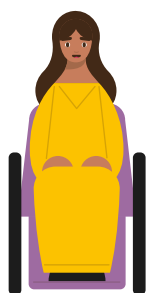




Shelter

Empowering young people in Shelter-related assessments and responses is one of the key strategies for disaster preparedness. It helps to build goodwill among community members towards young people and may ensure that a project has deeper and more lasting impacts. Young people should understand the risks to their dwellings and communities, and they need opportunities to help improve overall living conditions and their security of tenure prior to, during and after emergencies. Failure to include young women, especially adolescent girls, in Shelter can do real harm. Overcrowding can exacerbate community tensions, domestic violence, sexual assault and child marriage.

Shelters that are poorly designed or sited on the perimeter of camps may increase the risk of sexual harassment and assault. Inadequate distribution of fuel, building materials, etc., may force young women to trade sex for these items. Insecure tenure – due to the absence of or unclear rental agreements – is especially a problem for young people, who may not be used to advocating for their rights nor have knowledge of what those rights are. Because of social norms for young people to defer to older parties, they may need support to exercise and claim their rights in the event of a dispute with a landowner (see [TIP SHEET ON HLP](#)). Without shelter assistance and assistance to secure land tenure, young people can be subject to exploitation or reside in dangerous spaces.¹⁹¹



"Can you provide youth with opportunities to acquire the skills, and the basic tools, needed in order to be able to maintain their own shelter?"



Tip sheet

Key actions for Shelter programming at each stage of the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC)

HPC phases	What to do	Tips for young people's participation
Needs assessment and analysis 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Conduct an assessment on the differing Shelter needs of young people, and analyse the data disaggregated by sex, age and disability. → Recognize the assets of older youth (aged 18 and above) in the needs assessment by analysing how they were previously involved in Shelter responses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Hold consultations – grouped by age and sex of participants – with a diverse cross-section of young people to identify needs and challenges related to Shelter.
Strategic planning 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Ensure that the Shelter response plan addresses the needs and priorities of young people identified during the needs assessment, and from other relevant data on young people. → Directly link the project activities and outcomes in the Shelter response plan to ways to address the specific needs of young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Facilitate youth participation in strategic planning to enable them to identify and mitigate risks in the Shelter response plan.
Resource mobilization 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Gather information and key messages on the needs of adolescents and youth in reports to influence Shelter funding priorities. → Report on gaps in funding for adolescent and youth Shelter programming to donors and other humanitarian agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Work with young people to develop key advocacy messages for Shelter funding. → Seek young people's views and feedback, especially on how their needs are being addressed and how they are being engaged in Shelter programming, when developing proposals and reports for donors and partners.

HPC phases

What to do

Tips for young people's participation

Implementation and monitoring

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- Implement Shelter programmes that address the needs of young people, and that harness the skills and interests of older youths (aged 18 and above).
- Inform young people of available Shelter opportunities and resources and involve them in Shelter education and campaigns.
- Ensure that Shelter responses support adolescent girls' and young women's safety and privacy: provide private space to change clothes and manage menstruation; prevent overcrowding; ensure girls do not sleep in the same space as fathers, brothers or people outside the family; provide lighting and locks in toilets, and safe access and proximity to toilet sites.
- Ensure appropriate toilet facilities for transgender young people.
- Develop and maintain a feedback mechanism for young people to provide their perspectives on the effectiveness and quality of Shelter programmes.
- Provide Livelihoods opportunities and skills training for young people within Shelter programming, such as construction, distribution, etc., as well as in related sectors, such as Livelihoods, Education and Protection.

- Consult a diverse cross-section of young people on implementation of Shelter programmes, such as the location and construction of new shelters, and environmentally sustainable local shelter materials.
- Involve young people in continual monitoring of whether and how access to shelter is causing tension in the community, and support dialogue among diverse groups to find solutions.
- Mitigate barriers to participation faced by young people (e.g., childcare, income-generating activities, limited mobility) that could restrict engagement in consultations.

Operational peer review and evaluation

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- Review projects within the Shelter response plan to assess to what extent the needs of adolescents and youth were effectively addressed through humanitarian programming.
- Document and share good practices on addressing the needs of young people in Shelter.

- Facilitate the participation of young people in project reviews.