

C.11 India - 1971 - Conflict refugees

Case study: Camp planning guidelines

Case study credit: CUNY Center
See Shelter Projects 2008 for more

Disaster:

Civil War in Bangladesh (then, East Pakistan). People were displaced into West Bengal

Disaster date:

Start 26th March 1971

Project type:

Distribution of building materials with training support

People displaced by disaster:

10,000,000

Project target population:

7 camps, each of between 15,000 and 20,000 people, with one camp designed to be extendable for up to 300,000 people

Occupancy rate on handover:

100%

Shelter size

Various



Project timeline



Summary:

The project worked directly on the implementation of various projects in the camps. These included setting up materials workshops to drainage excavation, and also implemented camp layout strategies, from which a set of guidelines of basic camp planning principles was written later that year.

Refugee camps were designed in decentralised 'village' groupings. Construction and upgrading was undertaken in three phases: first, meeting basic needs, second, sustainable upgrading and third maintenance of the camps. Emphasis was given first to sanitation and public health issues, and then to the emotional and social well-being of the inhabitants. From the lessons learned in this response, the first ever humanitarian camp planning guidelines were developed.



Clustered camp plan
Image source: Cuny Center