

# SHELTER

➡ *Prioritize single women for distribution of tents/tarps/kits and ensure shelters could be locked.*

**1. Establish shelter committees with equal female and male participation; monitor to ensure that women participate in the decisions and that their needs are met.**

- Facilitate the participation of both women and men by reviewing their other roles (e.g. child care) and support community mechanisms to address concerns or impediments to women's equal participation.
- Provide both women and men with the same benefits for their input and their work in construction: e.g. if work is paid, ensure that both women's and men's work is paid and is equal
- Include in the planning people living with HIV and those particularly vulnerable to HIV and GBV.

**2. Plan the physical layout of the site in collaboration with the community shelter committee.**

- Plan location of shelter areas to promote a sense of community and reinforce community-based protection, while also preserving the privacy of the family unit.
- Select and design sites that provide prompt and safe access to communal services (e.g. health facilities, food distribution and water points, schools, etc.).
- Consider the specific needs of vulnerable children and youth, child-headed and on-parent-headed households and those chronically ill, including people living with HIV when assembling shelters
- Provide a common area for children to play where family members can watch them from the shelter to avoid children playing in remote areas.
- Make arrangements for lighting in communal areas and lighting for individual use. For example, latrines may be designated areas for lighting and must be lockable from the inside; torches for families are an option for individual use.

**3. Design communal living spaces to maximize safety and prevent GBV:**

- Provide adequate material for partitions between families.
- Accommodate single women and single men in separate communal booths.
- Seek ongoing input from women to ensure their needs and security concerns are addressed.
- Inspect communal shelters regularly to monitor security and protection.

**4. *Design and allocate shelters/plots to maximize safety and prevent GBV.***

- Ensure that individual plot/shelter allocation does not compromise protection. For example, a separate location for single female shelters may in some cases provide protection while in other cases it may expose women and girls to harm. Assess the risks depending on the context.
- Establish clear, consistent and transparent systems for shelter allocation, distribution of any shelter materials, and criteria for qualifying for shelter assistance.
- Do not make women and girls dependent on men for shelter construction or shelter allocation because this often results in sexual exploitation, with women forced to trade sex for shelter.
- Conduct regular consultations with women, girls, and groups with special needs on shelter issues to ensure any protection concerns are highlighted early and solved.

**5. *Designate space for community centres and other safe spaces for women/girls***

- Consult with women and girls in the community to design a women's centre or other facility for meetings, counselling services, skills training, and other activities targeting women and girls with the aim of reducing vulnerability to sexual violence and HIV and/or providing psychosocial support for survivors. In most sites, the women's centre will be the space for recreation, HIV, reproductive health, and sexual violence awareness and counselling services. Mobilize women and girls to participate in managing the spaces and activities.