

Shelter Cluster Research Priorities: Global Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Group
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October 2020

Research Priorities for Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

Objective: Together with the Global Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Group identify, prioritize, and develop with academic rigor the key research questions that the Global Shelter Cluster needs to respond to.

Deliverable: A list of prioritized key research themes and questions to be used by academics and others to conduct research.

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Citation: Parrack C, (2020) *Research Priorities for Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements*, Global Shelter Cluster, Geneva

Executive Summary

Member agencies of the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) were asked to define the most urgent questions for evidence gathering and research into shelter and settlements programmes and practice. The SAG was asked to agree how to prioritise the research.

There are **two clear research priorities**:

- Collect evidence for the wider impact of shelter and settlements programmes, especially health.
 - Understand how cash and markets programming influences shelter and settlements outcomes.
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Other priority research areas were identified as: **conflict; space standards; self-recovery; housing, land and property issues (HLP); long term impact and recovery**.

For each of the research themes, information was gathered about background, importance and impact, in order to guide researchers about the focus and usefulness of the research.

More detail on the two key research priorities:

Collect evidence for the wider impact of shelter and settlements programmes, especially health.

Strengthen the evidence base and devise indicators for shelter outcomes relating to health, livelihoods, environment, and protection.

Importance

The outcomes of this area of research are significant. If the impact of poor shelter conditions is better understood on overall household well-being including morbidity and mortality, the life saving impact of shelter can be demonstrated. What is needed is to gather evidence of this relationship and the key factors in household well-being, especially health. This evidence would assist in demonstrating the wider relevance of shelter and settlements interventions in acute crisis: by supporting shelter and settlements, better cross sector outcomes will be supported.

Advocacy messages are a key part of this initiative to local and national governments to demonstrate how they can use their resources to invest in wider community impact involving housing.

Research Proposals

Map factors in household well being which relate to morbidity and mortality, and relate this to a theory of change identifying underlying factors.

Devise indicators relating to wider impacts of shelter and settlements. Indicators do not exist at present. These indicators would enable projects to generate their own evidence by including data collection in during monitoring and evaluation.

Impact

Each of these issues affect significant numbers of families and are all housing-related. The impact has the potential to be substantial. Humanitarian funding for shelter and settlements would be further justified, as there would be better demonstrable value for money.

Understand how cash and markets programming influences shelter and settlements outcomes

Importance

This research area includes cash, market understanding, and market functionality. In multi purpose unconditional cash programmes there is a lack of understanding about shelter and settlements outcomes. The view of the shelter sector is that it is important to provide technical assistance in order to reliably lead to good shelter outcomes. However, this challenges traditional practice in multi purpose cash where no additional technical assistance is given.

Cash and markets with or without technical assistance is an important area to research because donors are liable to ask for evidence to demonstrate how technical assistance contributes to successful shelter outcomes.

Research Proposals

What can be done do increase the chances of households achieving good shelter outcomes in multi-purpose cash programming?

How can markets support shelter self-recovery?

How does cash programming affect the housing market including rental housing?

Is shelter a safety net in a landscape of cash and market support?

Conduct a comparative study of impact of cash for shelter vs direct build programs.

Test the hypothesis is that technical shelter support to multi-purpose cash disbursements is needed to ensure good shelter outcomes.

Impact

Gaining such evidence on the merits or shortcomings of the use of cash and market interventions can guide informed decisions by implementing organisations and governments. This will lead to more effective market based shelter and settlements programming alongside a reliable increase in shelter technical quality.

Further work is recommended on this project to advance GSC strategy on evidence:

- Actively search for funding to support creation of a network of research partners.
- Map out likely research capacity in academia, research organisations and agency involvement.
- Craft advocacy messages to research funders to encourage funding calls in this area.
- Involve a wider group of shelter stakeholders to explore the top themes at global, country and local level.
- Support existing research collaborations and share knowledge of research strategies.
- Develop tools to assist MEAL processes to measure outcome and impact of shelter programmes.

Table of Contents

Summary of all research themes identified by the SAG	5
Methodology	7
Analysis and grouping of research themes	8
Commentary and rationale for prioritisation	12
Research themes described in detail	13
Recommendations for further work	39
Engaging humanitarian agencies in good research	41
Appendix 1	
Research areas for Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Document Review	43

Summary of all research themes

This is a summary statement of all of the responses from the SAG agencies in no particular order. 45 themes were identified in total. Each of the themes is explained further in the 'Research themes described in detail' section of this report.

Is there evidence that shelter and settlement assistance programs contribute to reducing conflict and or increasing social cohesion?

Substantiated evidence of living space standards, is it a universal 3.5m² per person?

Does taking an Area Based Approach result in greater impact?

Investigate systemic barriers in connecting humanitarian shelter and settlement assistance to recovery, durable and longer-term solutions – identifying opportunities.

Comparative study of impact of cash for shelter vs direct build programs

Affordable housing finance

Health outcomes of shelter

Localisation: how change is taking place in shelter programmes and what lessons can be learnt

Urban Resilience what gap is shelter response is trying to fill?

Housing Land and Property: tenure status has a huge bearing on the ability to receive assistance and to recover. Map HLP strategies

Inclusion: What is it that is stopping shelter organisations using the inclusive programming guidelines and tools that have already exist?

Longer-term Impacts of shelter interventions: how do shelter programs help recovery?

Merged clusters

Resilience in construction

Shelter and settlements as an effective entry point in hard to reach areas

The potential of shelter programmes to tackle complex HLP problems

Shelter as a safety net in a landscape of cash and market support

Evaluate success of blended finance

How do changes in displacement prospects affect housing preferences and decisions?

Does cash programming create rental inflation?

Role of shelter & settlements in durable solutions in NE Myanmar

Financial study of camps

Shelter Density: Establishing baselines for more efficient and contextually appropriate response

Project management - how to plan flexibly within project and donor constraints

Learning from past shelter programmes

How can (action) research directly influence a live humanitarian response?

How to improve emergency preparedness in countries with predictable, repeat natural disasters

What is the role of shelter and settlements in addressing the triple (humanitarian / development / peace-building) nexus?

Making the case for aspects of shelter & health, shelter & livelihoods, shelter & protection as being of equal, or greater, importance than structural safety

What are the 'easy wins' in terms of simple, affordable solutions that can be implemented or messaged?

Wider outcomes of shelter on household well-being, in particular health and protection

Which shelter outcomes are as a result of humanitarian assistance and which are a result of self-recovery?

Developing shelter research in the conflict and displacement context

Relationship with donors and lack of continuity of funding

Over-reliance on humanitarian shelter approaches without understanding the precursors to the shelter poverty.

How can markets support self recovery?

Sustainability in and shelter and settlements projects.

Understanding the reasons why the shelter sector is underfunded compared to other sectors

Quantifying the importance of technical support

Devising indicators for measuring health or environment outcomes related to shelter

Cash and shelter: do households achieve good shelter outcomes in multi-purpose cash programming?

Take-up of key messages by affected population.

Strengthening evidence about health outcomes for shelter in humanitarian response.

Wider impact of shelter and settlements.

Methods of agreeing common shelter and settlements priorities for the local context.

Methodology

The objective of this piece of work was to work with the Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) to identify, prioritise, and develop with academic rigor the key research questions that the GSC needs to address.

The rationale for this work is found in the GSC strategy 2018-2022. This strategy has four strategic priorities (areas), and this project is an integral part of Strategic Area 3, 'Evidence Based Response', specifically output 3.2 'Key shelter and settlement evidence gaps filled'.

The output of the work was defined a list of prioritised key research themes and questions that the GSC needs to be answered, which can be used by academics, research organisations and others to develop and conduct research. The research took place between November 2019 and February 2020.

Member agencies of the GSC SAG were asked to define the most urgent questions for evidence gathering and research into shelter and settlements programmes and practice.

The agencies were contacted and information was given to them about the purpose, aims and methodology of this project. They were offered a number of ways to provide information: through an interview, a survey form or by email. For each of the research themes, information was gathered about background, importance and impact, in order to guide researchers about what is the focus and usefulness of the research.

Information was requested from the participants about how to prioritise the research themes.

Literature research was undertaken to discover any previous documentation on shelter research priorities, which was presented to the SAG after the initial data gathering period. The SAG were asked to reflect on any areas of research from the literature review that they had not identified, and that should be included in the SAG research priorities

A meeting was convened of SAG members (SAG retreat 4 December 2019) to review and discuss the data that had been gathered, as well as the literature review, and to agree on how to prioritise the findings.

Analysis and grouping of research themes

In total 45 research themes were identified by the SAG.

A grouping exercise was carried out to identify common subjects in the research themes identified by individual agencies.

The results of this exercise were as follows:

Common areas	Number of times this theme was identified
Wider impact (especially health)	6
Cash and markets	5
Conflict	2
Space standards	2
Self-recovery	2
HLP	2
Long term impact and recovery	2

Below are the research themes colour coded to identify the common areas

Is there evidence that shelter and settlement assistance programs contribute to reducing conflict and or increasing social cohesion?

Substantiated evidence of living space standards, is it a universal 3.5m² per person?

Does taking an Area Based Approach result in greater impact?

Investigate systemic barriers in connecting humanitarian shelter and settlement assistance to recovery, durable and longer-term solutions – identifying opportunities.

Comparative study of impact of cash for shelter vs direct build programs

Affordable housing finance

Health outcomes of shelter

Localisation: how change is taking place in shelter programmes and what lessons can be learnt

Urban Resilience what gap is shelter response is trying to fill?

Housing Land and Property: tenure status has a huge bearing on the ability to receive assistance and to recover. Map HLP strategies

Inclusion: What is it that is stopping shelter organisations using the inclusive programming guidelines and tools that have already exist?

Longer-term Impacts of shelter interventions: how do shelter programs help recovery?

Merged clusters

Resilience in construction

Shelter and settlements as an effective entry point in hard to reach areas

The potential of shelter programmes to tackle complex HLP problems

Shelter as a safety net in a landscape of cash and market support

Evaluate success of blended finance

How do changes in displacement prospects affect housing preferences and decisions?

Does cash programming create rental inflation?

Role of shelter & settlements in durable solutions in NE Myanmar

Financial study of camps

Shelter Density: Establishing baselines for more efficient and contextually appropriate response

Project management - how to plan flexibly within project and donor constraints

Learning from past shelter programmes

How can (action) research directly influence a live humanitarian response?

How to improve emergency preparedness in countries with predictable, repeat natural disasters

What is the role of shelter and settlements in addressing the triple (humanitarian / development / peace-building) nexus?

Making the case for aspects of shelter & health, shelter & livelihoods, shelter & protection as being of equal, or greater, importance than structural safety

What are the 'easy wins' in terms of simple, affordable solutions that can be implemented or messaged?

Wider outcomes of shelter on household well-being, in particular health and protection

Which shelter outcomes are as a result of humanitarian assistance and which are a result of self-recovery?

Developing shelter research in the conflict and displacement context

Relationship with donors and lack of continuity of funding

Over-reliance on humanitarian shelter approaches without understanding the precursors to the shelter poverty.

How can markets support self recovery?

Sustainability in and shelter and settlements projects.

Understanding the reasons why the shelter sector is underfunded compared to other sectors

Quantifying the importance of technical support

Devising indicators for measuring health or environment outcomes related to shelter

Cash and shelter: do households achieve good shelter outcomes in multi-purpose cash programming?

Take-up of key messages by affected population.

Strengthening evidence about health outcomes for shelter in humanitarian response.

Wider impact of shelter and settlements.

Methods of agreeing common shelter and settlements priorities for the local context.

Research themes list grouped

The list above is presented as grouped by theme. Colour coding is consistent with the list above.

Wider impact (esp health)

Health outcomes of shelter

Making the case for aspects of shelter & health, shelter & livelihoods, shelter & protection as being of equal, or greater, importance than structural safety

Wider outcomes of shelter on household well-being, in particular health and protection

Devising indicators for measuring health or environment outcomes related to shelter

Strengthening evidence about health outcomes for shelter in humanitarian response.

Wider impact of shelter and settlements

Cash and markets

Comparative study of impact of cash for shelter vs direct build programs

Shelter as a safety net in a landscape of cash and market support

Does cash programming create rental inflation?

How can markets support self recovery?

Cash and shelter: do households achieve good shelter outcomes in multi-purpose cash programming?

Conflict

Is there evidence that shelter and settlement assistance programs contribute to reducing conflict and or increasing social cohesion?

Developing shelter research in the conflict and displacement context

Space standards

Substantiated evidence of living space standards, is it a universal 3.5m² per person?

Shelter Density: Establishing baselines for more efficient and contextually appropriate response

Self-recovery

Which shelter outcomes are as a result of humanitarian assistance and which are a result of self-recovery?

How can markets support self recovery?

HLP

Housing Land and Property: tenure status has a huge bearing on the ability to receive assistance and to recover. Map HLP strategies

The potential of shelter programmes to tackle complex HLP problems

Long term impact and recovery

Investigate systemic barriers in connecting humanitarian shelter and settlement assistance to recovery, durable and longer-term solutions – identifying opportunities.

Longer-term Impacts of shelter interventions: how do shelter programs help recovery?

Each of the other themes were mentioned once only.

Commentary and rationale for prioritisation

Numerical grouping of the themes identifies two of the themes as most commonly mentioned by the participants: wider impacts of shelter (6 priorities, five of them specifically mentioning health), and cash and markets (5 priorities). Next most common were (each with two priorities) conflict, space standards, self-recovery, HLP, long term impact/recovery.

When asked about prioritisation in the interviews and surveys, the SAG members suggested the following methods of prioritisation:

- Impact: assess which research areas would have greatest impact on the affected population
- Achievability: successful ideas will have links with the agency and contribute to organisational priorities, the organisation will be behind it and it will get it done.
- Consensus: the general consensus from the SAG.
- Validity: field level validation.
- Need: assessment of level of need.
- Strategy: prioritise according to Shelter Cluster Strategy.

In the meeting with the SAG (see methodology) to discuss the initial findings, and to agree prioritisation, it was decided to prioritise the research themes according to the Shelter Cluster strategy. There were also advocates to prioritise the research themes by determining the level of need and impact.

The Shelter Cluster strategy indicates the following priorities in Strategic Area 3, ‘Evidence Based Response’, specifically output 3.2 ‘Key shelter and settlement evidence gaps filled’:

Shelter sector advocacy has been limited by a lack of strong evidence to support critical messages and programming approaches which can draw attention to the importance of shelter outcomes and the significant impact they have on so many other life-enabling aspects for people affected by disasters and other emergencies. It is imperative both to build evidence around the critical role shelter plays in health, protection, livelihoods, education and psycho-social support and also to show how environmental issues impact provision of sustainable durable shelter solutions.

Collating evidence on how NFIs and/or multi-purpose cash transfers can help meet shelter outcomes is also currently a high priority for operational staff.

There is high degree of alignment between the cluster strategy research priorities and the most commonly identified SAG research priorities. The strategy prioritises two areas: wider outcomes of shelter, and how NFI/multipurpose cash influences shelter outcomes. The SAG priorities align with this and add detail, prioritising health outcomes in the wider outcomes category, and clearly indicating cash over NFI research, and adding markets to the cash research agenda.

There is less alignment between these two top themes, and the document review. Opdyke does not include wider impact or cash and markets in the top ten priorities though there are more similarities between Opdyke’s top ten and the second tier SAG priorities. Davis mentions cash as a priority and some of his themes refer to wider outcomes, but they are not strongly aligned.

Conclusion: the strong alignment between SAG member top priorities and agreed prioritisation method gives confidence to the top two identified research priorities.

Research themes described in detail

Each SAG agency response is detailed here, and one of the most useful aspects of this exercise has been to capture the importance (rationale) and likely impact of the research. This is essential in procuring research as it enables potential researchers to more accurately undertake research useful to shelter practice.

SAG Agency 1

Introductory comments

Multi sectoral outcomes are key to the shelter sector

The most appropriate parts of the Global Shelter Cluster Strategy (2018-22) which relate to research priorities are:

3.2 evidence gaps filled:

3.2.G.1 Work with academia to research longer-term issues of importance to the sector

3.2.G.2 Work with academia to gather evidence in support of existing known urgent gaps in (1) the multi-sectoral importance of shelter and (2) the use of cash modalities

Goal for the Shelter Cluster is to map the gaps and generate research proposals. After they have been identified they can be communicated to various audiences in different formats, for example as proposals for research funding to bodies who fund research activities. Another audience is agencies who are interested in research especially if it is related to work they are engaged in. Another potential audience is global research organisations, through existing networks or requests from academia to the Global Shelter Cluster. It is not uncommon for humanitarian organisations to be approached by researchers interested in shelter, and it would be useful to be able to direct them towards identified research priorities.

The product of thematic mapping needs to be broad in order to allow enough flexibility for researchers to pick a theme, develop it further, and apply to a specific country context.

There is a general recognition that the shelter sector is underfunded. Underfunding of shelter assistance has come up as the top priority in every member survey carried out by the Global Shelter Cluster in the last three years. Other clusters have managed to justify why their sector is important. This has led to the situation where the Shelter Cluster is on average 20 percent funded while for example the Logistics Cluster is funded 90 percent. Therefore there is a need to explain shelter as a foundational or having multi-sectoral impact in order to see an increase in funding.

Some of the most important outcomes of this project will be identifying the research components which are of particular interest to the SAG because of their advocacy component. There may be others which are really urgent priorities from the field which also should be high priority.

Research Theme 1

Developing shelter research in the conflict and displacement context.

There is a research gap around conflict, this is possibly a high level theme with a number of sub-themes such as durable solutions, nexus issues or HLP rights. The importance of this theme is that research on natural disaster shelter response is more prevalent than research into shelter in conflict, and the natural disaster research findings have tended to be applied to conflict situations, which may not be applicable or appropriate. The potential impact of research into this theme is significant, because the shelter need and financial implications of shelter in conflict are greater than in natural disasters.

Research Theme 2

Relationship with donors and lack of continuity of funding

Most of the time the process of sheltering starts with a light touch humanitarian response. Translating it to anything bigger, bolder or longer is hard because the funding is not in place. There is a donor gap between donors who work in the humanitarian space and are quite willing to fund humanitarian shelter, and ongoing shelter need. As a result, beneficiary households are left with little more than some emergency shelter materials. The households then have to find their own way of meeting their shelter needs. Development donors are not interested in filling this gap as their priorities are different. The importance and impact of funding for shelter are clear as the funding is a prerequisite for engaging in humanitarian shelter programmes

Research Theme 3

Over reliance on humanitarian shelter approaches without understanding the pre-cursors to the shelter poverty.

This theme is a backward link to development, with strong links to the right to adequate housing. Development gaps exist before a disaster and development gaps become apparent after a disaster. Shelter programmes would benefit from knowledge and recognition of these gaps. The work of the UN special rapporteur on adequate housing, Leilani Farha, would be good background resource to inform research in this area.

The importance of this theme is that there is a big gap at country level for shelter actors to adequately understand the operational context and therefore what factors they might be exacerbating or not exacerbating. This is prevalent in international response to the most acute disasters. Participating in emergency shelter response without awareness of structural land use and social inequalities that were there beforehand creates risk for negatively impacting wider social or economic outcomes. It is easy to react only to the visible damage which is apparent without considering underlying issues.

Shelter actors tend not to work at a policy level, focusing instead on issues such as household capacity for self recovery. Other clusters are more effective at this type of intervention, working with line ministries to change the institutional policy environment and to understand what barriers are legal as opposed to barriers which are technical or physical or financial. It is a strength of the shelter sector to have household level engagement, however Education and health actors tend to work at the systems level engaging with national health or education systems. The impact of this theme is the ability for shelter programmes to affect outcomes in other sectors.

SAG Agency 2

Introductory comments

The importance of this project is that the research provides opportunities for shelter cluster priorities to be recognised and discussed by actors and agencies outside of the shelter area. It will also help to clarify the message of how shelter contributes to humanitarian outcomes. There is general agreement in humanitarian discourse on the importance of having a good house and a good living environment, but not clarity on how this contributes to wider cross-sector outcomes. The term 'shelter' itself does not communicate the full extent of how important housing and living environment are to wider outcomes. Shelter advocacy messages might need to be re-framed to appeal to current policy moves towards integrated programming, multi-purpose cash and climate smart programming, and put shelter actors in a position to be recognised as being able to make a contribution to these themes.

The effects of substandard housing on socio economic outcomes are well documented, but similar evidence has not been gathered about shelter in humanitarian contexts.

Research needs are split into two groups related to the audience for the research findings. Firstly research into outcome and quality of the shelter projects would provide lessons which are relevant to improving shelter practice, which are relevant to shelter actors. Secondly there are a set of questions related to the wider impacts of shelter across other sectors, which would be interesting to a wider humanitarian audience.

Research Proposal 1

Cash and shelter: do households achieve good shelter outcomes in multi-purpose cash programming?

Background

In multi purpose unconditional cash programmes there is a lack of understanding about shelter outcomes. The view of the shelter sector is that it is still important to provide technical assistance in order to reliably lead to good shelter outcomes. However this goes against the mode of operation of multi purpose cash, which is that cash is provided without technical assistance. The shelter sector is sometimes perceived as resistant to change because of advancing this viewpoint.

In the shelter sector there is strong support for cash disbursements conditional on meeting technical requirements, because this is a way of including technical requirements in shelter programming

Importance

Cash and technical assistance is an important area to research because when the topic is brought up in donor meetings the donors will say the donors will ask for proof that the technical assistance contributes to successful shelter outcomes.

Proposal

The hypothesis is that technical shelter support to multi-purpose cash disbursements is needed to ensure good shelter outcomes.

It is difficult to attribute the shelter success factors in a complex environment, so the research would have to be carefully designed. What would be helpful is a comparative study of giving in-kind shelter assistance with and without technical assistance. This case is similar because it compares shelter outcomes with and without technical assistance.

There is one scenario in which cash without technical assistance would be effective and that is that the knowledge already exists within the population and the lack of cash is the only barrier to safe shelter

Impact

Improvement to shelter outcomes. Technical best practice will be reliably incorporated into shelter reconstruction. Financial assistance for shelter programmes will not risk being wasted.

Research Proposal 2

Take-up of key messages by affected population.

Background

It is common for shelter programmes with technical capacity to develop key messages to guide safer rebuilding practice, but the successful take up of the messages is not known. This area of research involves behaviour change and social science areas, and asks the question why do people take up some messages and not others?

Importance

If shelter technical capacity is present in humanitarian response and households are still not able to reach safer or better outcomes, what is the blockage? Understanding how households prioritise and only apply some of the messages is important for shelter outcomes. It could be money, or it could be the channel used to communicate the messages. If the technical knowledge is present in a programme and messages are not communicated it is equivalent to having no technical support, but the programme is more expensive.

Proposal

To give an example if there may be 10 key messages for safer reconstruction in an earthquake zone and the first message is about strong foundations. If a household skips the step focusing on the foundations, even if they follow all of the other messages the house will be vulnerable. Why is it that they did not carry out the adaption for the foundations? It could be due to a lack of understanding, or is it because it is expensive. It could be that there is a popular conception that doing 9 out of the 10 messages would provide safety. Knowing this reason would allow different approaches to mitigation depending on the result.

Impact

This research would facilitate better quality programming. Households would be able to retain knowledge in the future and pass it on. It would help improve process of delivering shelter by knowing and applying effective communication messages and understanding factors in willingness to apply the knowledge.

Research Proposal 3

Strengthening evidence about health outcomes for shelter in humanitarian response.

Background

It is likely that there is a good deal of evidence which exists from the health sector in humanitarian response, and research which links health and housing. However the research which is needed is strengthening the body of evidence for health outcomes related to humanitarian shelter.

Importance

This evidence would assist in demonstrating the relevance of shelter interventions in acute crisis, that by supporting shelter better health outcomes will be supported.

Proposal

What is the difference in the health effects of shelter programmes in a humanitarian response setting, compared to housing programmes? There are a number of different projects that may be relevant, for example the health outcomes of concrete floored shelters, ventilation and respiratory diseases, temperature, vector control and living conditions which affect mental health

Impact

Humanitarian funding for shelter would be further justified, as there would be better demonstrable value for money.

SAG Agency 3

The question about why research is needed is equally as important as what we need to know. This perspective is very much from the research side. The main usefulness from is the relationship between research questions and shelter assessments for the Shelter Cluster. Impact and outcome related questions have come up as part of shelter assessments and there have been efforts to answer these questions as part of the evaluation process. This process could be expanded. There is concern about methodology of answering research questions: it may be straightforward to identify areas in need of research, but more challenging to implement the right method of investigation.

The methodology for doing shelter research is unclear and could be complicated. Whilst it is important to partner with academia for this kind of exercise it is important also to recognise the capacity that operational actors have in this area. What are the key added values on offer from the academic world?

Research Proposal 1

Wider outcomes of shelter on household well-being, in particular health and protection.

Importance

The outcomes of this area of research are very significant. If we understand better the impact of poor shelter conditions on overall household well-being including morbidity and mortality the life saving impact of shelter can be demonstrated. What is needed is to gather evidence of this relationship and the situations which are key factors in household well-being.

Background

Strategic priority 2 from the Global Shelter Cluster Strategy on advocacy is focused on understanding the indirect impacts of poor shelter provision on other sectors. Well being of households overall is known to have an impact on health and protection, however it is not clear about which factors are significant in this relationship.

Proposal

Mapping factors in household well being which relate to morbidity and mortality. The Shelter and Vulnerability working group have been active in this area Mapping out an approach using a similar process of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) (A multi-agency intersectoral partnership in the Food Security area) which uses a theory of change identifying the factors leading to mortality.

Impact

Shelter programming can contribute to life saving in other humanitarian sectors such as health and protection.

Research Proposal 2

Which shelter outcomes are as a result of humanitarian assistance and which are a result of self-recovery?

Background

One area past shelter assessments have struggled with is analysing shelter outcome evaluations to determine to what extent did the shelter response achieved what it set out to achieve. To what extent have shelter conditions improved because of the response that was provided and to what extent have the conditions improved because of the work people have done themselves? People are the first responders and households will start to act soon after

the crisis. This is followed by shelter assistance. Evaluations capture improvement in shelter conditions but are not clear whether the improvement is as a result of assistance packages or self-recovery activities.

Importance

Understanding to what extent assistance is effective and when it is ineffective, or works becomes a barrier to recovery will help to avoid negative incentives which risk contravening the Do No Harm principle.

Proposal

Where is the tipping point between assistance and self-recovery? In what context does shelter assistance have the biggest impact in improving shelter conditions and when is self recovery more effective?

How do households make decisions on where to use their own resources? For example in Philippines households were holding back on doing certain types of repair themselves because they saw shelter agencies were offering assistance for that type of repair. The hypothesis is that a household will determine that they will receive assistance for certain recovery activities and then will focus their own assets on the recovery element that is not going to be covered by humanitarian assistance. What factors drive that decision making in the balance between self-recovery and assistance?

Impact

Being able to determine more reliably the relationship between shelter assistance and shelter outcomes will enable resources to be deployed more effectively.

SAG Agency 4

Research Proposal 1

Localisation how change is taking place and what lessons can be learnt about localisation

Background

One of the main priorities is to work on localisation and to see international programs locally led. At present this is at policy level and needs evidence gathered to track what changes are taking place, to understand the way we can learn about localisation. If this research is not carried out we will not know whether this process has been meaningful.

This is possibly linked to self recovery in terms of how practitioners need to adapt the way they work to include localisation.

Importance

This area of work is important because global actors are contributing to resources needed for shelter recovery but it might be that these resources can be provided in different ways. One specific example is the response to the Indonesian earthquake only Indonesian NGO were able to respond and a research projects could be too study this response and learn lessons about what worked well and what work less well.

Proposal

A special area of interest is the Pacific region and Partners in this area are very keen because they see localisation as a positive move in that more decision-making will be based at community level.

Particular research interest is tracking how change is taking place and what lessons can be learnt about localisation.

Work has been done in the pacific region to meet with actors in the region to understand what the localisation process means to them and what changes would be needed for shelter operational agencies. These discussions have been started at donor level.

Local actors in the Pacific region see the localisation work as very important to them, they are keen to see more decision making power to shifting to country level.

Impact

The impact would include shelter response informed by the people affected by the situation, making shelter more appropriate for the needs of the affected population, and minimising wasteful use of un-necessary resources. Localisation is not necessarily the answer to all questions and there are questions about whether it would work well for example in relationships at country level between national and local government or community structures. Will localisation mean that decisions are still being made on behalf of somebody else? Eg national government vs local government.

It is also necessary to understand what localisation means in different regions or countries, it might not be the same understanding as at global level.

Research Proposal 2

Urban Resilience what gap is shelter response is trying to fill?

Background

The approach to urban resilience have been the subject of some research especially in Pacific Islands now that the Urban environment is becoming more common. It needs to be

noted that there is some resistance to urban resilience programmes in the Pacific Islands because of a perception that small populations are not subject to urbanisation.

Importance

The research that is particularly important focuses on what in different approaches are appropriate for different urban areas and understanding which shelter and settlements programs might be more suitable for different types of urban area. Possibly turning the research into a framework for informing shelter practice in urban areas.

Proposal

The overall research question focuses on what gap shelter response is trying to fill. There is also a relationship between urban resilience and preparedness. The Pacific area generally has many predictable weather events. A useful area to focus on research would be what Communities are already doing in terms of preparedness.

Impact

The impact of this research would give a clear picture of how support can be given in the face lessen the impact from crises.

Research Proposal 3

Housing Land and Property: tenure status has a huge bearing on the ability to receive assistance and to recover. Map HLP strategies

Background

This priority came out of the work on urban resilience where it was discovered that the tenure status has a huge bearing on the ability to receive assistance and to recover . This is especially important in the Pacific region where it is common to have many and varied forms of ownership, with overlapping laws and frameworks both imposed and customary. Some work has been done to profile country arrangements and it would be a very useful exercise to be able to profile these customary framework

Importance

The importance of this topic is an ability to demonstrate land ownership is a significant barrier to shelter assistance. For example if a response package is designed by government which relies on somebody having a certificate of title when 30% of the population do not have this document.

Proposal

For research it would therefore be very useful to be able to have a mapping of these different types in order to assist shelter programs.

Impact

The impact of this work would be that a more inclusive shelter response including the most vulnerable groups would be able to be carried out. If we do not have a comprehensive understanding of tenure relationships that people hold in their country some sectors of the population are left out of the assistance package

Research Proposal 4

Inclusion: What is it that is stopping shelter organisations using the inclusive programming guidelines and tools that have already exist?

Importance

Multi-sectoral importance of shelter understanding of what happens when we do not include people it has great impact on the ability to recover community groups are left behind because they cannot access shelter assistance. Are we doing more harm through programs?

Proposal

What is it that is stopping shelter organisations using the inclusive programming guidelines and tools that have already exist?

Impact

The impact of this research would be on social cohesion health and livelihoods. Shelter is assistance that should be equitable and is not if it does not reach vulnerable people.

The impact of this research would be to prevent leaving groups out of shelter assistance and risking their health and ability to recover and leaving them in potentially life-threatening situations.

Research Proposal 5

Long-term impacts of shelter programs

How do shelter programs help recovery?

The world disasters report indicates how many people are being left behind

SAG Agency 5

Introductory comments

There's little point in doing the research if it does not have practical applications in the field.

Research theme 1

How can (action) research directly influence a live humanitarian response?

Importance

Can be used identify best approaches in the specific circumstances and how these may change with time. It can be used to justify the benefits of (for example) a self-recovery approach.

Proposal

Self-recovery (promoting safer building), for example

Impact

To improve humanitarian response in the field and as evidence for promotion of, say, self-recovery as an approach

Research theme 2

How to improve emergency preparedness in countries with predictable, repeat natural disasters.

Background

Humanitarian organisations repeatedly struggle to scale up to deal with rapid-onset emergencies, even when their occurrence is largely predictable. And communities lack infrastructure and procedures for DRR.

Importance

Strengthening the case for emergency preparedness, going beyond the financial aspects

Proposal

Pre-emptive action or reactive? Discuss! This can be seen as preparedness to mitigate the effects of a disaster – eg embankments, cyclone shelters, early warning systems etc. It can also be preparedness for country level shelter clusters, humanitarian organisations to be better able to respond quickly and appropriately – from pre-positioning of NFIs, to Emergency Preparedness Planning, scenario planning etc.

Impact

A fundamental shift of emphasis in the way that INGOs respond to natural disasters. Is there an ethical issue of using post-disaster funds for humanitarian relief for DRR?

Research theme 3

What is the role of shelter and settlements in addressing the triple (humanitarian / development / peace-building) nexus?

Importance

To help reinforce the case for shelter being perceived by others as a process rather than a product.

Proposal

The working theory is that the contribution of shelter and settlements tends to be undervalued.

Impact

To help reinforce the case for shelter being perceived by others as a process rather than a product. The process has impacts that go well beyond the conventional understanding of shelter. Peace-building for example.

Research theme 4

Making the case for aspects of shelter & health, shelter & livelihoods, shelter & protection as being of equal, or greater, importance than structural safety

Importance

To show that a focus on structural safety and building quality is just one of many important issues facing a family after a disaster.

Proposal

Different agencies/ orgs etc could take 'ownership' of each area – indoor air pollution, vectors etc, protection etc.. Explore the difference between acute, extensive and endemic (day-to-day) risk.

Impact

Each of these issues affect untold number of families and are all housing-related. The impact has the potential to be massive.

Research theme 5

What are the 'easy wins' in terms of simple, affordable solutions that can be implemented or messaged?

Importance

The increasing needs and decreasing resource means that we have to find simple and inexpensive ways of making a real difference. How do we prioritise these?

Proposal

Perhaps working groups on each topic to explore winnable solutions. For example, chimneys for stoves, ventilation, mosquito netting. What are the relative opportunity costs? Case study examples for different contexts. Different organisations championing issues, as in Theme 4 above.

Impact

Given the number of deaths through malaria, indoor air pollution, water-borne disease etc, the impact can be huge.

SAG Agency 6

There is a recognition that good programming alone will not have an impact on the large numbers of people in need of humanitarian assistance. They are therefore working on what can be done through the programmes to influence others, in order to create a multiplier effect for impact. Local and national government are key stakeholders in this process, as well as markets. Influencing private sector markets needs evidence to be presented, which is the potential for these research projects.

Research Theme 1

Is there evidence that shelter and settlement assistance programs contributes to reducing conflict and or increasing social cohesion?

Importance

The forcibly displaced people flee their land and have lost their homes and communities. The primary mandate for humanitarian assistance is to save lives and reduce suffering for the most vulnerable. However, does this mean shelter and settlement assistance should not attempt to contribute to conflict reduction? Is there evidence that shelter and settlement assistance programs contributes to reducing conflict and or increasing social cohesion?

Proposal

Create empirical evidence of the connection between shelter and settlement activities and its impact on conflict reduction.

Develop Draft tools and training which highlights the practical peacebuilding capacity of shelter and settlement programming.

Impact of evidence;

If there would be a build-up of convincing evidence the shelter and settlement and peacebuilding /social cohesion sectors can transform the way programming outcomes are presented.

Potential countries: Senegal, Philippines Bangladesh, DRC, RoC Syria

Potential disciplines: Political Science; Conflict Studies; Psychology; Sociology; Architecture; Urban planning.

Research Theme 2

Substantiated evidence of living space standards, is it a universal 3.5m² per person?

Importance

Living space standard during humanitarian phases widely reference the Sphere handbook of floor area of 3.5m²/person. Though the Sphere states this should be adapted to context often this is taken as a given or at least a starting point. Literature review has connected the origins of 3.5m² to public health issues and ventilation (Shelter Projects 2011-2012 chapter B01 Kennedy). Is it time that we challenge this minimum metric indicator through a broader scope of substantiated evidence?

Proposal

List of issues that should contribute towards determining min living space

Physiological min space standards according to human anatomy in different ethnic backgrounds

Tool process that helps determine min living space according to geographical location, life style culture and situation...

Impact Through gaining evidence for acceptable minimum living space, it would give confidence for all who offer humanitarian assistance to create their own min standards accordingly.

Potential countries: range of geographical contexts

Potential disciplines: Anthropology, Political Science; Psychology; Sociology; Architecture; Urban planning, Medicine,

Research Theme 3

Does taking an Area Based Approach result in greater impact?

Importance

Affected communities do not perceive their recovery in sectoral terms, but from a holistic, multi-sectoral perspective. Whilst sectoral approaches and technical expertise remain important ingredients in humanitarian response and recovery, understanding the holistic needs of affected communities require improved sectoral and stakeholder collaboration. Applying an area-based / settlement-based approach, which “advocates for assistance that considers the whole population affected by a crisis, living in a specific geographic area in need of multi-sectoral support by working with multiple stakeholders”, contributes to this achieving holistic understanding and program logic. Area-based / Settlement-based approaches define “an area, rather than a sector or target group, as a primary entry point”. This approach can be particularly appropriate if residents in an affected area face complex, inter-related and multisectoral needs. Whilst this approach is recognised as one of many, its strength is realised through building a deeper understanding of the affected populations’ holistic needs and complex contexts, and by building on existing community cohesion and capacity, governance structures, markets and service delivery mechanisms. But is it any more effective?

Proposal

Comparative study of effectiveness of Area based approach vs sectorial approach at different levels;

Coordination

Implementation

(Effectiveness; financial efficiency, impact on families, impact on the speed of recovery.)

Impact

Through gaining such evidence the merits or shortcoming of the Area Based Approach can be referenced to guide principle decisions on the type of approach to take at a humanitarian coordination level and implementation level.

Research Theme 4

Investigate systemic barriers in connecting humanitarian shelter and settlement assistance to recovery, durable and longer-term solutions – identifying opportunities.

Importance

The World Humanitarian Summit 2016 the humanitarian sector and development actors committed to reduce the gap between each other. The need for a seamless transition and a predictable pathway towards recovery will help families.

Examine current elements that influences the recovery process. 1) Global, institutional mandates, 2) Financing models 3) Housing models, 4) National, local policy and practice etc...

Examine coordination mechanisms, 1) National authorities, b)Humanitarian architecture c) Development mechanisms

Proposal

Identify opportunities to unblock systemic barriers and find practical solutions to bridge this Gap.

Set of recommendations to various stakeholders

Potential countries: Dominica, Uganda, Vietnam

Potential disciplines: Political Science; Economy; Urban Planning; Sociology

Research Theme 5

Comparative study of impact of cash for shelter vs direct build programs

Importance

Though Cash for shelter has become a methodology in delivering humanitarian shelter support, it might not always deployed at the opportune moment though decision making tools / response analysis tool are available the choice of implementation option is contingent on agency and human subjectivity. The creation of evidence base, a comparative study of holistic impact of Cash for shelter vs direct build.

Proposal

Comparative study of disaggregated by issues / topics

Comparative study across a range of contexts and phases and agencies

Impact

Through gaining such evidence the merits or shortcoming impact of the use of Cash can guide informed principle decisions by implementing organisations and governments.

Research Theme 6

Affordable housing finance

Access to affordable finance is one of the main barriers to recovery. The shelter sector has grown its provision of Social and Technical support to households, which may include support to enable access to finance, such as information on funding options, documentation and compliance, budgeting support, etc. Beyond this support to existing resources, there could be other opportunities to better use humanitarian and recovery assistance to leverage and access to affordable loans. This may draw upon development models and low cost housing models but also include working with the private sector, governments, funding bodies such as the World Bank, and the humanitarian sector to develop financial products for recovery, where for example the Social / Technical support being provided by shelter actors may provide the information and quality assurance to compliment loans.

Research Theme 7

Health outcomes of shelter

The Shelter sector focus on safe and dignified shelter is generally focused on structure rather the living environment. Risks associated with air quality, temperature, exposure to disease vectors and infection are not routinely assessed and prioritized. The Health, Nutrition and WASH sectors have a long history of collaboration on preventative approaches to health care. In contrast many health and wellbeing consequences of poor shelter rely on curative responses. There is a need for an integrated preventative approach to health and shelter for better health and outcomes; to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and the longer term risk reduction and resilience.

SAG Agency 7

Research theme 1

Merged Clusters

Importance

Part of a sectoral review towards a harmonised/integrated approach to humanitarian response.

Proposal

How would you feel about merging two sectors like S&S and CCCM?

Impact

It would guide the organization's strategic view / priority

Research theme 2

Resilience in construction

Importance

Sustainability in construction

Proposal

How important is to be resilient in our shelter responses?

Impact

Developing sectoral strategies

SAG Agency 8

Introductory comments

It is important for this project to show evidence that investing additional resources into shelter this saves money in the longer term response or makes people more resilient or saves lives. If it can be demonstrated that up-front capital investment equals less spending over the longer term, it would enable donors to make more informed decisions about where they invest.

Research Proposal 1

How markets can support shelter self-recovery

Background

This research area includes cash, market understanding, and market functionality.

Importance

When cash is distributed in humanitarian response does it resolve causational issues? For the shelter sector this involves getting people to build safer and stronger. The hypothesis is that if you just provide money people will not build safer and stronger because they will rebuild in the same way they did the previous time, or even build back added risks, for example by using new materials in an unsafe way.

Proposal

How to support households with access to cash to build back better or safer. How do households access technical knowledge in cash and market programmes? How can private sector skillsets in marketing and communications be utilised to communicate technical messages at scale?

Impact

Increase in shelter quality in cash and market programmes.

Research Proposal 2

Sustainability in and shelter and settlements projects.

Background

Most communities will draw the bulk of their construction commodities from their immediate surroundings. For many settings that process is contributing to increased exposure to risk, for example landslips or denuding forests to provide fuel for brick kilns. At settlement level the focus has been on the built environment, but the conversation needs to move on to how to integrate natural service provision. What would encourage communities to act more sustainability?

Importance

The connection to sustainability is becoming more current in the humanitarian environment. It would be advantageous for the shelter sector to be ahead of the curve and to be thinking about promoting sustainable practice in recovery or reconstruction, and not having negative effects in the wider environment.

Proposal

Issues include: energy efficient production of construction materials; energy efficient housing design; resource extraction for the construction industry; settlement level environmental factors related to health.

Impact

Sustainability supports cross cutting issues. Energy crosses over into gender and GBV. Resource issues impact livelihoods and education. Environmental services are linked to flood mitigation. Environmental factors are linked to physical and mental health.

Research Proposal 3

Understanding the reasons why the shelter sector is underfunded compared to other sectors

Research Proposal 4

Quantifying the importance of technical support

Background

Technical support in shelter programmes is most often the thing that gets removed and reduced. In budgets, staffing is the thing that tends to be the most often cut, and technical support is primarily staffing.

Importance

This area relates to the changing roles of shelter cluster agencies in programmes involving self recovery, cash programming, and private sector engagement. One likely candidate for the added value of shelter agencies in humanitarian programmes is the provision of technical support.

To ensure quality shelter outcomes, whether the programme is cash or in kind assistance, the shelter sector claims that the key is technical support. Donors are asking for evidence to demonstrate that technical support provides value for money.

Proposal

Research to quantify the value of technical support. There are models of linking technical support to quality housing outcomes, for example in Nepal which could be further researched.

Impact

Better shelter outcomes in cross sector programmes.

Research Proposal 5

Devising indicators for measuring health or environment outcomes related to shelter

Importance

These indicators do not exist at present. If these indicators did exist it would mean that projects can generate their own evidence by including data collection in during monitoring and evaluation.

Impact

Evidence gathering would become standard in shelter programmes which would improve evidence based policy formulation.

SAG Agency 9

There are synergies between this project and ongoing academic-practitioner collaboration activities in the sector aimed at strengthening the links with researchers and institutions and proposes how they can best engage with practitioners. A survey of academic research outputs suggests that research is of high academic quality but applicability to practitioners of humanitarian shelter and settlements could be improved. The question is how to bridge this gap and encourage academics and practitioners to interact in a more systematic way in order to come up with research topics relevant to practice.

There is also a lack of ongoing connection and knowledge communication. The projects are individual or one-off and do not form a coherent body of knowledge for practice. There needs to be a community which can work together to produce knowledge and communicate findings through the network.

In addition, there is a lack of funding from donors for research into humanitarian shelter and settlements. The value of the research needs to be better communicated to donors so that they will prioritise this area. Work is under way to identify likely donors who are interested in wider outcomes of shelter and settlements, and to approach them to engage in discussions about what kind of shelter research would align with their priorities, including lessons that can be transferred to local US and other developed disaster contexts.

A better communication strategy for the sector is important and currently, is seen as a gap. Communication departments from NGOs need to also be engaged in the communication of findings in order to generate support for the initiatives proposed by the research.

Research Proposal 1

Wider impact of shelter and settlements.

Advocacy messages are a key part of this initiative to local and national governments to demonstrate how they can use their resources to invest in the community. This is an initial step to explore this area.

Research proposal 2

Methods of agreeing common shelter and settlements priorities for the local context.

Scale of need is large but resources are limited. Programme decisions and finding decisions are not including all stakeholders in the decision-making process.

There are conflicting priorities amongst stakeholders (eg. NGO, UN) when creating strategic objectives for shelter and settlements response. Agency strategic priorities, national priorities and local priorities may be different. Host communities and affected communities may see the situation in different ways. Can these different agencies and stakeholders agree on common priorities (or a menu of options) for the specific context? Most importantly, how can development housing assistance be linked to humanitarian assistance and how does the shelter and settlements community of practice better tackle large displacement/conflict situations.

SAG Agency 10

Research Proposal 1

Shelter Density: Establishing baselines for more efficient and contextually appropriate response

Background

The Sphere key indicator for living space, often simply quoted as the number 3.5 m², can be traced to a short booklet published for the World Health Organisation in 1971 with the overriding objective of ensuring adequate public health in disaster situations. The booklet is the first known use of the standards for covered shelter space – “3m² per person for tents in camps consisting of tents, and 3.5m² as a minimum for buildings”. There has been little published data or analysis of this density recommendation since. Indicators were discussed in 1980 when drafting of the first edition of the UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies, and the numeric indicators were incorporated into the booklet. The Sphere handbook adopted this indicator and in its 2018 revision even put an emphasis on the fact that “the minimum living space should reflect cultural and social norms, the context, the phase of response, and guidance by national authorities or the humanitarian response sector.” There is also an additional note in this edition highlighting that the 3.5m² excludes cooking area, bathing and sanitation facilities. Current use of the figure is by consensus rather than based on any known evidence. It is often applied globally rather than based on any contextual analysis.

Importance

Whilst there are many metrics defining adequacy of shelter, the numeric indicators for covered living space and site density are the most well-known. Commonly confused as standards, these indicators are frequently being used to define the sizes of shelters, and by extension the number of households who can be assisted with limited budgets. They frequently form the basis for both advocacy on land requirements for settlement planning as well as the number of people who can be allocated on often limited space. This project aims to provide background data to inform better contextualization of density and spatial use requirements for shelter and settlements programming.

Proposal

The general objective of this project is to develop initial baseline data and a methodology for determining a baseline of shelter standards that vary over the contexts and provide coherent, evidence-based and contextualized living space requirement.

Impact

There will be improved understanding based on numerical data of baseline settlement level densities and covered living spaces. This will support a simple methodology on how to contextualise density indicators. Having a reference for estimating the density and spatial use of shelters and settlements related to the context among the chaos of a crisis will contribute further to improve shelter outcomes and reduce the risk of failure

Research Proposal 2

Project management - how to plan flexibly within project and donor constraints

Background

There are a number of factors influencing shelter programming in response to a humanitarian crisis, and these change over the period of the response. One of the most important factors is the political context.

Importance

At outset of a response project developers need to develop 6/ 9 month proposals and spend precisely. This reduces programme flexibility but can lead to quicker responses.

Proposal

How can a shelter response be planned with limited information? How can shelter programmes respond to changing operational contexts?

Impact

Shelter projects are more efficiently implemented. Evidence is brought to also advocate with donors for more flexibility in funding.

Research Proposal 3

Learning from past shelter programmes

Background

Usually something similar has been done before by someone somewhere. The problem is organising existing knowledge and communicating relevant information to those who would benefit from the knowledge.

Importance

There have been many shelter responses but it is not known how best to learn lessons from them.

Proposal

Research the most effective way to manage knowledge. Commission longitudinal case studies to study long term impacts of shelter programmes.

Impact

Past lessons are learned leading to less mistakes and consequently less wasted funding

SAG Agency 11

There is a strong case to be made for the centrality of shelter in a shrinking world of humanitarian resources. Shelter may not be the best word to describe the outcomes of housing families after a crisis. Shelter implies temporary protection from the elements, but it does so much more. It links to governance, schooling, municipality support and land tenure and to advocate for increased shelter support, these important outcomes should be demonstrated as being facilitated by shelter programmes.

Research Proposal 1

Shelter and settlements programming as an effective entry point in hard to reach areas.

Hard to reach in this case is defined as difficulty gaining access for political or conflict reasons, for example Syria, Nigeria or Burkina Faso.

The proposition in this research proposal is that shelter and settlements (including infrastructure and school construction) operations provide the best entry point for an organisation to start to gain access into hard to reach areas. The proposal comes from experience in shelter and settlements programming as an enabler for wider outcomes such as legal assistance, education or livelihoods. Shelter and Settlements is a fundamental right and primary need and so it can be seen as a politically neutral activity. For example, a proposed legal support programme in a hard to reach area would be likely be turned down because it would be perceived as intervention in the political dimension. However, if an offer of, for example, basic emergency shelter is made it would be easy for parties in hard to reach areas to say 'yes'. Once programming has started, this provides a foundation that can be leveraged to increase scale and scope of humanitarian operations.

Proposal: This research would provide case studies of how S&S programming has leveraged access and acted as a foundation which would enable field staff working in H2R locations to have practical and relevant programming guidelines of how to increase humanitarian space through specific activities and approaches.

Impact: Guidance and advocacy would enable humanitarian actors to provide faster and more sustained life-saving services to those who have received least in hard-to-reach areas.

Research proposal 2

The potential of shelter programmes to tackle complex HLP problems.

The background to this proposal is the shelter project work in the Palestinian gatherings in Lebanon. One of the consequences of the project was that after a few years good relationships had developed between shelter agencies and other parties which meant that discussions could be started about security of tenure for these communities. Reflecting on this process gave the realisation that it would not have been possible to talk about security of tenure in this context as an initial legal support project. It was only possible once trust had been built.

The working assumptions for this research are be that the output of shelter projects is controlled by shelter operational agencies but they need land to be able to deliver shelter, and in the absence of land title, vulnerable groups in need of shelter assistance are excluded from shelter programmes. Shelter responders do not consider it is within their capability to negotiate land title, so they devolve to legal teams.

Importance: This research proposal suggests that there are often HLP solutions which are not legal processes that would enable rights to land to be gained by vulnerable groups such that they can be included in shelter response. This assertion is supported by the latest version of the Sphere standards that locate HLP within the shelter sphere of influence.

Proposal: Research is needed to investigate the proposition that HLP resolution can be integral to the practice of shelter provision, and can offer a more effective resolution than conceiving HLP activities as legal projects.

Impact: It will unleash the potential of shelter, wash and livelihoods to tackle complex HLP problems

Research proposal 3

We need to ensure that there is a safety net for the most vulnerable displaced populations as the humanitarian sector moves more and more to a ‘hands-off’ efficiently driven model of service delivery through market-based programming.

Research shows that in Lebanon, vulnerable families would prefer to have an NGO provide them with a home rather than have the equivalent cash to rent their own. They have experienced considerable discrimination in the free-market and felt intimidated and threatened by the process of engaging in an unfamiliar biased market in an alien country.

There is a risk that modern approaches to the provision of housing for the displaced will leave many vulnerable to harassment and exposed to harm. Do we fully understand the impact of market-driven programming on the most vulnerable? There is a need to support these groups with community focused programming that provides them with homes and does not rely on their social capital to manoeuvre in a complex market system.

Proposal: Research is needed to urgently highlight how the most vulnerable displaced persons are facing discrimination and protection dangers due to a market-driven approach of humanitarian provision and how direct assistance of a safe and dignified place to live can help reduce these vulnerabilities and provide the foundation for recovery.

Impact: It will protect the most vulnerable displaced from further discrimination and dangers

Research proposal 4

Evaluate success of blended finance.

Blended finance projects mix part donor part investment capital

Research Proposal 5

How do changes in displacement prospects affect housing preferences and decisions?

This question is at the core of decision making about shelter implementation in Lebanon, and is applicable in other areas with host family shelter programmes. How can this understanding inform better adaptation of shelter programme modalities?

Background

Shelter programmes Lebanon in response to the Syria emergency were designed around the expectation that the displacement was temporary. Standards of cultural adequacy and habitability of the property were lower than can be considered mainstream in the Middle East

in middle income countries such as Lebanon. However the longer the situation continued, beneficiary feedback was increasingly that these standards were inadequate, and multiple displacements were occurring due to the inadequate accommodation. An upgrade programme was implemented to better align with beneficiaries' expectations in terms of adequacy and habitability, and to encourage beneficiaries to stay in the same place for longer periods of time in order to reduce the associated risks of secondary displacement such as disrupting school attendance and building social capital.

This process is not well understood from the beneficiary perspective. There is an assumption that the beneficiaries progress from a shelter, then *their* shelter then a home, that they build an attachment to the place and build their lives and this affects their prioritisation.

What beneficiaries are willing to pay for accommodation also changes through displacement. When displacement is perceived as temporary households will pay more than when moving in to longer term more protected accommodation. Perception and consequent behaviour is at the core of what is considered an adequate solution.

Importance

Families displaced multiple times are in need of support each time to re-establish their support structures and slower to build resilience. If families are able to stay in one location then resilience increases rapidly to a place where they can potentially find more means of supporting themselves rather than rely on humanitarian assistance.

Proposal

It would be useful for shelter practitioners to understand from the household perspective the factors of change which they perceive as significant when progressing from temporary to transitional and then to stable housing.

Impact

It is important to understand from the user perspective how things change so programmes can be adapted accordingly and to design better responses and to have evidence to back up arguments to stakeholders.

This information would be entry point for new shelter modalities which would be more engaging and enhance more partnership with the users. It would enable more appropriate interventions to stop multiple displacements and consequent extended humanitarian support. It would help link shelter with resilient cities, and encourage a change of label from beneficiaries into users.

Research Proposal 6

Does cash programming create rental inflation?

Is there evidence that cash for rent contributes to an inflation in rental cost, while market based modalities (for example Occupancy Free of Charge) help mitigate such risk of inflation?

Background

There is an assumption in the Lebanon shelter response that it is better to invest in a socio-economic contribution to the housing market because this will not destabilise the rental market and it will reduce the risk of inflation. However there has never been an economic analysis of this assumption.

The rental market in Lebanon has expanded since the Syria crisis. Increased demand for rental properties was present, as well as cash and market humanitarian programmes. In rural areas there was no prominent rental market until the Syrian displacement. When Syrian

families arrived a new market was created characterised by high speculation, vulnerability to exploitative practices, with little policy oversight. Families built homes on their land for Syrian households or built partial homes for humanitarian agencies to upgrade, or entered into arrangements with Syrians who would build the buildings.

Importance

The do no harm principle applies to the economy. Implementing agencies need better resources to determine implementation modalities.

Proposal

When is it effective to have in kind contribution to housing market such as the 'Occupancy Free of Charge' (OFC) modality which improves the capacity of local communities to host refugees, and when is it better to activate the rental market through an injection of cash via the beneficiaries?

What is the impact on rental market and is it doing more harm than good?

Impact

More effective market based shelter programming

Research Proposal 7

Role of shelter & settlements in durable solutions in NE Myanmar

Background

This theme looks at which stage should S&S be getting involved in durable solutions and how it relates to other sectors such as livelihoods, which takes on a larger role as the conversation shifts to early recovery.

Importance

There has been movement of IDPs in Kachin and Northern Shan seeking a durable solution but there has been minimal engagement from humanitarian actors as the degree of informed and voluntary decision-making by IDPs on whether to pursue a solution and the extent to which these solutions have been safe and dignified has varied.

Proposal

Are families able to build back their lives if we can support their access to livelihoods? Should we focus only on vulnerable groups who cannot find income opportunities or play a bigger role in "building back better"? Should we have a role in the design of settlements and building governance structures?

Impact

Understanding how shelter agencies can best support in the process of return, resettlement or local integration from the perspective of S&S and how it relates to other sectors

Research Proposal 8

Financial study of camps

Importance

We know from experience that camps are rarely temporary and yet there is sometimes little political will from governments to transition to more permanent solutions. So families end up living in caravans (e.g Zaatari in Jordan) for 8 years. The overall financial implications of camp responses seem to be understudied.

Proposal

How much funding goes into the setting up and maintenance of camps? What could have been done with the same amount in a different setting.

Impact

Cost effectiveness of different shelter responses. The research results can be used for advocacy purposes

Recommendations for further work

The SAG welcomed recommendations in two areas: (SAG meeting 30 January 2020)

- Recommendations for engaging with research organisations and research funders to generate research on the Shelter Cluster priorities.
- Potential initiatives within the Shelter Cluster and partners to develop research and gather evidence gathering the identified research priorities.

1. Recommendations for engaging with research organisations and research funders to generate research on the Shelter Cluster priorities

There is funding in the academic area for research projects into humanitarian and development issues. To give some idea of scale the UK fund specifically for research into the sustainable development of less-developed countries is £1.5 billion over 5 years.

Existing research capacity is potentially significant as there exists a large cohort of Masters and PhD students in humanitarian and development related courses needing project ideas for thesis projects.

There are often requests from research organisations to operational agencies for access to humanitarian situations or for access to data. This is an opportunity to make agreement to the request conditional on furthering the GSC research agenda.

Research funders will identify funding priorities and issue calls for research in these areas. These calls have short time frames so it is important to have existing networks and collaborations set up between academic and practitioner partners, including academic and practice partners located in the geographical areas under research, as this is often required in the funding call. These networks take time and organisation to facilitate.

It is likely that research exists on some of the identified research priorities, and that what is needed is synthesis of existing work and application to practice. A network of researchers could facilitate this, as well as certain types of research funding.

Advocacy to research funders is recommended, in order to demonstrate research need in areas of concern to the shelter community of practice. There is more likelihood of research funding success if engaged in advocacy with research funders.

Recommendations:

- Actively search for funding to support creation of a network of research partners.
- Map out likely research capacity in academia, research organisations and agency involvement.
- Craft advocacy messages to research funders.

2. Potential initiatives within the Shelter Cluster and partners to develop research and gather evidence gathering the identified research priorities

There are initiatives existing in shelter cluster partners which align with evidence gathering and research priorities. These include the InterAction Academic-Practitioner initiative, and cluster partners existing networks, research experiences and successful research funding bids. The Shelter and Vulnerability Working Group of the GSC have been active in mapping

household vulnerability. These should be supported and existing knowledge in this area shared at GSC events.

Information and training would be useful for partners interested in research. Especially tools to enable outcome or impact monitoring as part of MEAL procedures. Donor advocacy could secure additional support for this activity.

Some of the research priorities will align with agency priorities, and could be supported internally if the agency wishes to become a champion or thought leader in a particular issue. It would be beneficial to share knowledge about how existing shelter response programmes can become research projects as a dedicated output.

Communication and discussion of the research priorities identified by the SAG amongst a wider group of cluster actors and partners would be beneficial to further refine the priorities and engage a wider audience. Working groups, communities of practice, and country level clusters would be a welcome addition to the discussion, as they would bring country and local level experience to the themes, and may well be able to identify specific research projects to tackle part of a wider theme.

Recommendations

- Involve a wider group of shelter stakeholders to explore the top themes at global, country and local level
- Support existing research collaborations and share knowledge of research strategies.
- Develop tools to assist MEAL processes to measure outcome and impact of shelter programmes.

Engaging humanitarian agencies in good research

Assessment of impact – causally linking intervention and outcomes – is a vital component of an informative programme evaluation. However, when reviewing programme evaluations and reports, where specific programme activities have been intended to contribute to a particular outcome, assessment of whether they have had the desired impact is largely absent.

The development of shared reporting guidelines and indicators for data collection would maximise the usefulness of the information gathered about individual shelter programmes, and would enable comparative analysis of programmes and their outcomes.

Particularly relevant for the evaluation of shelter programmes is the possibility of utilising methods that rely on case-based studies, especially those that make comparisons across a number of cases. Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), for example, systematically compares cases in a way that allows exploration of how and why some interventions were successful in achieving a particular outcome while others were not.

Humanitarian organisations require significant resources to be able to carry out the kind of work that is integral to an effective evaluation. The tools and methods that are necessary for robust assessment of the impact of humanitarian programmes are already available; shelter providers need the resources and skills to be able to adapt and apply them appropriately according to context

Dedicated research and evaluation funds are needed to ensure that staff have both sufficient time and the requisite skills to design and implement impact assessments. Investment in skills and capacity development demands commitment from humanitarian organisations and from donors. By encouraging programmes that they fund to evaluate outcomes and impact and targeting funds for them to do so, donors can promote the building of an evidence base for programme effectiveness that can support their aims of maximising programme efficacy and value for money.¹

More needs to be done to provide information to humanitarian agencies on how to understand research methods. For example the tipsheet developed by Parrack below.

¹

This section is based on information in the publication: Harriss, L., Parrack, C. and Jordan, Z., 2019. Building safety in humanitarian programmes that support post-disaster shelter self-recovery: an evidence review. *Disasters*.

The proposals are supported by the evidence review on shelter commissioned by the Humanitarian Evidence Programme: Maynard, V., Parker, E. and Twigg, J. (2017). The effectiveness and efficiency of interventions supporting shelter self-recovery following humanitarian crises: An evidence synthesis. Humanitarian Evidence Programme. Oxford: Oxfam GB

Research Proposal Tipsheet

Essential Very Short Version	What is the problem/gap you have identified? How will your research change something?
Write a research proposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear aim 2. Background which identifies the gap in knowledge 3. Research question 4. Research methodology demonstrating how the gap is filled 5. Specific outcomes linked to the aim 6. Excellence (why you are best placed to do this) 7. Measurable impact

Now answer these questions

Research question

Why is this research important?
What is the main question you wish to answer?
What are the specific questions you will ask to address the main question?

Justification

What other studies have there been in this area?
How will this research add to knowledge in this area?

Methodology

What is the main method you will use to carry out the research - e.g. questionnaire, face-to-face interviews, focus groups, paper reviews etc.?
How will you select your sample?
How will you recruit your sample?
How will you collect your data?

Data Protection

How will the data be stored?
For how long will the data be stored?
How will it be disposed of?
How will you ensure confidentiality and anonymity of data?
Who will have ultimate ownership of the data?

Ethical Issues

Is there any potential risk or harm to participants or yourself?
If so, what are the potential risks and what do you intend to do to reduce them?
How will you obtain informed consent?
Where informed consent is unable to be provided, what will you do?
How will you deal with any sensitive or criminal matters that may be raised in the course of your research?
What follow-up support will be available to participants should they require it?

Peer Review

Who will review the research findings?
Are they independent?

Dissemination

In what form will your findings be presented - e.g. report, presentation, journal etc?
How will you be disseminating your findings?
To whom will you be disseminating your findings?
How will you ensure anonymity in any publications?
To whom does the research belong and have you thought about intellectual property right

Appendix 1

Research areas for Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Document Review

Following are initiatives where research areas in humanitarian shelter and settlements have been identified, and in some cases, prioritised.

The initiatives are as follows

1. Ian Davis Shelter after Disaster 1982 and 2015
- 2 Defining a Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Research Agenda Aaron Opdyke
3. Academic-Practitioner Forum Interaction
4. Long Term Impacts of Shelter Programmes Workshop
5. Global Shelter Cluster Meeting 9-10th October 2019

Appendix: State of Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements

Brief commentary

This is a long list, and can be useful as a checklist to reflect on areas not at the forefront of current discussion, to question whether they should be included in priority research themes.

The value of a list of topics for research seems limited. The more useful areas are where there is more description of the research need, and the importance or impact is highlighted.

1. Ian Davis Shelter after Disaster 1982 and 2015

Ian Davis, in the UNDRO Guidelines Shelter after Disaster 1982 Appendix B identifies research needs for the shelter sector. In the second edition, over 30 years later in 2015 these research needs were revisited. The research topics in the 1982 text were identified by an Expert Group Meeting which reviewed the document. The 2015 revision was by some members of the original team.

1982 Research needs

A. The resources of survivors

1. Self-help

- Case studies on the limitations of self-help in the provision of shelter and inputs needed from assisting groups;
- Cash grants (to stimulate the economy);
- Cash grants (for rebuilding);
- Subsidies;
- Distribution of materials (both for emergencies and reconstruction);
- Sharing of expertise on hazard resistant housing
- Ideally, case studies should cover different types of disasters in diverse climates, and at different scales of impact

2. Community-based flood mitigation measures

- Case studies on: Protection of infrastructure;
- The protection of settlements by simple warning devices for flash floods, raising village levels, building protective walls, dykes, overflow routes;
- The protection of buildings;
- Flood mitigation measures for low-cost housing; consideration of using improved techniques and materials in flood-prone environments.

3. Protection of people living in buildings with heavy earthen roofs in earthquake-prone areas

Considering recent earthquake casualties in the Middle East, a very useful and practical piece of research, (probably best undertaken with a local voluntary agency or co-operative group), would be to explore very cheap, low-technology methods to protect houses which have very heavy earthen or tiled roofs, and other vulnerable characteristics.

4. Human exposure and disaster shelter

In view of the often-stated risk of exposure, thus necessitating shelter, to mount a research project on winter disasters This could examine medical evidence from previous disasters. Secondly, a more detailed monitoring of a future disaster could be undertaken, with advance study of how to investigate this issue. UNDRO, WHO, PAHO and natural disaster research institutes would all have possible inputs into such a study.

B. Research into hazard resistant housing and settlements

1. Social, cultural and economic aspects of improved adobe buildings

Although some work has been done on the scientific analysis of the performance of low-cost adobe dwellings in seismic areas, there remains an urgent need to consider:

- The social, cultural and economic aspects of housing improvement projects;

- The most effective way of implementing such programmes.
- 2. Disaster mitigation and upgrading programmes A project perhaps best undertaken with UNCHS, would be to consider how disaster mitigation measures can be incorporated into upgrading programmes within the informal sector (slums, squatter settlements), and rural settlements.
- 3. Restoration of settlements and buildings after floods
 - Post-flood measures to restore buildings.

C. Activities of assisting groups

- 1. Assessment of needs. Given the difficulties of assessing shelter needs after a major disaster, what are the most effective assessment techniques available and who should undertake them?
- 2. Accountability. An examination of practical measures to introduce the concept of accountability to governments and assisting groups.
- 3. Long-term consequences of shelter programmes. The long-term consequences of largescale emergency shelter programmes considering: a. Whether they retard or accelerate reconstruction. b. Planning implications for new settlements.

D. Information exchange

To develop a good annotated bibliography (with the widest international spread of documentation) on the topic of disasters and settlements.

Further Research Needs identified in 2015

Ian Davis writes in the 2015 edition: 'Although 30 years may have passed since the research needs above were identified in the 1982 Guidelines a number of these areas still remain pertinent to this edition, a number have been developed and have consequently led to further areas of research and a number are new fields reflecting the advancements in technology. The following areas are and still need further research carried out (continuing the four identified subject areas listed above)'.

A. The Resources of Survivors

- 1. Basic research needs
 - What are the preferences of disaster affected for the various modes of shelter? This basic research is still needed for diverse contexts:
 - Varied hazards
 - Varied climates
 - Varied rural and urban settings
 - Varied economic levels of the disaster affected population
 - What are the functions of shelter in varied contexts? (Review this list in Table 1 Item 4.1)
 - Varied hazards
 - Varied climates
 - Varied rural and urban settings
 - Varied economic levels of survivors

2. Detailed research needs

- What is the capacity of host families to absorb displaced disaster affected populations? Further studies of digital phone records to locate venues of host families (as undertaken in Haiti) in other recovery locations.
- The pre- and post- disaster repairs and retrofit
- Non-food items and household needs, including winterization, roof repair kits and energy efficient stoves etc.
- Physical improvements for the shelter structure, including bracing, anchoring and reinforcement
- Early warning systems and mitigation measures
- Disability and the aging population
- vulnerable groups and how shelter relates

B. Hazard Resistant Housing and Settlements

- Urban risk and response management
- Urban violence, gangs and power structures
- Legal issues around regulatory barriers, including housing, land and property rights and building codes
- Gender and security

C. Activities of Assisting Groups

- Environmental Issues
- both around resources and climate change impact
- Non-traditional shelter Assistance including rental subsidies, host family support and cash vouchers for materials
- Quality assurance mechanisms, sustainability, accreditation systems
- Accountability
- Transformative agenda and coordination with governments and local authorities
- Investigation into roles that private sector can have and the civil-military relationship

D. Information Exchange

- Beneficiary communications and mobile technology
- Digitalizing large-scale assessments
- Mapping
- including gap analysis

2 Defining a Humanitarian Shelter and Settlements Research Agenda

Aaron Opdyke University of Sydney
Amy Javernick-Will, Briar Goldwyn University of Colorado Boulder

Presented at UK shelter forum November 2018

22 experts identified and ranked the topics by relative importance (14 of the experts completed all three rounds of prioritisation)

Top ten issues prioritised with highest priority first

- Supporting self-recovery (indirect)
- Transition to recovery
- Longitudinal and long term impacts of shelter interventions
- Supporting self-recovery (direct)
- Area based, settlement and neighbourhood approaches
- Participation of affected populations in decision making
- Connecting humanitarian response with development
- Economic (Household livelihoods)
- Engagement with local planning processes
- Urban environments

All identified research areas

Prioritised highest to lowest within each theme

Theme: Comparing and Evaluating Approaches to Sheltering

- Supporting Self-Recovery (Indirect)
- Supporting Self-Recovery (Direct)
- Area-based, Settlement, and Neighbourhood Approaches
- Assisted vs Non-Assisted Households
- Market-Based Approaches
- Community-Based Approaches
- Owner-Driven Approaches
- Contractor-Driven Approaches

Theme: Shelter and Settlement Programming

- Participation of Affected Populations in Decision-Making
- Knowledge Transfer and Behaviour Change
- Technical Assistance
- Localisation
- Housing Markets and Ecosystems
- Housing, Land, and Property (HLP)
- Scale of Assistance vs Quality

Community Mobilisation
Micro-Financing
Private Sector Partnerships
Conditional Cash
Hosting
Governance and Regulatory Barriers
Settlement Infrastructure (e.g. Pathways, Lighting)
Staffing Competences
Quality Control and Specifications
Coverage Rates (e.g. % Assisted)
Humanitarian Worker Education and Training
Insurance Markets
Needs-Based Assessment and Monitoring Tools
Coordination Between Projects and Programs
Supply Chains

Theme: Design and Construction of Shelter

Local Building Practices
Adaptation and Modifications
Household Shelter Preferences and Priorities
Promoting Safer Building Practices
Guidance for Host Governments
Protection Risks
Accessibility and Disability Inclusion
Construction Training and Education

Theme: Design and Construction of Shelter

Material Quality Retrofitting
Site Selection Risk
Climatic Suitability, Thermal Comfort, and Ventilation
Multi-Family Housing (e.g. Multi-Story Apartments)
Reuse of Debris in Construction
Energy
Material Selection
Fire Protection
Minimum Standards
Recycling and Decommissioning of Temporary Shelter

Theme: Understanding Impacts and Outcomes of Shelter

Transition to Recovery
Economic (Household Livelihoods)
Health (Physical and Mental Well-Being)
Adequacy of Shelter
Appropriate Measures for Shelter Outcomes
Economic (Household Savings)
Health (Respiratory Illnesses)
Social (Sense of Place)
Usability of Shelter
Safety from Physical Violence

Social (Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities)
Quality of Shelter
Social (Gender-Based Violence)
Social (Social Capital)
Safety (to Hazards)
Social (Peaceful Coexistence in Diverse Communities)
Economic (Local/Micro-Economics)
Environmental Impact
Health (Infectious Diseases)
Satisfaction with Shelter
Psychological Recovery from Violence
Economic (National/Macro-Economics)
Education (School Completion)

Theme: Disaster Risk Reduction and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

Longitudinal and Long-Term Impacts of Shelter Intervention
Connecting Humanitarian Response with Development
Engagement with Local Planning Processes
Financing Mechanisms and Donors
Upgrading to Permanence
Settlements Planning and Management
Resettlement
Communication of Hazards
Resilience
Social Housing Programs
Contingency Planning
Recurrent Conflict and Secondary Displacement
Building Codes
Rate of Return on Humanitarian Shelter
Early Warning Systems

Theme: Challenging Contexts and Topics

Urban Environments
Climate Change
Humanitarian Funding Cycles
Politics of Aid
Migration and Shelter Connection
Inaccessible and Hard-to-Reach Areas
Restitution
Corruption
Camps

3. Academic-Practitioner Forum INTERACTION

London, 07 June 2019 Washington DC, 18/19 July 2019

The forum, supported by USAID/OFDA and organized by InterAction, aimed to facilitate systematic collaboration of academics and humanitarian professionals around specific research gaps, improve information exchange, increase accessibility to collaborative research funding, and better engage young professionals in field research. One of the three main aims is to 'Identify field-relevant research needs'

A 'Roadmap for research' will be created via this initiative. Initial responses indicate research priorities in relation to policy impact:

In order to create sustainable and impactful outcomes, we need to understand underlying drivers of risk and their evolution due to external influences. Researchers and practitioners need to collaborate to better understand the context of, and how to use, research and evidence to influence policies

4. Long Term Impacts of Shelter Programmes

Workshop 14 March 2018 Oxford Brookes University

A workshop convened to discuss how to measure long term impacts of shelter programmes. There was consensus on two research areas, expressed as hypotheses to be tested by research:

The best value for money incorporates life-saving measures and long-term resilience

Projects are best continued or maintained until the desired behavioural change has been achieved sustainably

5. Global Shelter Cluster Meeting 9-10th October 2019

There was one key recommendation which came out of the meeting which identified a specific research need (ref: meeting notes

https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/gsc_meeting_meeting_minutes_final.pdf

There is a need to better build up the evidence and understand how people recover after crisis and to adapt our shelter approaches to their resilience and coping mechanisms.

Other areas of shelter and settlements activity were identified as priority areas, with possible an implication that research and evidence would be a useful contribution

The Shelter Cluster needs to start advancing more seriously on the localization of its response and in including national NGOs and local actors

There is a need to strengthen Shelter responses in urban areas

Emergency shelter response needs to be more closely linked with sustainable housing approaches

A breakout session was held as part of the Imagining Shelter 2022 sessions on Evidence and Evidence Gaps facilitated by Mohamed Hilmi and Aaron Opdyke. We await notes of this breakout.

Shelter Cluster Evaluations

It is possible that Shelter Cluster evaluations may contain research questions or gaps. It is beyond the scope of this exercise to investigate cluster evaluations, but it is suggested that this activity would be useful as it may help to clarify research areas or questions.