



IOM International Organization for Migration

***International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Transitional Shelter Conversation
July 11, 2006***

Introduction:

There is a growing recognition that transitional shelter will be required for some different populations. ERRA will be leading this process and, as a catalyst and upon request from ERRA, IOM organized a conversation on the subject of transitional shelter.

The goal of this meeting was to find out which organizations were interested and active regarding the issue, to discuss activities up to date, to review the scope of the need, and to see if there was interest to continue the discussion in the future. It was agreed upon early in the meeting that the needs of the people were much greater than the provision of transitional shelter and that this meeting would have a narrow scope.

Three groups were identified which may require transitional shelter. The groups are the urban displaced whose land has been identified as uninhabitable, urban dwellers whose housing is destroyed, and residual caseloads within camps.

The meeting was attended by local and international NGO's, UN agencies, and USAID (*please see the list attached for the participants*). Based upon specific points from the meeting, a revised draft definition of transitional housing has been created and is below.

Draft Definition:

Transitional Shelter for the earthquake –affected in Pakistan should remain habitable for multiple years under all weather conditions, be seismic resistant and non-permanent in design and installation, and must be culturally appropriate. To the maximum extent possible, the materials used in the construction should be reusable for permanent construction. The issue of transitional shelter can not be addressed in isolation; therefore site identification, water and sanitation, health, education, and other critical issues must be concurrently considered. The installation or dismantling of transitional shelter should only require locally available tools and skills sets to install, dismantle, and maintain. The size of the shelter as well as the land allocated per family should meet or exceed the Sphere standards or government guidelines.

Meeting Points:

Below are the various concerns and issues discussed. There was no formal consensus regarding these points and they are ranked based upon when they were spoken.

1. It is imperative that the government identify the location for the permanent shelters as well as transitional shelters and that the area identified should not be isolated from community services. The recovery process could be slowed if transitional shelter and permanent shelter were built on the same location.
2. During the process of land identification for transitional shelter it should be kept in mind that these shelters should not interfere in the building of future permanent shelters and should respect any urban areas *Master Planning*.
3. Transitional shelters can't be dealt with by themselves or in isolation. Water and sanitation facilities, schools, good governance etc must be addressed simultaneously.
4. Problems in rebuilding the temporary shelters or setting up camps in different areas is already beginning to occur. There is an urgent need for the identification of the land for transitional shelter as well as permanent shelters. These was reiterated by multiple participants.
5. ***Cultural Appropriateness*** must be considered while planning the transitional or the permanent shelters. The transitional shelters should be made keeping in view the needs of the IDP's. Cultural factors like separate areas for women, veiled home areas so that the females of the house are not exposed to strangers are the important factors.
6. Transitional shelter must be ***earthquake resistant shelters***.
7. Concern was expressed regarding the cost-effectiveness, environment friendly and re-useable items. There should be maximum use of items for constructing transitional housing which can be utilized for building permanent shelters in the future.
8. Until now 10,000 shelters have been secured with the help of Saudi Government, but there is no specific identified time-line. It is anticipated that the shelters will be used for urban displaced persons. It is anticipated that there will be a need for an additional 10,000 shelters required for the urban displaced. IOM noted that they had received a letter from ERRRA to pursue the implementation for the additional 10,000 after its the proposal within the Action Plan was reviewed.
9. For rural areas, ERRRA will not be giving the second tranche of money to the IDP's who are building temporary shelters instead of permanent shelters.
10. For rural areas, there is a miscommunication among the government and the local community. The beneficiaries are not well informed and well instructed on how to utilize their first part of financial assistance.
11. It was also suggested that the local community should be involved in the construction of their own transnational shelters. The size of the shelters should be flexible keeping in mind the size of the family members.

12. There is lack of not only general labour but also skilled labour in the earthquake areas.
13. A CD completed during the emergency phase contains various design of the transitional shelters. It was suggested that a survey should be conducted to determine which shelter has survived the harsh weather and is still durable and appropriate for living. After the evaluation the suitable design can be resurrected.
14. It has not been indicated by the Municipal Corporation in Muzaffarabad on how they will be relocating the IDP's whether it's going to be in form of pockets of families or all grouped in one area. No specific policy has yet been communicated by the government.
15. 3 Groups have been identified which may require transitional shelter: Camps of Residual caseload; Urban Groups relocated for master planning outside the city and; city dwellers.
16. The majority consensus was that there is an urgent need to address the issue of transitional shelter since there has been less work on the grounds for the shelter and accommodation. There is an urgent need of any kind of shelter whether its semi-permanent or permanent as the monsoon has already started and winter is few months away.
17. On behalf of ERRA Urban Planning, a request was made to the group to indicated interest in joining an Urban Development Coordination Group. Those interested would reply by email.
18. Also it was requested to fill up the Relief supply forms attached with the email, in order to keep track of the remaining relief supplies which can be used for contingency planning in the future.

Thanks to all for attending.