

RESULTS SUMMARY

Setting the agenda for a more sustainable shelter policy in Cox's Bazar

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PROJECT	Title: Construction and demolition waste management
	Partner: Caritas Bangladesh
	Country: Bangladesh
	Period: 2022-25 (ongoing)

CHANGE Caritas Bangladesh (CB) – in cooperation with Caritas Denmark (CDK) - has succeeded in putting sustainable construction and demolition waste management on the agenda of the Shelter & CCCM Sector committee in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar with a view to eventually effecting a policy change so that a “cradle-to-grave” perspective on construction and demolition waste management is incorporated into the sector policy for shelter design and construction.

CONTEXT Managing the daily waste produced by the almost 950,000 Rohingya refugees in 33 camps in Cox's Bazar is a huge challenge. The shelter sector is bound by Govt. policy that does not allow more sustainable shelter designs, prompting continuous demolition and reconstruction of dilapidated shelters, producing waste in the form of bamboo, tarpaulin, nylon rope, metal fittings, etc. This contributes to a hazardous build-up of waste in the camp environment. Current shelter policies have no stipulations regarding minimizing waste from shelters.

CONTRIBUTION Reducing the amount of waste produced the shelter sector was identified as a key area where CB, a prominent member of the Shelter & CCCM committee, and CDK could make a difference. After developing, testing and documenting new ways of re-using and recycling construction and demolition waste systematically in 2023, CB created enough awareness and interest from the Shelter & CCCM committee for them to schedule a field visit to the demo-shelter in June 2024 with a view to subsequent discussion of possible shelter policy changes.

IMAGES	 <p>Processing construction waste materials. Photo: Caritas Denmark</p>	 <p>Innovative demonstration shelter in Camp 19 Photo: Caritas Bangladesh</p>
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[See next page for more details](#) →

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

Based on findings from an initial survey regarding waste and the potential for plastic recycling in the camps, CDK and CB instead decided to narrow in on the waste generated by the shelter sector itself. A pilot project was developed, and consultations with field staff and the Rohingya community provided an overview of the current wasteful practices of the shelter sector. Based on the consultations, a demo pilot shelter was constructed. Re- and up-cycled materials were used in order to test and document the viability of a circular shelter design, based on a higher degree of re-use and re-cycling of materials. Activities included testing of waste tarpaulins and improved methods for slope and retention wall protection, developing a re-usable non-flammable wall for the kitchen area and testing alternative, composite re-cycled materials for the lower sections of shelter walls by using different materials for each of the four walls. In addition to re-cycling and re-using bamboo waste in the construction of new shelters, the community also experimented with making bamboo handicraft items for sale.

LESSONS

Developing new ways of using construction waste generated in the shelter sector can mitigate the negative effects of the Govt.'s non-negotiable standpoint that shelters can only be makeshift. A change in the Govt.'s standpoint on shelter durability would be more effective in reducing the generation of waste in the shelter sector, but for political reasons that is not a realistic option, even though Caritas Bangladesh, as well as other NGOs in the sector will continue to advocate for this. In the meantime, a change in shelter sector policy regarding use of construction and demolition waste will be useful for reducing the huge amount of waste that litters the environment in the camps. It has been found that re-cycling and re-use of construction materials is labor intensive, which on one hand makes it a more costly solution in some aspects, but on the other hand it also provides an opportunity for the Rohingya community to have a much needed income through cash-for-work shelter re-cycling activities.

EVIDENCE

The pilot project has captured its results in minutes from meetings with the community where previous practices on management of construction waste and new ideas were discussed. Also, bi-annual and annual reporting, meeting minutes with field staff on past practice and innovative ideas were shared with extensive photo documentation and a video on the background of the pilot project and the initiatives taken by CB. Physical evidence is at hand in the form of a demo shelter, the workshops where construction waste is collected, segregated and processed, and experimental slope protection in the camp using shelter construction and demolition waste. Documentation of the viability of the alternative uses of construction waste is ongoing. The minutes of the shelter sector meetings have evidence of presentation of the concept and the members' interest and constructive engagement in discussing the potential of the pilot project. This position the pilot well for continued scaling and spread.

DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Insert strategy priority
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	-
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	X
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	X
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

Page 1: Results summary

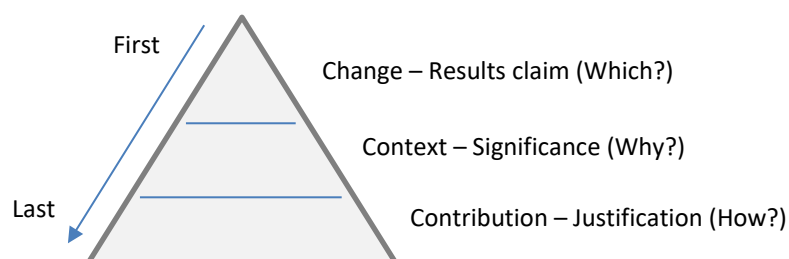
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project’s contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- **Activities:** Whereas the “contribution” section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the “activities” section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- **Lessons:** Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- **Evidence:** A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer “X led to Y, because of Z,” although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- **Domains and development strategy:** Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.