

# Settlements

**A coordinated approach to shelter, settlement and reconstruction for both displaced and non-displaced people is critical to facilitate the provision of safe, secure and appropriate living conditions and to enable the resumption of livelihoods and day-to-day living.**

Options	Benefits	Limitations
Temporary <b>individual</b> settlement and response options		
<b>Repair or rebuild own property</b>	- retains established settlements and livelihoods - uses existing infrastructure	- safety - lack of capacity
<b>Host families</b>	- often an initial preference - shared culture, support etc.	- capacity to absorb - pressure on resources - difficult to identify to support
<b>Rental</b>	- can be subsidised	- available properties or money
<b>Urban or rural self-settlement</b>	- uses unclaimed properties or land informally (squatting)	- no legal status - difficult to provide support
Temporary <b>communal</b> settlement and response options		
<b>Collective centres</b> (e.g. temples, schools)	- rapid protection - can be pre-planned response - centralised support	- not suitable for purpose - restricts schooling /worship - short-term solution
<b>Self-settled camps</b>	- keep communities together and be closer to livelihoods	- vulnerabilities of site - poor services / resources / infrastructure (schools etc.)
<b>Planned and managed camps</b>	- can coordinate services and offer protection - often last resort for refugees and IDPs	- access to appropriate land and natural resources, and livelihoods - expensive, unsustainable

## Guiding principles for shelter, settlement and reconstruction after disaster

1. A good reconstruction policy helps reactivate communities and empowers people to rebuild their housing, lives and livelihoods.
2. Engage and support communities – in all stages.
3. Reconstruction begins the day after the disaster – don't delay.
4. The community should be partners in developing the strategy and leaders of local implementation – for the most effective, cost-efficient response.
5. Strategies should be realistic in scale and invest in disaster risk reduction.
6. Coordinating mechanisms must support national institutions to optimise response – to ensure agreed single strategy, standards and implementation.
7. Responses should contribute to sustainable development and to preparedness for future disasters – consider cultural priorities.
8. Relocating communities disrupts lives, is costly and rarely successful, so it should be minimised and considered as the last option.
9. Response involves groups with different roles, capacities and priorities – affected population, government, humanitarian workers, private sector, civil society.
10. Assessment and monitoring must be continuous, coordinated, integrated and disseminated.

## Longer term issues for emergency settlements

After a few weeks, to ensure the health and well-being of the population you need to consider e.g. more sustainable and durable WASH facilities; regular monitoring and repair; recreational and educational facilities; protection issues; livelihood options.

## What support should be provided?

The type of support depends on the appropriate and safe options chosen by the affected population.

- Advocacy, legal and administrative: to support e.g. disputes over land rights
- Local information centres and mobile training teams : for rights, advice, consultation
- Market intervention: to ensure construction industry can support reconstruction
- Environmental and resource management: need to assess, plan and monitor
- Return and transit support items: for those who wish to return or relocate
- Infrastructure: to provide access to basic services (i.e. schools, health centres, markets etc.)
- Settlement planning support: to ensure an ordered distribution of the space (streets, public areas, location of public services, disaster risk reduction, transport etc.)
- Distribution of shelter materials

Adapted from 'Shelter After Disasters' © UN, DFID, Shelter Centre 2010

### Additional resources on All In Diary web site:

Urban displacement & outside of camp ©Global CCCM Cluster 2014  
Camp Design Planning & Construction Manual © UNOPS 2017

### Web links for further information

<https://www.humanitarianlibrary.org>  
Toolkit: <http://www.nrc.no/?aid=9177505#.Vio0iss6H8s>