

~~SECTION B.~~ ASSEMBLY AND ASSESSMENT OF EXPERIENCE TO DATE: Emergency Shelter
(by Davis, Cuny, Krimgold)

1. Listing of Specific Shortcomings

- 1.1 Major Gaps in Knowledge
- 1.2 What are the Most Common Questions
- 1.3 Where do Problems Occur
- 1.4 What do People Need
- 1.5 What do Field Staff Need

1.1 MAJOR GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

- 1. The gaps are mostly linkages.
- 2. Little information on the relationship of relief and reconstruction to development - what are the direct cause and effect linkages and relationships?
- 3. What are the different responses required by different types of disasters?
- 4. What is the relative value of shelter in the whole relief/reconstruction picture?
- 5. Performance data is very sketchy, especially: (a) documentation of effectiveness of different approaches; (b) performance of professional staff over volunteers; (c) performance of "relief" organizations vs. "development" organizations; (d) cost of effectiveness of crash programs.
- 6. Lack of hard data on program philosophies.
- 7. What are the best types of organizations to respond to a shelter/housing need, local and expatriate?
- 8. Where can professional; technical assistance be best employed?
- 9. What types of existing mechanisms are in developing societies to meet emergency needs? How do we identify them, support them?
- 10. How do we determine real costs in shelter/housing systems, especially when using indigenous materials?
- 11. How do we develop realistic and enforceable building codes or performance standards?
- 12. What are the most effective means of controlling material prices?
- 13. How much effect does the emphasis of a sponsoring organization have on the approach chosen for a housing program? (e.g., OXFAM & co-ops).
- 14. How can experience be communicated at all levels?

1.2 WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS

1.2.1 FIELD

- A. How do we determine the real priorities? What are the options?
- B. Do we work through existing groups or form new ones?
- C. If we work through existing groups, how do we select the right one?
- D. If we start a new one, what is the best type to form?

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1.2.1. FIELD continued

- E. How do we ensure that these groups are not overextended?
- F. How do we organize without getting busted?
- G. How much money should be put into community participation, and how do we do it without developing a dependency relationship?
- H. How much do we really have?
- I. What do we bring in?
- J. How do we distribute it? Mechanism & pay, subsidized or free?
- K. How do we make sure people do not become dependent upon us?
- L. What are the advantages/disadvantages of short-term vs. long-term programs?
- M. How much integration is necessary? (IRDP)
- N. Where can outsiders be most effective?
- O. How do we determine the priorities of people and balance them with the priorities of the donor organizations?
- P. How do we set standards for new structures, and how do we enforce them?
- Q. What is the best method for communicating/teaching new technologies?

1.2.2 FIELD OFFICE

- A. How much leeway do we give to the field staff?
- B. How do we justify this to the home office?
- C. What is the best method of controlling the program?

1.2.3 DONOR ROLE - QUESTIONS BY OTHER AGENCIES & GOVERNMENTS

- 1. What is the best response we can make to shelter needs?
- 2. Can we plan in advance of a disaster?
- 3. How can we capitalize on media coverage at disaster events in the area of shelter provision?
- 4. How can we educate the aid-giving public to real, rather than their perceived needs of disaster victims?
- 5. How to counteract the emphasis of misleading press coverage?
- 6. Should we buy in own country & fly it in or purchase locally?

1.2.4 UNDR0

- 1. Should we advise countries to stockpile, if so, what; where and in what quantities?
- 2. How to coordinate, often unwilling, relief agencies.

1.2.5 DESIGNERS

- 1. Do we have any role in designing any item of hardware? If so what is it?
- 2. If not, what is our role?

SECTION B. CONTINUED

1.2.6 MANUFACTURERS

1. Is there any validity in the manufacture, and possible stockpiling of emergency shelter provision?

1.3 WHERE DO PROBLEMS OCCUR?

1. FIELD

- A. Selection and/or development of local organizations.
- B. Funding of local organizations.
- C. Funding of communities.
- D. Creation of dependency relationship of people on delivery of relief services and materials.
- E. Convincing volunteer staff to slow down.
- F. Liaison with local government.
- G. Selection of program components.
- H. Phasing and timing of programs.
- I. Quality control when introducing new building methods, especially in large programs.
- J. Balancing mass production with self-help.

2. FIELD OFFICE

- A. Field office- field staff communications.
- B. Field office - headquarters communications.
- C. Field office - local government communications without consultation with field staff.
- D. Liaison with local government.
- E. Balancing requests with funds and priorities.

3. HEADQUARTERS

- A. Balancing donor expectations with program needs.
- B. Communicating program to the general public.
- C. Remaining "independent" of foreign policy.

4. GENERAL

- A. Relationship of relief and reconstruction to development - direct cause and effect linkages and relationships.

1.4 WHAT DO PEOPLE NEED?

1. Improvement in the performance of their structures.
2. Improvement in sites and services.
3. In exposure-risk environments, rapid delivery of systems.
4. Systems they can afford.
5. Systems they can afford to maintain.
6. Systems compatible with their lifestyle.
7. Systems within their technological capabilities.
8. Protection from inflation.
9. Safeguards that their interests are the priority.

1.5 WHAT DO FIELD STAFF NEED?

1. A mechanism, methodology or framework to assist in decision-making.
2. A means of examining the range of options.
3. Quick access to information - technical, managerial, etc.
4. Quick access to technical assistance.