

UNHCR SHELTER NEEDS

A brief note

1. Background:

UNHCR's mandate can be summarized as follows: "Provision of International Protection and Seeking Durable Solutions for Refugees". While UNHCR is in the process of finding durable or permanent solutions, refugees and other populations of concern require material assistance in addition to the international protection that has been extended to them. One of the main and life sustaining items that UNHCR provides is "shelter".

2. Types of shelter:

The nature of shelter differs in the various phases of assistance and can be categorized as follows:

Emergency Phase:	requires "emergency shelter"
Care and Maintenance:	requires "semi-permanent shelter"
Durable solution:	requires "permanent shelter" or "housing".

There is a further category, called "staff accommodation", for the use of UNHCR staff who are providing assistance to the persons of concern to UNHCR.

Each of the above categories has its own specific characteristics which are summarized in the following paragraphs.

3. Characteristics of different types of shelter

a. *Emergency Shelter*

The main purpose of emergency shelter is the provision of a life saving measure to refugees and populations of concern to UNHCR when an emergency has struck. At the earliest stage, it is carried out through distribution of plastic sheeting and simultaneous provision of tents. Plastic sheeting costs US\$8.00 and tents range from US\$100.00 to US\$200.00.

<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>life saving, temporary measure</i>
<i>Delivery time:</i>	<i>a few days (from UNHCR stocks)</i>
<i>Assembly:</i>	<i>easy assembly and use</i>
<i>Cost of Plastic sheeting</i>	<i>US\$ 8.00</i>
<i>Cost of tent:</i>	<i>US\$ 100.00 to US\$ 200.00</i>
<i>Volume:</i>	<i>tens of thousands per year</i>
<i>Procurement:</i>	<i>sourced under established Frame Agreement</i>

b. *Semi-permanent Shelter*

Semi-permanent shelter is for situations where return is not imminent, and in the short-term persons of concern to UNHCR have to stay until a permanent or durable solution is identified. In this phase, UNHCR provides a better type of shelter, of a semi-permanent type, given that refugees and populations of concern might either return to their place of origin, resettle elsewhere or settle in the country of asylum.

Depending on the situation, different approaches to providing temporary shelter are used. UNHCR basically concentrates on low cost (US\$ 200-US \$300), with participation of the beneficiaries and locally made or available construction materials.

<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>semi-permanent accommodation</i>
<i>Size:</i>	<i>3.5 m2 per person or 18.00m2 per family of five</i>
<i>Delivery time:</i>	<i>gradual</i>
<i>Assembly/construction:</i>	<i>easy construction, participation of beneficiaries</i>
<i>Cost of tent:</i>	<i>US\$ 200.00 to US\$ 300.00</i>
<i>Volume:</i>	<i>in thousands per year</i>
<i>Procurement:</i>	<i>through tendering</i>

c. ***Permanent shelter/Permanent housing***

Permanent shelter is for situations where durable solution has been reached and persons of concern to UNHCR have returned to the area of origin or are able to settle locally. The housing unit therefore is of more permanent nature.

<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>permanent accommodation/housing</i>
<i>Size:</i>	<i>more than 3.5 m2 per person in line with cultural habits and social settings</i>
<i>Delivery time:</i>	<i>gradual</i>
<i>Assembly/construction:</i>	<i>easy construction, participation of beneficiaries</i>
<i>Cost :</i>	<i>US\$ 400.00 and more depending on climatic conditions and basic requirements of housing.</i>
<i>Required volume:</i>	<i>in thousands per year</i>
<i>Procurement:</i>	<i>through tendering</i>

d. ***Staff accommodation***

Although UNHCR's main concern is to assist the persons of concern such as refugees, returnees, IDPs, staff accommodation can also be required for UNHCR staff during emergencies in countries where accommodation is not readily available (e.g. in Indonesia after the Tsunami when all the houses had been destroyed).

<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>provision of accommodation for UNHCR staff</i>
<i>Size:</i>	<i>between 20m2 -30m2 for maximum two persons</i>
<i>Time:</i>	<i>immediate</i>
<i>Assembly:</i>	<i>easy of assembly without technical assistance</i>
<i>Cost :</i>	<i>varies greatly depending on the type of facility (approximately US\$ 10,000 per person)</i>
<i>Required volume:</i>	<i>10 to 20 Units per year</i>
<i>Procurement:</i>	<i>through tendering</i>

4. Your product

Thank you for expressing an interest in providing shelter for UNHCR. As an initial step, we would ask you to kindly provide us with the following information:

- In which of the above four scenarios of shelter needs does your product fit ?***
- Volume of one un-assembled shelter unit?***
- Weight of one un-assembled shelter unit?***
- Production capacity?***
- Country of production?***
- Cost of one unit?***

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