

Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) Technical Guidance

V1. December 2018

Context

Starting with emergency distribution in September 2017, by mid-October 2018 over 212,000 of Rohingya Refugee households were assisted with emergency shelter kits (ESK - phase 1) and Upgrade Shelter Kits (USK – phase 2) with training or technical assistance to upgrade/construct their shelters. Further, at the imminent alert of the monsoon weather events, Tie Down Kit (TDK) have been distributed to over 180,000 households by mid-October and distribution is ongoing.

After intensive efforts provided in phase 1 and 2, material durability and strength of shelters is one of the main concerns of households living in existing shelters built either by beneficiaries or humanitarian agencies. Bamboo provided in ESK and USK were not treated and has a direct ground contact. Rope and tarpaulin limited lifespan was further exasperated due direct sun and rain exposure. These materials can be reutilized by the refugees yet require regular maintenance and replacement to maintain structural strength of the shelter. Privacy, security, ventilation, and kitchen and bathing spaces were also identified as priority needs.¹

Taking into account the life span of materials and limitations in regards to the availability of space, supporting transitional upgrade of current shelters with materials and technical assistance is a vital approach that will lead to a more durable and beneficiary driven shelter solutions.

Transitional Shelter Assistance as an Incremental Approach

Transitional shelter is defined as an incremental process which supports the shelter of families affected by conflicts and disasters, as they seek to maintain alternative options for their recovery.²

The characteristics of transitional shelter that are applicable in the current context are reuse of materials and future upgrade of the shelters. As such transitional shelter assistance is not ‘one-off’ shelter assistance but a planned process that includes several steps to achieve durable shelters.

This document provides guidance on how to apply this approach in the existing sties.

Households benefitting from transitional shelter assistance include:

- HHs remaining in their current locations
- HHs relocating within the existing camps, excluding those that move to sub-blocks within existing camps that have been redeveloped by site development and have a site plan (which would receive mid-term shelters)

Coordination

Implementation of any shelter program needs to be coordinated with Shelter/NFI Sector, Site Management Support Agency and RRRC/CiC. This coordination needs to include information on the households identified for the relocation, either relocation from the areas with high risks of landslides

¹ Shelter Survey, August 2018, available at:

https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/shelter_survey_august_2018.pdf

² Transitional Shelter Guidelines; Shelter Centre; 2009, available at:

<https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/Transitional-Shelter-Guidelines.pdf>

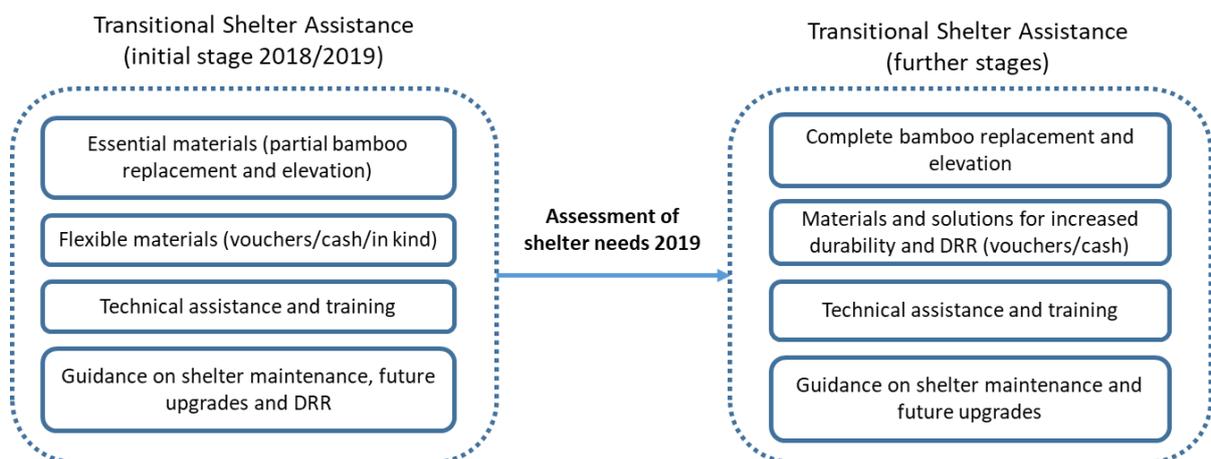
and flooding, areas identified for infrastructure, or relocation from congested areas, to avoid duplication of assistance.

For the transitional shelter assistance site planning is not required, yet it remains highly recommended. Depending on site conditions, recommended covered living space (3.5 m² per person) may not be feasible, however, insufficient space should not exclude the households from the receiving Transitional Shelter Assistance.

Transitional Shelter as a Process

Transitional shelter assistance is not aimed at replacing all materials in the existing shelter, but replacing the damaged materials, allowing for an incremental process towards more durable shelters. The TSA in 2018/2019 will also require future top-up assistance in 2020 aimed at replacing some of the material while providing additional material that will increase the durability of the shelter. This top-up assistance will need to be based on a Shelter Survey that will be carried out in late 2019.

With the provision of additional materials, training and technical assistance are needed to emphasize key messaging related to strength, durability and maintenance of the shelter.



Training and Technical Assistance

It is essential that all households receiving transitional shelter assistance also receive training. It is advisable to provide training prior to the provision of materials. Training needs to include revised Key Messages particularly raising bamboo using footings. Special attention needs to be given to the DRR features such as retention walls, drainage, bracing, tie down and fire protection (especially cooking areas). Upkeep and maintenance of shelter must be part of training as it goes a long way in ensuring durability of shelter. It is essential to ensure special trainings are provided to women. Diversity determinants (i.e. include older and disable persons) need to be considered while providing training, as all members of the community can play essential role in shelter maintenance.

For provision of technical assistance it is advisable to form groups of skilled carpenters and labourers from the same community that received training. Technical assistance for EVIs is required. Provision of technical assistance to all other beneficiaries is encouraged, however it should not be equivalent to complete construction/ reconstruction of the shelter but rather provide a technical support and transfer of knowledge.

Materials

At the core of transitional shelter approach is:

- durability of materials and strength of shelter (also achieved through construction techniques)
- freedom of the households to make their own decisions and prioritization

As such, the Transitional Shelter assistance provides two sets of materials:

- Essential materials:
 - Modality: in-kind
 - Value of materials option A: 135-185USD
 - Value of materials option B: 200-250USD
- Flexible materials:
 - Modality: voucher, cash or in-kind
 - Value of materials option A: 65-165USD
 - Value of materials option B: 50-100USD

Total value of the materials received/selected by each household falls within 200-300USD.

Essential materials need to be a part of every initial transitional shelter assistance to ensure durability of shelter. The core materials include mature treated bamboo, footings, and rope.³

The set of essential materials is intended for distribution as an in-kind kit to all the beneficiaries of transitional shelter assistance. Agency can choose between option A or B of essential materials.

Flexible materials are additional materials that were identified by households as desired/needed for the maintenance/upgrade of their shelters. Households can select from the list of suggested materials. It is essential that all materials on the flexible materials list are given as an option households can choose from.

Households can select any material on the 'flexible materials list' as long as the total value of selected materials does not exceed the intended value or the quantity limit per item.

It is highly advised that flexible materials are provided in the form of a voucher or conditional cash assistance. Some partners are planning piloting a materials shop within their distribution sites inside the camps. Households can select the materials of their choice, thus limiting selling of materials and increasing the durability of the shelters. Partners are free to explore other options while coordinating with the Sector.

Where voucher/cash assistance of flexible material is not possible, it is advisable to conduct a HH survey and FGD with the specific community that will receive assistance in order to develop a transitional shelter kit that consists of all the essential items and some flexible materials needed by the community. The kit needs to be customized based on the needs.

Communication and Protection Principles

It is essential that all shelter interventions and support is clearly communicated to the community and beneficiaries. Communication needs to include but is not limited to information about:

- type of support

³ Humanitarian Benchmark Consulting: Key findings on the use of Bamboo in the Rohingya Camps in Bangladesh, September 2018

- time and place of distribution
- time and place of training
- portering and technical assistance available
- support available to EVIs
- type and amount of materials received in kind (essential materials)
- how, which and how many materials can be selected (flexible materials)
- complaint and feedback mechanisms
- use of materials and DRR

Protection principles outlined in the Technical Guidelines for Mid-term Shelter Design are also applicable for transitional shelter support. ⁴

Environment

Use and provision of bamboo remains essential for transitional shelter support. The amount of bamboo needed has a significant impact on bamboo supply chain.

To minimize the adverse impact on the longevity of the bamboo plants as well as to increase the durability of bamboo, it is vital that:

- Bamboo is procured/harvested during dry season
- Only mature bamboo is sourced
- Mature bamboo is treated
- Bamboo is separated from ground contact

While big bamboo in the transitional shelter kit needs to be treated it is also advisable to treat medium size bamboo.

⁴ Technical Guidelines for Mid-term Shelter Design, available at:
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/final_mid-term_shelter_design_tech_guid_v1_20180610.pdf

Transitional Shelter Assistance Materials 200-300 USD (16.800-25.200 BDT)									
Essential Materials									
	#	Item	Unit	No.	Unit Cost BDT	Total Cost BDT	Specification – Description	Picture	Note
Option A	1	Treated Big Bamboo	20ft long piece	6	500-650	3,000-3,840	20ft long bottom part of mature big bamboo (<i>Borak and Baijja bansh</i>), cut in the dry season that has been treated with BB. Used for posts, wall plate and roof structure.		Essential
	2	Footing	Piece	9	750-1,200	6,750-10,800	As per Footings catalogue, include bolts, washers and nuts.		Essential
	3	Rope 6mm	kg	4	200	800	Polypropylene or similar, diameter: 6-8 mm Preferred colour: black /blue/ dark green. Woven with 2 or 3 strands, with the possibility of being unravelled.		Essential
Option B	1	Treated Big Bamboo	20ft long piece	4	500-650	2,000-2,560	20ft long bottom part of mature big bamboo (<i>Borak and Baijja bansh</i>), cut in the dry season that has been treated with BB. Used for posts, wall plate and roof structure.		Essential

	2	RC post 9ft	Piece	9	1,500-1,900	13,500 - 17,100	9-10ft long 10mm Re-bar reinforced concrete post minimum 4.5" diameter or 4.5"x4.5", concrete well compacted by vibration – good quality mixture and properly cured. With footing and holes at the bottom and top (for attaching bamboo and bracing). Minimum depth of installation 2ft underground and 6" plinth.		Essential Good quality and quality control are essential.	
	4	Rope 6mm	Kg	4	200	800	Polypropylene or similar, diameter: 6-8 mm Preferred colour: black /blue/ dark green. Woven with 2 or 3 strands, with the possibility of being unravelled.		Essential	
Flexible Materials										
#	Item	Unit	Unit Cost BDT	Max amount household can collect	Specification – Description	Picture	Note			
1	Treated Big Bamboo	20ft long piece	500-650	Unlimited	20ft long bottom part of mature big bamboo (<i>Borak and Baijja bansh</i>), cut in the dry season that has been treated with BB. Used for posts, wall plate and roof structure.					
2	Small Bamboo	14ft long piece	45	Unlimited	14ft long, mature bamboo (<i>Muli, Ora, Dolu, Talla, Pencha, Mittinga/Mita bansh</i>), cut in dry season, no insect damage					
3	Medium Bamboo (preferably treated)	20ft long piece	100	Unlimited	20ft long, mature bamboo (<i>small Borak, Muti, large Muli</i>), cut in dry season, no insect damage		Optional if available.			

4	Footing	Piece	750-1,200	Unlimited	As per Footings catalogue, include bolts, washers and nuts. If metal it needs to be painted with two layers of red oxide primer.		
7	Rope 6mm	kg	200	Unlimited	Polypropylene or similar, diameter: 6-8 mm. Preferred colour: black /blue/ dark green. Woven with 2 or 3 strands, with the possibility of being unravelled.		
8	Rope 3mm	kg	200	Unlimited	Polypropylene or similar, diameter. 3 mm diameter, length: approx. 30m, in a roll, preferred colour: black/ blue/ dark green. Woven with 2 or 3 strands, with the possibility of being unravelled.		
9	Soft rope/plastic tie rope	Bundle	20	Unlimited	PVC Rope (not flat): 1 bundle is 100 grams/200FT.		
10	GI wire	0.5 Kg	60	Unlimited	Low carbon steel, hot dip galvanised tie wire 18 or 19 gauge (1 – 1.2mm)		
11	Tarpaulin	Piece	1,200	Unlimited	Tarpaulin Size: the finished size of each sheet is 4m x 5m or 4m x 6m +/-1 %. Weight: 190g/m ² ± 20g under ISO 3801. Colour: preferably white or blue/grey, sun reflective on both sides. Inner black fibres to ensure opacity. UNHCR approved standards or similar specifications as Red Cross or UNHCR.		

12	Cement	Bag 50 Kg	490	Limited: 1	Portland Composite Cement - (Equivalent to: Lafarge/ Ruby/ Seven ring Gold)		
13	Woven bamboo screen/fence	Piece/roll	750-1,000	Unlimited	6'x10'. Good quality.		
14	U-PVC pipe	2' Long piece	8	Limited: 1	2' long piece of 2" U-PVC pipe		
15	Padlock	Piece	150	Unlimited	Small durable padlock with 2 keys		
16	Chain	Piece	250	Unlimited	Cast iron chain (min. 2 feet).		
17	Jute bag	Piece	40-65	Unlimited	Jute or geo textile bags 22 in x 38 in 100cm x 55cm (50kg bags)		

18	Claw hammer	Piece	200	Limited: 1	Weight: 16oz. (450g) Wooden handle, replaceable. Head in forged steel/high carbon steel. Good quality.		
19	Handsaw	Piece	200	Limited to: 1	Push-pull saw, 400-450mm blade, good quality, teeth from tempered and hardened steel. Unbreakable handle. Saw blade covered in protective cardboard.		
20	Hoe	Piece	260	Limited to: 1	Hot forged carbon steel, hardened and tempered, at a maximum the hardened zone should reach halfway up the back of the blade; with wooden handle.		
21	Hand drill (manual drill)	Piece	650	Limited to: 1	Manual hand drill with 3 wood drill bits (for wood/bamboo). Wood drill bit size 5/8" (16mm)-Standard Brand. Or manual 5/8" (16mm) wood drill bit with eye on the top so handle can be inserted.		
22	Machete	Piece	350	Limited to: 1	Machete for bamboo – curved end. Hot forged carbon steel, hardened and tempered 3 times curved blade, 405mm/16", lacquered against oxidation, overall length 550mm; blade thickness: 2.5mm thick; wooden or metal handle.		