Humanitarian Shelter Guidelines: Indonesian Version

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HUMANITARIAN SHELTER GUIDELINES
(INDONESIAN VERSION)

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ABSTRACT

No one can avoid disasters that could happen to anyone, anywhere, and anytime. Disasters might destoy people's homes which are the primary need of human being. Therefore, people affected by disaster need new shelters to live in. Providing a shelter is not merely building a structure. However, shelter is a process of providing a better place for people especially those who are affected by disasters. Shelters and settlement assistance need to support a secure, dignified, and comfortable life. Ministry of Social Affairs Republic of Indonesia, coordinating with Indonesian Red Cross Society, published the Humanitarian Shelter Guidelines book in Indonesian version. This book contains informations regarding the basic understanding and paradigm of shelter, leading to determining the needs of shelters, guidelines on designing and planning shelter programs, implementing shelters and exit strategy, monitoring, and evaluating shelter and settlement assistance. All the informations completes the main purpose of providing better shelter for population affected by disaster. Therefore, this book is inclusively a pertinent reference to improve humanitarian shelter in Indonesia and worldwide.

Keywords: Humanitarian; Shelter Guidelines; Shelter Program; Post Disaster

INTRODUCTION

Shelter is one of the most crucial needs for survivors when disasters had occurred and destroyed homes. Providing shelter and settlement assistance is a complex and holistic actions. It involves discussion and coordination with many sectors. Therefore, this book becomes the guidelines to provide better shelter services for the disaster's survivors through supporting a secure, dignified, and comfortable life. This guidelines are not about a technical document of how to design and construct shelter physically. Moreover, the book guides the sheltering process, starting from defining the needs of shelter, planning the shelter program, implementing it, monitoring, and evaluating. The book does not emphasize on the technicality, but aims to give the big picture of the main concept behind the effective and relevant supports (Kemensos & PMI, 2019, p. 15). Below are the content lists:

- Chapter 1 (Overview) explains the helpful tips to use the book, background, acknowledgements, and glossary.
- Chapter 2-5 (Understanding) describes shelter, vulnerability, sustainable & settlements, participation & accountability.
- Chapter 6-8 (Determining Needs) explains disaster profile, assessments, housing and settlement typology.
- Chapter 9-13 (Designing a Program) explains program design, targeting shelter assistance, assistance types, implementation modalities, shelter sub-programs.
- Chapter 14-16 (Implementing) explains managing a shelter program, basic construction principles, closing a program.
- Chapter 17 (Monitoring, Evaluation Accountability and Learning) states the practical the tools and questions examples.

I. Understanding Shelter

The beginning of this chapter refers to the 10 core principals of the Red Cross Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief. These principals become the starting point of providing appropriate humanitarian shelter services for survivors. However, the Sphere handbook based shelter and settlement to The Humanitarian Charter, including the Protection Principles and Core Humanitarian Standards (Sphere Association, 2018, p.248). These two different bases complement each other as both are developed from moral principle of humanity.

This chapter then followed by shelter standard before going to the meaning of 'shelter' in general. The definition of shelter uses understandable and straight-to-the-point dictions. That simple-to-analyse-paragraph then slightly gets deeper by questioning the readers if all physical structures can be used as a shelter, then what makes a shelter habitable or inhabitable (Kemensos & PMI, 2019, p. 28).

The questions leads the journey of defining shelter's paradigm that it is not merely a building, but a process of providing a better place for people affected by disasters. All the shelters and settlement assistances must be based on the needs of the community, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable people. The authors then explain vulnerability using a simple mind map diagram which help readers to visualize the concept. This mind map diagram format is often found in the beginning of every sub-chapters to depict points the authors want to elaborate.

This book includes tables of the shelter checklists about each types of vulnerabilities. The checklists contain what could potentially become the obstacles from preparedness, response, recovery, until reconstruction phases. It also adds how to overcome each obstacles in every

phases. The information is gathered from the related case study of disasters that has happened. This makes the data become reliable for readers.

II.   Determining the Needs of Shelters

Transitioning to this part, the book displays a breath-taking photograph taken by Fabian Prideaux. This photograph shows unsanitary shelters where garbage are piled up below the floating shelters. However, this juxtaposing image and title show how significant the determination of shelter needs. The right determinations of shelter needs will lead to the right plans of shelter programs. Additionally, the 'undeserving' settlement, depicted by the photo, has proven that providing shelter is more than providing the building itself. There are human behaviour and culture factors that have to be considered.

The authors explain the need of shelters through seven factors, including the disaster profile, housing typology before disaster, housing typology after disaster, environmental, social-cultural context, assistance from government, and community coping capacity. This book shows consistent method of gathering information by using case study to compile the guidelines. The case studies are listed briefly with the information of the country, year, and type of disaster.

III. Designing Shelter Program

The authors identify five steps to plan a shelter program. The steps focus on the target, type of assistance, implementation modalities, subprogram, and finally implementation. The first thing to notice is that humanitarian shelter focuses on human, which includes the consideration of the vulnerable people. The authors also emphasize that shelter program has to make all survivors, including the vulnerable people, to be independent, not become more dependent to the assistances. The shelter and settlement assistance has to help the community to survive and have more sustainable life during and after transitioning.

Listing the various types of vulnerable people, the book also suggests readers to have discussion with the community including the vulnerable people. The design of shelter program has to be inclusive. This will help reducing the mistrust and possible conflict in the future (Kemensos & PMI, 2019, p. 126).

The book concludes five different types of shelter assistance for the affected people. Each types of assistance is complemented with practical examples based on case studies. Shelter assistance can be given through several types of implementation modalities. Each types are discussed by providing the pros and cons. The book also concludes examples of shelter subprograms. This will help readers to independently compare which subprogram will work the best to assist community affected by disaster.

IV. Implementation

The shelter implementation requires a cycle process of coordination and information management. This also means that shelter program cannot stand alone. It is integrated with many elements, for example sanitation, food nutrition, education, security, also livelihood (Kemensos & PMI, 2019, p. 181). This part of the book continues with the basic construction guidelines. This covers the strong building forms, roofing, room organizations, foundations, structure, and building materials. However, the authors suggest to consult with architects and/or engineers in designing the best shelter structure in the specific area. The guidelines are

complemented with useful diagrams, illustrations, and photographs which give more visual understanding towards the authors' ideas. The authors also add the exit strategy explanations and asset management planning. It is important for people who live in shelters to know when and how the transitioning process will end (Sphere Association, 2018, p. 258). In another words, they need to know the upcoming step of their life after staying in shelters. Shelter and settlement assistance process will end with monitoring and evaluation phase, in order to return to the cycle process.

CONCLUSION

Overall, this guideline book has accomplished its purpose on helping humanity sectors to provide shelter for population affected by disaster. Its simple dictions has increased its inclusivity from students to practitioners to easily understand the materials. The book gives numerous case studies, examples, pros and cons, further references, diagrams, illustrations, and photographs to help authors expressing the ideas. The authors provide pages to explain how to use the guideline books and glossary to understand unfamiliar terms. The table of content also groups each chapter with colours. This enables a better visual recognitions by design. However, it might be more accommodating if the authors provide additional table to compile all the case study references and possibly provide the URLs to read more about each cases. Therefore, the table will help readers if they want to learn deeper on the specific topic.

There are some minor detail of the inconsistent punctuation uses, especially for some sentences inside the tables (e.g., p. 35, 46, 47, 55, 57, 59). There is found a blank cell which is unknown if it is emptied on purpose (p. 55). Despite of the criticisms, this book is an excellent reference to facilitate multidiscipline readers to possibly propose ideas in the future in order to improve humanitarian shelter in Indonesia and worldwide.

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