

Shelter and Settlements Sector Update

OCTOBER 2015

SECTOR OVERVIEW

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) stands at the forefront of the humanitarian community's shelter and settlements (S&S) activities, which focus on a common goal: the expeditious and appropriate provision of covered living space to adequately shelter displaced populations, while also promoting safer, healthier settlements and linking emergency S&S assistance to longer-term development efforts. USAID/OFDA contributes to the international humanitarian community's broader S&S strategic framework through participation in the Shelter and Settlements Working Group (SSWG)—an open membership group hosted by InterAction—and the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP). USAID/OFDA also participates in Global Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster activities.¹ In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$51 million for humanitarian S&S assistance and shelter-related risk reduction activities, including approximately \$50 million for S&S interventions in 22 countries and nearly \$900,000 for global and regional S&S initiatives. In addition, USAID/OFDA allocated more than \$2.7 million to purchase more than 7,500 rolls of plastic sheeting—sufficient to provide emergency shelter assistance for 75,000 households.

PROGRAMMING: ENGAGED IN RESPONSES AROUND THE WORLD

USAID/OFDA S&S advisors deployed throughout FY 2015 to serve on USAID Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs), conduct field assessments, design sector strategies, and monitor project activities. Travel to crisis-affected areas entailed conducting land and housing market analyses to better understand impacts, needs, and resources, as well as engaging with affected populations, cluster lead agencies, host country institutions, and implementing partners. S&S advisors served on DARTs in Jordan, Nepal, South Sudan, and Turkey, where they helped ensure timely and efficient access to shelter and developed strategies to improve the living conditions of disaster-affected populations. An S&S advisor also served as response manager for the D.C.-based Nepal Earthquake Response Management Team, coordinating with the DART and USAID/OFDA leadership to enhance S&S sector awareness and appropriately respond to a disaster that resulted in nearly 900,000 damaged or destroyed homes. In response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, an S&S advisor guided the development of a new S&S strategy that better accounts for the unpredictable conditions and multiple displacements experienced by many households; allows for an improved data collection and assessment framework; and prioritizes multi-sector interventions.

TRAINING: ONE-DAY COURSE, ONLINE COURSE, AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Throughout FY 2015, S&S advisors periodically conducted a one-day USAID/OFDA S&S training course for staff from USAID/OFDA and other humanitarian organizations. Additionally, in coordination with the SSWG, USAID/OFDA developed an online version of the course, which launched in April 2015. As of September, nearly 4,000 people from more than 85 countries had accessed the free online course, which is available at disasterready.org,² interaction.org,³ and youtube.com.⁴

¹ The cluster system is the sectoral coordinating mechanism for humanitarian activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other actors.

² Available at: <https://disasterready.csod.com/LMS/LoDetails/DetailsLo.aspx?loid=486443e1-c9d2-4944-9cb2-b4ef9dda4f9d#t=1>

³ Available at: <http://www.interaction.org/training/USAID-OFDA-shelter-settlements-training-course>

⁴ Available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbRqnzU5sYU&list=PLwd9RNeX-axesddWYR184BrIVPIvla_c6

USAID/OFDA advisors also presented on a multitude of S&S topics for various organizations during FY 2015, including the Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development, the Government of Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Harvard University Humanitarian Response Intensive Course, and the Canadian NGO Forum.

POST-PROJECT REVIEW: SHELTER INTERVENTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful typhoons to make landfall in recorded history, struck the Philippines in November 2013, killing approximately 6,300 people and damaging or destroying an estimated 1.1 million homes. The typhoon severely affected the Eastern Visayas Region, particularly Tacloban—the most populous city in the region. USAID/OFDA supported several organizations, including Plan International, to provide emergency humanitarian assistance in Tacloban following the storm.

Working closely with the affected population, Plan International identified and implemented a number of S&S interventions to respond strategically to diverse shelter requirements. With USAID/OFDA support, Plan International adopted a neighborhood approach to address multi-sector needs in a dense urban setting, focusing on S&S, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities. The following “before and after” images illustrate the Plan International-led transformation of typhoon-damaged housing and the use of two-story transitional shelters to maximize living space.



November 2013; photo courtesy of Plan International



March 2015; photo courtesy of Plan International

OUTREACH

Lectures

S&S advisors lectured at several events and institutions, including the World Humanitarian Summit Urban Expert Group Meeting, the UK Shelter Forum, the Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development, the InterAction Forum, Cornell University College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and the University of California, Davis.

Publication of Articles on S&S Issues

- “Supporting Host Families as Shelter Options,” by Charles Setchell and Eddie Argenal.⁵
- “Three Takeaways from the Forum 2015 Session on ‘Expanding Impact, One Settlement at a Time,’” by Charles Setchell.⁶
- “Riding the Growth Bubble in an Increasingly Urban World,” by Charles Setchell.⁷
- “USAID Arrives in Nepal, Earthquake Response Efforts Begin,” by Charles Setchell.⁸

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⁵ Available at: http://www.sheltercasestudies.org/shelterprojects2013-2014/SP13-14_B04-HostFamilies.pdf

⁶ Available at: <http://www.interaction.org/newsroom/blog/confessions-forum-moderator-three-takeaways>

⁷ Available at: <https://blog.usaid.gov/2015/05/riding-the-growth-bubble-in-an-increasingly-urban-world/>

⁸ Available at: <https://blog.usaid.gov/2015/04/usaaid-arrives-in-nepal-earthquake-response-efforts-begin/>