

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS SECTOR UPDATE – JUNE 2010

SECTOR OVERVIEW

USAID/OFDA is at the forefront of the humanitarian community's shelter and settlements activities, all of which revolve around a common goal: the expeditious and appropriate provision of covered living space to adequately shelter displaced populations. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$40 million in humanitarian shelter assistance and shelter-related risk reduction activities in 12 countries, compared to \$33.5 million in FY 2008. Between October 2009 and May 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$81 million for shelter and settlements projects in nine countries, including Burkina Faso, Chile, El Salvador, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Yemen. USAID/OFDA also continues to contribute to the broader shelter and settlements strategic framework within the international humanitarian community, including current support of the Sphere Project handbook revision effort.

HAITI: SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, BUT CHALLENGES REMAIN

USAID/OFDA adopted a shelter and settlements sector strategy shortly after the devastating January 12, 2010, earthquake struck southern Haiti, which formed the basis for the development of a nearly \$77 million USAID/OFDA shelter program. This program contributed significantly to meeting the May 1 international deadline to provide some form of basic shelter assistance, primarily two pieces of plastic sheeting, to an estimated 300,000 earthquake-affected households. In addition, the program provides support to more than 100,000 households with a range of activities, including transitional shelter, home repair, habitability assessments, and host family/community support. Roughly half of this effort will entail provision of transitional shelter. Despite significant progress, land availability and land tenure issues are slowing the overall shelter provision effort. With conventional means of accessing land yielding limited results, a concerted effort will be needed to identify public, Diaspora, religious, and private lands to facilitate shelter provision, perhaps through land sharing agreements linked to rubble removal.

INDONESIA: POST-EARTHQUAKE PROVISION OF TRANSITIONAL SHELTER KEY TO RECOVERY OF AFFECTED SETTLEMENTS

On September 30, 2009, a magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck off the coast of West Sumatra, killing more than 1,100 people and injuring more than 3,000 others. Nearly 250,000 houses were damaged by the earthquake, including 114,797 houses assessed as heavily damaged. In response, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$4 million in transitional shelter assistance, including support for a project implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Walhi, a local non-governmental organization, targeting nearly 1,600 households. The project provided cash grants, valued at \$267, to help beneficiaries salvage building materials from damaged homes. The project, which is being completed on schedule and budget, also generated Sphere-compliant shelter. In addition, CRS and Walhi are spending nearly 75 percent of the project budget in the affected economy, helping beneficiary households and others to take charge of their own recovery.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS SECTOR RESOURCES

Recent activities have included organization of "Year in Review" and Haiti response workshops; a publication on shelter responses to urban displacement in *Monday Developments* (October 2009) and *Humanitarian Exchange Magazine* (December 2009); and lectures, including a Skype presentation to the Incremental Housing Group at MIT (May 2010). Additional information is available at:

http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/sectors/shelter.html

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