**Case study:** Shelters and camp planning

**Bangladesh - 1975 - Conflict displaced**

**Project type:**
Cyclone-resistant shelters in camps for the displaced.

**Disaster:**
Bangladesh war of independence, 1971

**Number of people displaced:**
Hundreds of thousands.

**Project target population:**
Three camps.

**Occupancy rate on handover:**
100%

**Shelter size**
Various

**Project timeline**

- Programme evaluation
- Construction period
- Consultation with camp stakeholders
- Field testing of shelter prototypes
- Design of shelter and construction process
- Displacement of Biharis into camps
- End of Bangladesh War of Independence
- Biharis displaced to Bangladesh

**Summary**
Long-term camps for displaced stateless populations were upgraded using cyclone-resistant shelter designs made from local materials, in order to re-organise and upgrade small camps along community-cluster designs.

**Strengths and weaknesses**

✓ Shelters made from local materials were successfully designed to withstand strong winds.
✓ Small clusters of shelters allowed for privacy and for community support.
✓ Reorganisation of camp layout gave more personal outdoor space to each family, and allowed for better drainage.

✓ Implementation was quick, due to use of locally available materials.
✗ A-frame design was structurally sound but reduced indoor space, and made extension of shelter difficult.
✗ Lack of involvement of target population in design process resulted in lower levels of beneficiary satisfaction post-occupancy.