B.7  India, Gujarat - 2001 - Earthquake

Case study:  NFIs and shelter construction

See Shelter Projects 2008 for more

Project type:  Non food item distribution
**Self build transitional shelters**  Technical support

Disaster:  Gujarat Earthquake, 26 Jan 2001

Houses damaged by disaster:  
- 180,536 completely destroyed,
- 913,297 partially damaged

Project target population:  
- Over 23,000 families

Occupancy rate on handover:  
- Unknown

Shelter size  
- 10m²
- Approximately (4m x 2½m)

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**Project timeline**

- 36 hours – Earthquake
- 26th Jan 2001
- Assessment begins
- 1 week – Begin distributions
- 2 months – All of initial management team have left
- 10 months – Shelter programme distributions complete.
- NFI distribution complete

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Summary:

An international organisation worked in partnership with a network of 22 local organisations to rapidly implement an NFI distribution programme followed by a transitional shelter programme. More than 27,000 shelters were built. By working with local organisations, existing networks and local knowledge could be used to deliver materials effectively and to help construct shelters on a very large scale. The speed and scale of the programme combined with the different approaches of the international and the national organisations led to a lack of paper work that the donors required.

These school buildings were adapted from the transitional shelters. The low walls reduced the risk of masonry falling on occupants during future earthquakes.

Photo: Chris Cattaway
**B.8 Indonesia, Aceh - 2004 - Tsunami, earthquake**

**Case study:** Shelter or housing?

- **Project type:**
  - Emergency NFI distribution
  - Land rights advocacy
  - Housing
- **Disaster:**
  - Earthquake followed by Tsunami.
- **Houses damaged by disaster:**
  - 252,000 destroyed or partially destroyed, all within 5km of the coast
- **Project target population:**
  - 1,564 houses created in 28 villages in 7 regions.
  - All with house ownership certificates Land titles or certificates
- **Occupancy rate on handover:**
  - 95% in comparison to 79% for all of Aceh
  - Shelter size 36m² per family. All with additional water / sanitation facilities

**Project timeline**

- 3 years – Last houses handed over
- 2 years – Partners complete all houses
- 1 year – Rebuild low quality houses
- 1 year – Partners begin
- 50% of houses complete
- 1 year – Shelter designs revised
- 5 months – 1600 houses promised
- 3 months – Construction begins
- 3 months – 1200 houses promised
- 2 weeks – Shelter planning begins
- 2 weeks – Emergency phase over
- 2 weeks – Distribution begins
- 2 weeks – Earthquake and tsunami
- December 2004 –

**Summary**

This programme began with the concept of community built ‘transitional’ timber framed shelters, managed and implemented by the community over a period of months. Due to challenges of procuring legal or sustainable timber, local politics, the availability of significant funds and the number of other NGOs working in the area, the project evolved into a programme building houses made from reinforced concrete and brick. The programme lasted over three years. Towards the end of the programme, many of the shelters were built by partner organisations.

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One of the completed shelters in Sigli, Aceh.

Photo Joseph Ashmore