to access the distribution site:
 - i. Not safe for men and boys to travel to the distribution site.
 - ii. Persons with disabilities are not able to access the distribution site.