**Introduction**

A series of FGDs and KIIs with different groups within the affected and hosting population should be undertaken as part of any Needs Assessment. It is important not to skip this step as not only will observations alone will not give us the full picture, listening to and engaging with targeted communities at the early stages of a project will lead to better relations and the selection of appropriate assistance options.

**Methodology**

Consultations should ensure representation of different groups, this will mean organizing separate FGDs for women and girls and creating space to discuss the impacts on the elderly and people living with disability. In general, it is recommended to organise;

* FGDs with potential beneficiaries in different geographical locations;
* FGDs with potential host communities in different geographical locations;
* FGDs with local skilled labourers in the different geographical locations; and
* KIIs with relevant stakeholders (cluster, local government, etc.) to gauge their opinion on the proposed approach, case load, appropriateness, etc.

For further guidance on designing and implementing FGDs it is recommended to refer to ‘Focus Group Discussions – A Practical Guide’, CRS, 2018.



**General questions**

Through FGDs and KIIs you will better define your understanding of the needs and preferences of the affected groups with respect to the type of assistance needed and the preferred modality. The following questions provide a basis for understanding the local context. This list of questions included in your FGD/KII will need to be selected based on the situation on the ground.

* **How are affected populations living at the moment?**
	+ Location and the type of sheltering solution (dispersed/ concentrated, urban/rural, hosted, renting, makeshift, formal camps, unused building, collective centers)
	+ What type of materials are people using for structures?
	+ How are they obtaining them? What are the key issues/risks? Are the able to salvage or locally source any materials?
	+ What is the market availability of materials from the perspective of the community?Can you still buy some materials e.g. CGI, nails, wood, plastic sheet, bamboo? Where? How are materials paid for/transported?
* **What was the living situation in their place of origin?** (What type of home? Self-constructed? etc.)?
* **What is the typical household composition**?
	+ Are the men staying with their original property / protecting livelihoods within the conflict area?
	+ Are there relatives left behind in the conflict area, such as the elderly?
	+ Is there a higher percentage of women headed households then you commonly encounter?
* **Which groups need most assistance?**
	+ Are any groups more vulnerable than others? Who’s getting left behind? Who are experiencing the worst conditions? **Note**: It will be important to triangulate this information.
* **What is the intention of the affected community, what is their longer-term plans for where they want to live?**
	+ Is it permanent or temporary displacement (is there a foreseeable timeframe for IDPs/refugees to return)? How do IDPs/refugees perceive their displacement? Do they expect that they can return?
* **What sheltering options are available within the community?**
	+ What options does the hosting community want to offer?
	+ What sheltering options do people (IDPs, returnees) want to choose from?
	+ What type of land is available (larger sites or individual plots)?
	+ What materials are people familiar with? What skills exist within the local area?
* **What are the specific needs of the host community needs?**
* **What are the main social dynamics within the community?**
	+ How do people prefer to cluster/structure settlements?
	+ Is there tension between refugees/IDP’s, returnees and the hosting community?
* **Which type of intervention makes the most sense at this moment?** Emergency solutions, transitional solution or permanent solutions?

NOTE: Assistance options commonly implemented by CRS are outlined here (provide link to assistance options pages of EFOM) but it is important to test options with the community e.g. would beneficiaries feel confident/safe in procuring materials direct from vendors or managing/paying skilled labor?

* **Which of these sheltering options are feasible for CRS to support?**
	+ What modality do potential beneficiaries prefer?
	+ What modality is feasible for CRS and partners to implement?
* **Are there any protection / safety concerns in and around the home?**
	+ Do people feel safe in their current home (living space)? What is it that makes you feel safe / unsafe. Note: Probe for topics such as: (lack of) doors, windows, locks, lighting.
	+ Do you feel safe in your current neighborhood/city/settlement?What is it that makes you feel safe / unsafe?Note: Probe for topics such as natural hazards, presence of boundary walls, guards, police, certain groups, dark places in the streets, distance to the toilet, etc.

**Exploration questions with respect to different assistance options**

**Option Hosting**

Hosting can be sharing a house, but it can also be allowing an IDP or refugee family to stay on your land in a different structure, etc.

* Are people living in a host family situation?
	+ Are the host family situations (at least) up the Sphere Standards (for water, shelter, sanitation, etc.) for both the displaced and the host family?
* Is the host community willing to host?
	+ Under what conditions are they willing to host?
* If support were given to the host families, how long will it be (culturally) acceptable to host / live with a host?
* If there is hosting already what kind of arrangements are there, such as paying some household bills, what is a realistic timeframe for hosting within a home?

**Option Renting**

* Are the IDPs interested in living in a rental unit?
* Are rental units available?
* What is the average rental price for a Sphere-compliant (WASH & shelter) unit for a family of average size? Note: This figure might be very hard to get, community might be the best source of information for the informal rental market.

**Option Transitional Shelter construction support**

*Location*

* Can you find land that you could live on for at least 2 years?
	+ If yes, what would be the conditions for you to be able to live there (pay rent? Pay bribe? Would family/acquaintance lend it to you? Government interference?)
* If no, can other stakeholders (government, CRS, etc.) identify land that IDPs could (temporarily) live on? Either on a plot-by-plot basis or larger sites.

Note: **Before** offering transitional shelter construction support as an option we must consider the implication this may have. For example, when constructing transitional sites, could they easily become a target in the conflict? And if the displacement protracts the transitional sites can become more permanent than originally planned, which we will have to anticipate for when designing and developing the transitional site noting also that transitional sites create separation rather than integration.

*Design of the shelter solution*

* Will we be assisting different ethnic groups? If so, are there different living practices between the different groups?For example, for many Muslims, the presence of a boundary wall around the compound is almost more important than what the home looks like, because the boundary wall determines the space in which women can move around without their veil.
* Which type of homes will be acceptable for each group and each condition? If possible, bring photos of options to rank and confirm which designs/approaches are appropriate.
* Shelter construction techniques:
	+ Who generally builds (hired labour? self-construction?)?
	+ Seasonality – can construction happen all-year round?
	+ Where do you generally get your construction materials?
	+ Which tools are widely available in town?
	+ What is the community’s trust in the labour’s capacity and vice-versa? And is there a need for training/technical assistance of labours and/or community members?
	+ Would beneficiaries feel confident/safe in procuring materials direct from vendors or managing/paying skilled labor?

**Option Returning Home**

* Are there any land issues for returnees?
* Is there political marginalization that makes people more vulnerable?
* If people are in their place of origin, are there ongoing hazards that make it unsafe to remain?
* If people are displaced, do they want to return to their place of origin, integrate in current place of displacement or relocate to a third location? What factors may affect their ability to pursue their preferred solution? What is their intention in terms of shelter?
* If people expect to be return or be displaced again in the short term do they want take materials with them?

**Option Settlement Assistance**

* For each of the potential location where shelter solutions can be offered it needs to be researched if this location can offer the settlement facilities that the community needs (schools, health centers, public transport, water, sewage, markets, livelihoods, etc.), taking into consideration that the current community will also need to be able to keep using these facilities.
* Access to schools is likely to be high on the agenda for families so might be worth getting a good understanding about any issues specifically about this.

**Option NFI assistance**

* Aside from shelter, is there a need for NFI assistance now or in the foreseeable future? Options may include household items including blankets and mattresses, cooking equipment and clothing and shelter winterization items.

**Other issues to consider**

**Housing, land and property (HLP) rights**

* Do affected people own land in the place of displacement?
* Can affected people own land in the place of displacement?
* Who should be the owner of this shelter? And under which conditions is that acceptable to the different groups?
* Is any rental land available and is the host community willing to rent to the IDPs? What types of rental land? Displacement sites or individual plots?
* What are the land tenure options that we will face during the program?

When looking at HLP issues is recommended to refer to ‘Rapid tenure assessment Guidelines for post-disaster response planning’, IFRC, 2015 ([link](https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/english_rapid_tenure_assessment_guidelines.pdf)).