

Emergency Sahel Shelter Kit - Niger Review in Ngourtoua Camp. Diffa region

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1. Overview

The "Aide internationale de la Croix-Rouge Luxembourgeoise" (Al CRL) has been working since 2013 in Diffa, Niger. In close collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross (NRC), it carries out interventions in the field of shelters for displaced populations, refugees and returnees in the Diffa region.

In September 2017, a new transitional shelter model was developed by IFRC-SRU and implemented by AI CRL and CRN in the Diffa region.

The IFRC-SRU has been requested to provide technical support to review the ongoing shelter project implemented in DIFFA.

2. Used Methodology

The security situation in the region remains unstable with continuous incidents recorded lately. In this context, the access to the field for any IFRC-SRU member is currently restricted.

Therefore, the overall objective of IFRC-SRU's consultancy is to provide remote technical assistance to assist the local team (Al CRL) in the collection of the information and review of the shelter project currently implemented in DIFFA.

The technical support will include the development of data collection tools, the briefing and coaching of the local team (Al CRL) in charge to evaluate the project and the analysis of the finding and report with recommendations to improve the housing project.

The technical support is organized as follows:

- Preparation of the data collection tools and review process
- Briefing on the use of the tools and modalities of data collection
- Follow-up of the data collected during the mission of evaluation
- Captuing the information collected and reporting with key recommendations

3. Context identification and limits

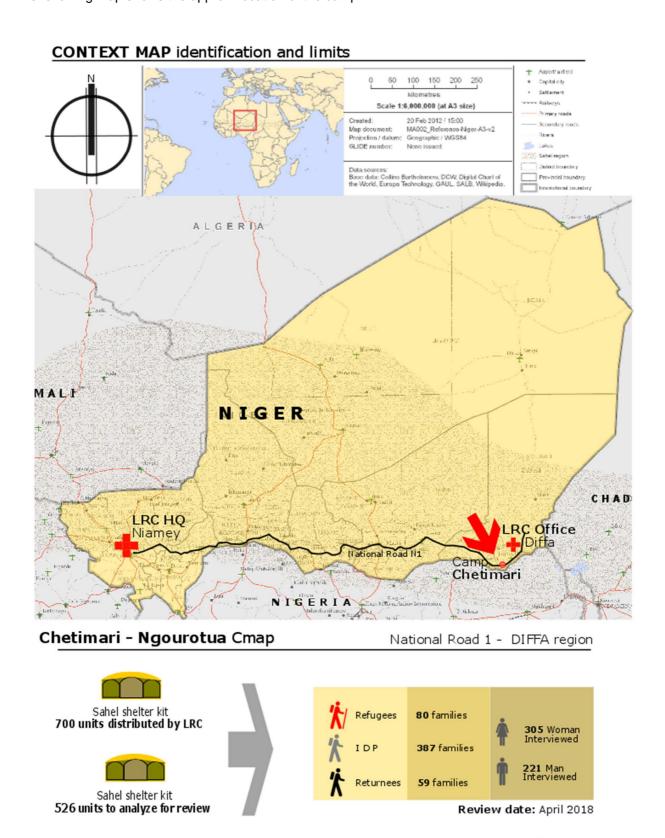
The "Aide internationale de la Croix-Rouge Luxembourgeoise" (Al CRL) carries out Shelter and WATSAN interventions for displaced populations, refugees and returnees in the Diffa region in the context of the Lake Chad crisis.

The intervention in the Diffa region focusses on the construction of 2 types of Shelters, about 1,200 houses in adobe and 14,000 emergency shelters as well as family latrines and emergency latrines.

The current review will focus on the 700 transitional shelters set up in Ngourtoua site for displaced persons and refugees with 4,256 people, located not far from Chetimari on national road number 1.



The following map shows the approx. location of the camp.



700 visited shelters - 68 temporarily unoccupied - 106 reviews with damaged information 526 full sample

4. Preparation of the data collection tools and review process

4.1 Sample size

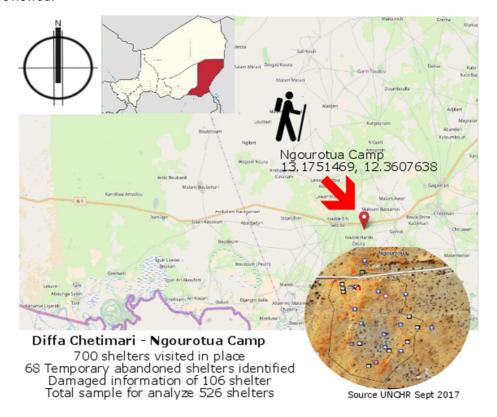
In order to ensure the common agreed condition, we have defined with the AI CRL desk a base line of 5% margin of error and a 95% confidence interval.

Sample size determination is the act of choosing the number of observations or replicates to include in a statistical sample. The sample size is an important feature of any empirical study in which the goal is to make inferences about a population from a sample (Wikipedia).

We have used the REASOR website for support (http://www.raosoft.com/) to define and calculate the minimum values as follow:

Margin of error accepted	5%
Defined minimum confidence level	95%
The considered population size (in shelters)	700
The response distribution	50%
SAMPLE SIZE	249

The field team visited the 700 shelter built in the Ngourtua site, identified 68 Shelter temporary abandoned (see Information gathering – Selection and exclusion criteria) and 106 review were damaged due the difficulties for IT communications in place. The final size of the sample to analyze is 526 shelters reviewed.



4.2 Review tools

With the aim of recording extensive and consistent information from the field, the IFRC-SRU in collaboration with the AI CRL team has developed a package of specific review tools. These tools are questionnaires that focus on different predefined aspects to review.



In order to facilitate the analysis and provide a logical structure that facilitates the understanding and future dissemination, we have divided the review in 3 main aspects: Beneficiaries satisfaction (social), Shelter solution review (Technical – field observation), Focus group (direct experience).

The following schema shows the correlation between the review tools:



The *Beneficiaries Satisfaction* and the *Shelter Technical* questionnaires have been designed with different structures to collect a specific information related to the particular thematic.

Please notice that the content of the questionnaires was translated in local language with the support of volunteers of the NRC.

o Beneficiaries Satisfaction questionnaire organized with the following structure:

Respondent information
Shelter Occupancy – Evaluation Question of Effectiveness
Appropriateness of the Shelter Solution
Implementation – Support and participation
Appropriateness of the Latrines mobilization
Community Mobilization and assistance provided by the RC
Plans for Adaptation and improvements for the future.

Shelter Technical questionnaire organized with the following structure

Shelter identification
General aspect – Stake out and dimensions
Shelter structure – Pillars and dome arches
Cladding – Water proof layer, inner dome layer, walls and doors
Maintenance – actions and materials
Modifications and/or improvements

 The Focus group information collected during field dynamics conducted by the local team in place and later reported to HQ.

5. Information gathering

Monitoring system

In order to ensure the accountability of the data collection, the volunteers' work was guided along the entire process. The purpose was to overcome the difficulties encountered by the volunteers, in particular the ones related to the new technologies and taking of GPS points which were impossible due to bad weather conditions or IT difficulties.

The data collection process was conducted during five days form March 28th to April 1st 2018, with the seven trained volunteers deployed to the Ngourtoua site. At the start of each day, a briefing session gave instructions to the volunteer team. At the end of the day, a debriefing was held to collect collected during the day facilitating analysis. The difficulties encountered and to provide answers to the volunteers' concerns. Digital files created for each interviewer made it possible to store the data.

ODK and RC volunteers

The data collection process was coordinated in place by the RC Consultant, lead of this mission Prosper Zombre, and executed with RC volunteers. The data were obtained by personal interviews and recorded in place by using Smartphones with pre-loaded ODK software.

A specific training was conducted about the use of the data collection tool ODK (open data kit). Eight volunteer were initially identified but only seven performed training and one volunteer withdrew befor the activity.

Initially, this training consisted in reviewing the questionnaire with a view to agreeing on the terminology in order to translate the questionnaire to be administered correctly into the local language of the beneficiaries.

Two main languages are spoken on the Ngourtoua site. These are the "Kanouri" and the "Haoussa". The volunteers identified speak either one or both languages correctly. By going through the questionnaire, the exchanges allowed us to agree on the terminologies.

The last objective for this training was to "Ensure the proper use of the system in Smartphones" (transparency of the data traceability). This was an opportunity for the participants to familiarize themselves with the ODK tool and to understand the use of Smartphones. This participatory exercise enabled the volunteers to formulate recommendations to the Trainer with a view to improving the tool and facilitating the administration of the questionnaire.



Training session with local team

Selection and exclusion criteria

Data collection was carried out on a sample basis. The site had been divided in four sectors by the shelter team of the local branch of Red Cross of Diffa who helped beneficiaries to build their shelters. By using this division, the volunteers were in charge of collecting the information in the inhabited shelters. Due to the number of volunteers and in order to reach a maximum number of beneficiaries, the main exclusion Criteria was the "temporary abandoned" shelters by their owners. Indeed, due the unstable security situation, some households have temporary left the site abandoning their shelters. Other reason to find the temporary abandoned shelters was that some households returned to their villages of origin for economic reasons (especially to cultivate their fields) - survival strategy. Thus, temporary abandoned shelters were excluded from the survey. Note: At the moment of the review 68 temporary abandoned shelters where identified.



Temporary abanoned Shelter

Field procedure

The information gathering strategy consisted of door-to-door visits. However, the questionnaire could not be administered to a family member under 15 years of age. The majority of those surveyed were heads of households. Each interviewer was equipped with his Smartphone and visited households and administered the questionnaire. An identification system had been created to avoid double visits to households. Therefore, at the end of the survey, the initials of the volunteers were marked on the shelter to prevent the household from having the questionnaire administered twice.



Identification code

6. Data review and comments

The analysis of the collected data is organized in the three review tools and each question/group of questions is analyzed in an individual matrix.

6.1 Beneficiaries satisfaction survey

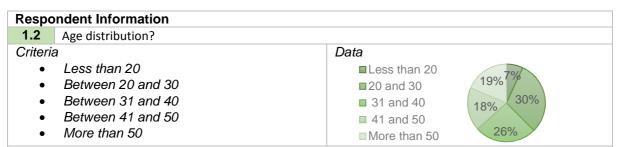


Comment

The total percentage of Feminine beneficiaries interviewed is slightly higher than the masculine. The recorded difference in percentage is 16%.

Conclusion/Recommendation

A possible explanation of the small difference is that the interviews were conducted in the shelters themselves, so the gender specific activities of the population could be the reason for this difference.

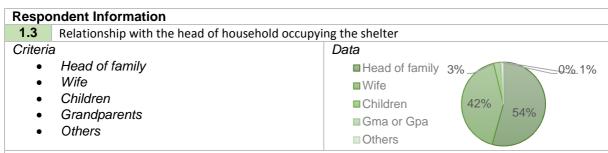


Comment

The reviewed population under 20 years is only 7% and the population over 50 is 18%. The big % of the sample are between 21 and 30 years with 30%. The population between 31 and 40 represent 26% of the sample.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The edge of the example has a homogeneous distribution with 50% of the population between 20 and 40 years. The beneficiaries that have participated in the review are in different ages that provide an extensive picture of the reality and appreciations in the camp.



Comment

54% of interviewed were the head of family and 42% the wife of head of family.

Conclusion/Recommendation

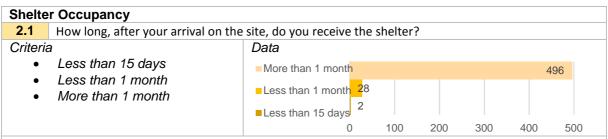
The close percentage between head of family and wife of head of family, would provide a more or less balanced sample in regards to gender.



Refugee and returnee are together the 26% of the sample distributed on 11% returnees and 15% refugees. The biggest portion of the sample (74%) are Internally displaced Populations (IDP).

Conclusion/Recommendation

Almost ¾ of the sample are IDPs that are familiar with the geographic and cultural context. This would provide a relative uniformization in the results and could facilitate the exchange and community mobilisations.

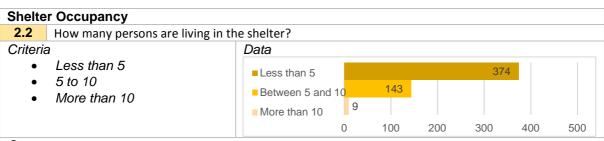


Comment

496 respondents received the shelter more than 1 month after their arrival and only 2 respondents have received the shelter within the first 15 days of arrival.

Conclusion/Recommendation

94% of the respondents have received the shelter after one month in the location. We can conclude that the time of response in terms of shelter is over 30 days after the arrival. Could be interesting to analyse if during the critic seasons (rain or extreme heat) the time of response is the same. In addition, a historic analysis could provide relevant information like the evolution of the shelter response in the last year.

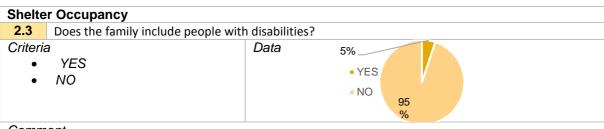


Comment

374 shelters have an occupancy rate of less than 5 persons, 143 shelters accommodate between 5 and 10 and only 9 shelters over 10 persons.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The Sahel shelter kit design has a covered surface of 22,4m² that according to the sphere norms will be sufficient for a family of 6.4 persons (3.5m² pers. in emergency). Therefore, we can conclude that around ¾ of the shelter in the place are following the Sphere std.

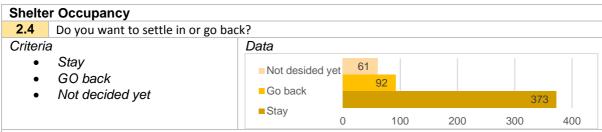


Comment

5% of the interviewed families have some persons with disabilities living in the shelter. That represent 27 families over 526.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The percentage of persons with some type of disability is 5%. The 27 families in this situation have been identified. A suggestion can be an individual evaluation according to the specific needs of these beneficiaries.



373 respondents want to stay in the camp and 92 want to go back. 61 are not decided yet.

Conclusion/Recommendation

At the moment of this interview (April 2018) more than 70% of the respondents want to stay in the camp, which could be interpreted as the living conditions in the camp are better than in the place of origin. A monitoring process that includes the time parameter could be a good tool to implement in order to obtain the evolution of the situation.



Comment

355 respondents are thinking of settling in the shelter for one year or more. Almost 100 (92) have not decided yet and just a small quantity of 21 plan to move soon (within less than one month).

Conclusion/Recommendation

If we consider that the shelter was designed for a life response of at least one year, most of the population in the camp would like to stay longer than the designed lifespan of the shelter solution. Monitoring and analysis of possible substitution of items could be a good strategy to follow in the coming months.

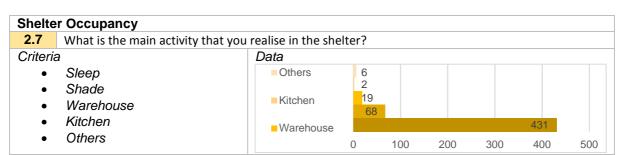


Comment

60% of the respondents think that the provided shelter kit solution could become a permanent house.

Conclusion/Recommendation

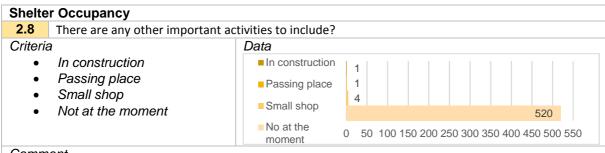
More than 315 families think that the provided shelter kit could provide a definitive housing solution for them. A particular technical and social reflexion would be a good action to deepen in to the transitional phase of the provided shelter solution (emergency to permanent house).



The main activity of the respondents in the shelter is to sleep at night with more than 431 positive responses. Kitchen and/or warehouse represent a very small quantity for respondents.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The night protection function of the shelter is well appreciated with 80% of the respondents sleeping during night in the shelter. A monitoring of the activities performed in the shelter could be a good indicator of the flexibility of the shelter solution.

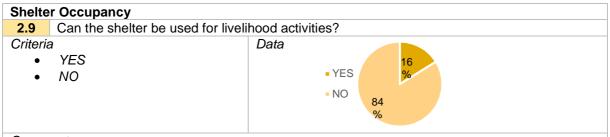


Comment

520 are not performing any other important activites in the shelter.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The open question could suggest that the occupants of the shelter plan or would like to perform additional activities in the shelter.

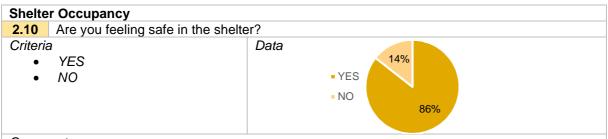


Comment

84% of the respondents are thinking that the shelter is better prepared for living than for developing additional livelihood activities.

Conclusion/Recommendation

84% of the respondents (more the 440 users) think that to perform some livelihood activities they will need a different space than the shelter. A deep evaluation of the livelihood capacities would be needed in case of a long term operation.

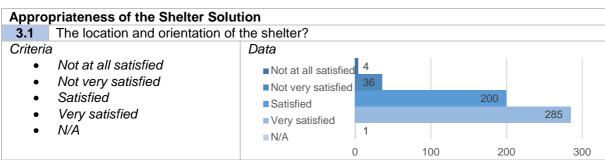


Comment

86% of the respondents (more than 450) are feeling safe in the shelter.

Conclusion/Recommendation

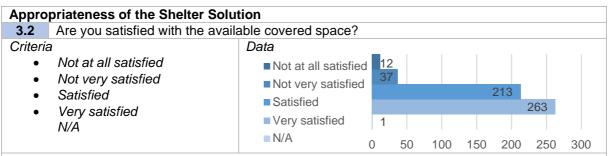
The main objective of the shelter is to bring protection to its inhabitants; in this case, the feeling of protection is common for more than 86% of the sample. An individualized review to identify the worries of the other 14% could be a good action to take. In addition, a monitoring system to follow up the "feeling of safety" would provide key information about the safety in the camp.



485 responses with different levels of positive satisfaction, 200 satisfied and 285 very satisfied. 4 not satisfied at all and 36 not satisfied.

Conclusion/Recommendation

92% of the respondent are satisfied or very satisfied with the shelter orientation and location. This shows the acceptance of the place and in particular the possibility of the users to orient the shelter according to their convenience.

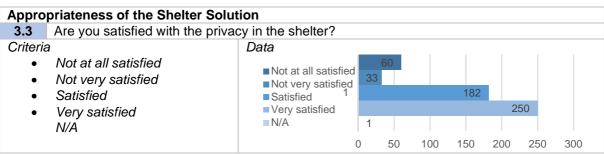


Comment

263 very satisfied and 213 satisfied are showing the different levels of positive satisfaction in the sample. 12 are not at all satisfied and 37 not satisfied.

Conclusion/Recommendation

476 respondents with different levels of positive satisfaction showing that more than 90% of the sample are satisfied with the covered surface that the shelter offers. With more than 20 m^2 the Sahel shelter kits provide a high percentage of satisfaction in the sample. A personalized follow up of the non-satisfied respondents could be a key to better understand their response.

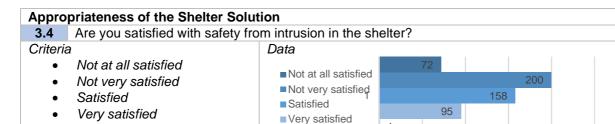


Comment

250 are very satisfied with the privacy, 182 satisfied and 93 respondents with different levels of no satisfaction.

Conclusion/Recommendation

More than the 80% of the sample are satisfied with the shelter privacy. This shows the high adequacy of the shelter in terms of cultural acceptance. 17% of the sample are not satisfied with the privacy of the shelter. An individualized follow up appears as the most logic action to better understand parameters like the context (distance to other shelter) quantity of occupants in the shelter or cultural preferences of the users.



N/A

Comment

N/A

200 respondents are not very satisfied with the safety against intrusion that the shelter provides and 72 are not at all satisfied. 253 respondents are satisfied at different levels; 158 satisfied and 95 very satisfied

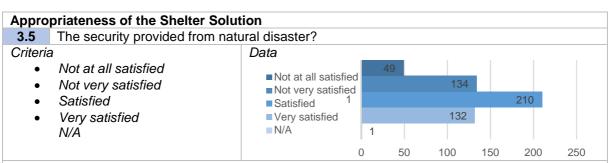
0

50

100

Conclusion/Recommendation

50% of the reviewed sample are not satisfied with the security against intrusion that the shelter provides. This can be related to the general situation of instability in the region and in particular in the place. The shelter as a temporary lightweight construction can provide only a limited protection against intrusion. It would be recommended a deeper study about the general security situation in the place and how the shelter response can be improved in this terms.

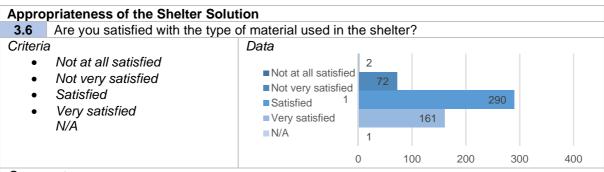


Comment

342 respondents are satisfied in different levels with the protection against natural disasters. 134 not very satisfied and 40 not at all satisfied.

Conclusion/Recommendation

65% of the population are satisfied or very satisfied with the protection against natural disaster. In a temporary construction like this emergency shelter, the effectiveness of the protection is a subjective parameter. A good idea can be to develop specific communication and sensitization training with the affected population to better understand the needs and provide tools for disaster risk reduction.



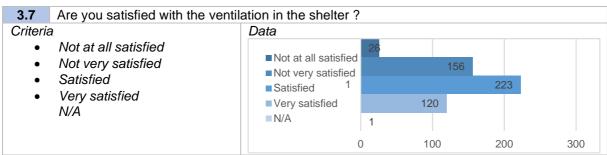
Comment

451 respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the materials used in the shelter. 72 not very satisfied and 2 not at all satisfied.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The high % of satisfaction (over 85% of the sample) shows the good acceptance and cultural appropriation of the materials. Some of the materials used in the shelter are not well known by the population in the region. This can be a factor to monitoring in terms of acceptance at mid/long term.

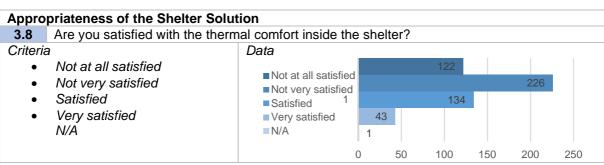
Appropriateness of the Shelter Solution



223 respondents are satisfied with the ventilation in the shelter and 120 very satisfied. 182 are not very satisfied or not at all satisfied with the shelter.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The natural ventilation in a hot dry context is a key factor to obtain a minimum comfort inside the shelter. More than 65% of the reviewed sample are satisfied with the ventilation inside the shelter. It would be recommended to develop a sensitisation package to inform the users on the flexibility of the proposed shelter solution. Inspired by the "tuareg" culture, the shelter solution provides different configurations to improve the user's comfort in terms of natural ventilation.

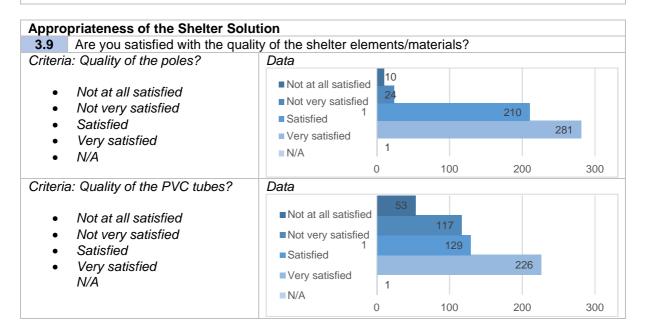


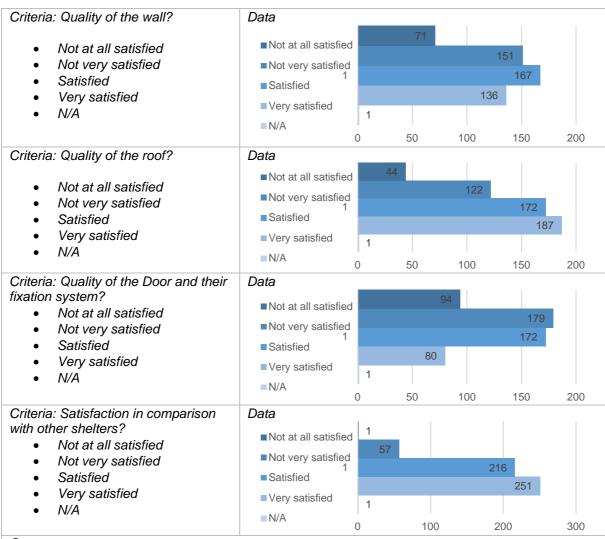
Comment

226 respondents are not satisfied and 122 not at all satisfied. The other 177 are satisfied at different levels.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The use of plastic materials (tarpaulin) increase the interior temperature. The use of this material as waterproof layer in the roof can be an explanation why 66% of respondent are not satisfied with the feeling of thermal comfort inside the shelter. A specific review on this topic can be conducted and using parameters like the question before related ventilation inside the shelter.

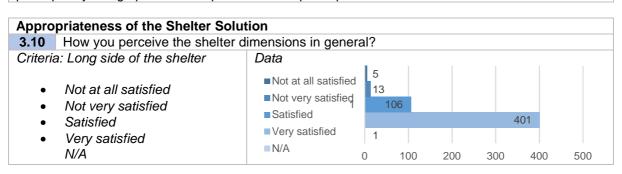


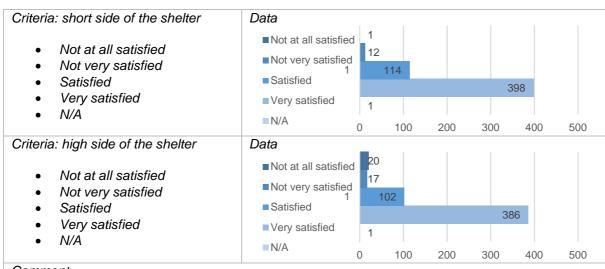


In this section the satisfaction in relation to the different elements/materials of the Sahel shelter kit are all together in order to have a general picture of the satisfaction level. In general, the satisfaction from the respondents is positive with values between 352 satisfied respondents in relation the PVC pipes or 491 satisfied respondents with the metallic pillars. The lowest satisfaction levels are recorded with the quality of the wall materials (222 not satisfied respondents) and with the door fixation system (273 not satisfied respondents).

Conclusion/Recommendation

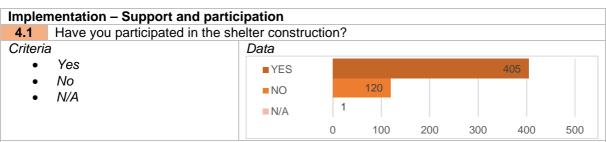
The overall appreciation of the quality of the material is positive with average values over 75% positive satisfaction from the reviewed sample. The not satisfied responses are pointing the fixation system of the door and the quality of the walls. The two of them related also with the satisfaction in terms of security from intrusion in the shelter 3.4. The % of not satisfaction responses are between 42% (walls) and 50 % for the door fixation system. Community participation to understand the use of the shelter and the worrying of the users appears as the logic actions to take. In addition, a participatory design process can provide an adapted specific solution for door fixation and walls.





The dimension as satisfaction parameters are all together to better understand the responses. In general, the satisfied and very satisfied respondents are between 488 and 512 satisfied responses. *Conclusion/Recommendation*

The % of satisfaction shows an average over 95% of the respondents. That shows the good acceptance of the shelter solution in terms of space/dimensions.

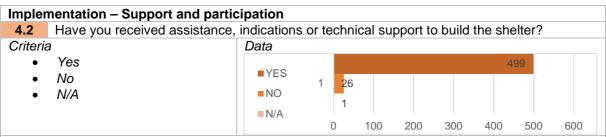


Comment

High level of participation during the construction with 405 positive replies.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The high participation in the construction of the shelters is an indicator that can show the involvement of the beneficiaries and the effectivity of the community mobilization. Promote activities with this level of participation would be a good recommendation to implement future actions in place.

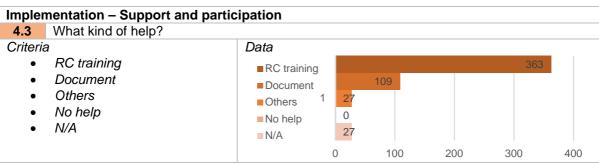


Comment

499 respondents of the sample have received a RC training prior to setting up the shelter. 26 haven't receive training.

Conclusion/Recommendation

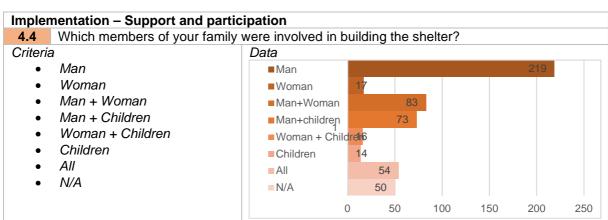
The correlation between the number of respondents having received RC training together with the high level of participation in the construction shows the good acceptance and effectivity of the RC activities in place.



363 trainings delivered and 109 respondents that received documentation.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The difference between training and documentation is not clear on this set of questions. It would be necessary to define if the documentation was part of the training or not? In addition, were all beneficiaries able to understand the document? In order to improve the impact of these activities, it would be recommended to redesign the training/communication actions. Defining groups of beneficiaries, follow-up, monitoring are some of the possible actions to put in place.

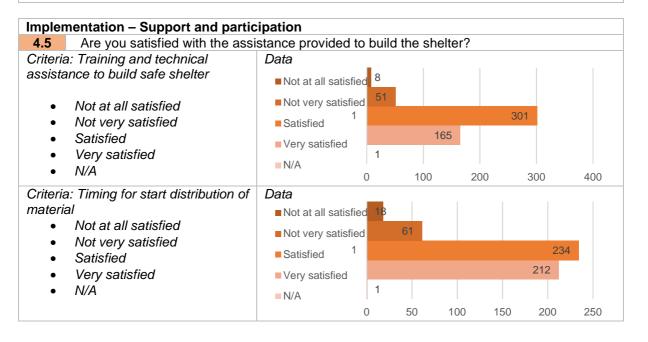


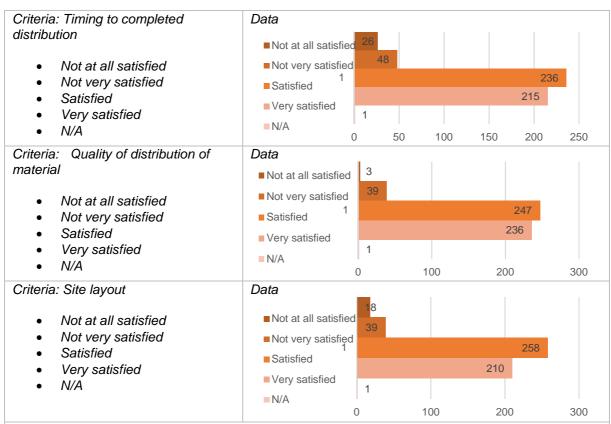
Comment

The participation in the shelter construction was diverse with different combinations by gender and age. In general the man participation is higher alone and the women participation is higher together with other family members

Conclusion/Recommendation

The possible explanation for this gender difference are culturally related factors.



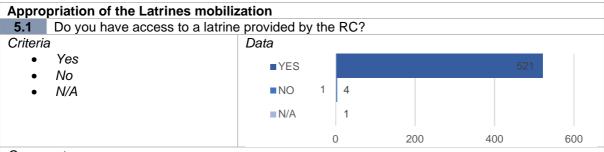


The questions of satisfaction regarding assistance to build the shelter are all together showing the positive satisfaction values (466 training and technical assistance received and 483 of quality of distribution materials).

The non-satisfied values are between 57 and 79 respondents.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The general positive satisfaction is common to all the questions. The satisfaction level over 85% on the timing to complete the distribution shows the efficacy in the distribution and operations of the RC in place. 90% satisfaction of the quality of the material in the distribution are linked with the results of the question 3.9 showing the good acceptance of the shelter kit materials.



Comment

521 respondent has access to latrine provided by the Red Cross. 4 respondent with no access latrine provided by the RC

Conclusion/Recommendation

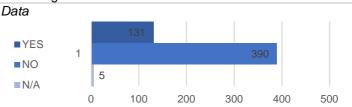
99% of the interviewed has confirmed the access to a latrine provided by the Red Cross this shows the high impact of the implemented Latrine program by the RC. The rest of the interviewed are only the 1%. It would be relevant to identify if they have access to a latrine provided by a different organization.



5.2 Have you receive the latrine materials together with the Shelter kit?

Criteria

- Yes
- No
- N/A



Comment

390 respondent has received the latrine kit together with the shelter kit and 131 have received the latrine kit separately.

Conclusion/Recommendation

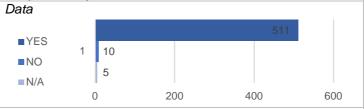
To different strategies of distribution that can represent different situations in the site. The security in place is a challenge for all the operation. This can be one possible reason to have alternatives techniques of distribution. It would be recommended to have a monitoring system in place to evaluate the pertinence and impact of the different logistics alternatives.

Appropriation of the Latrines mobilization

5.3 Do you have an exclusive latrine for your family?

Criteria

- Yes
- No
- N/A



Comment

511 respondents have a latrines for his family. Only 10 responses are negative.

Conclusion/Recommendation

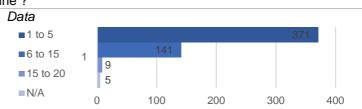
We can assume that the high percentage of families with individual latrines are in close relation with the percentage of latrines distributed by the RC. Only 2% of difference between one and other, it would be good idea to identify the reason of this 2% difference with a specific review.

Appropriation of the Latrines mobilization

5.4 How many persons use the latrine?

Criteria

- 1 to 5
- 6 to 15
- 15 to 20
- N/A



Comment

371 Respondents use de latrine with 1 to 5 other persons

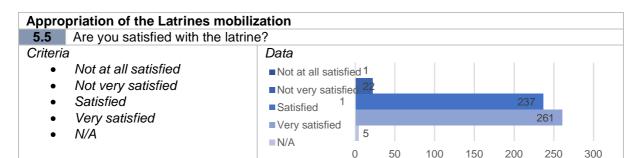
141 With other 6 to 15 persons

9 respondents with other 15 to 20 persons

And 5 respondent can not reply

Conclusion/Recommendation

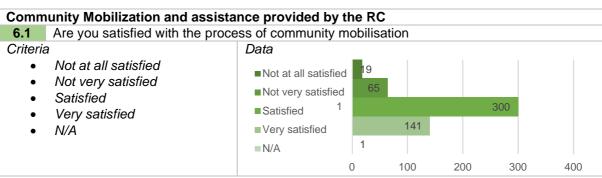
The use of the latrines can be in direct relation with the number of family members. The recorded cases are according to the Sphere Handbook – Excreta Disposal Standard 2 " A max. of 20 people use each toilet"



498 respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with the latrine and 23 not satisfied or not very satisfied.

Conclusion/Recommendation

94% of the respondents are satisfied with the latrine that shows the good acceptance and effectivity of the solution. Identify the reason of not satisfaction of the other 6%, find the solution and keep the high levels of satisfaction will be the next challenge of the activity. Monitoring and community participation could be two of the possible actions to take.

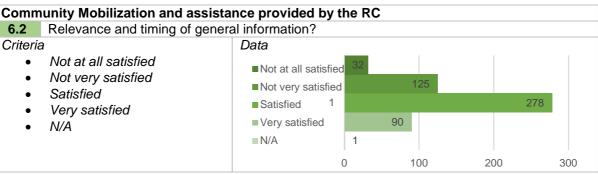


Comment

441 Respondents are satisfied or very satisfied. 65 are not satisfied and 19 not at all satisfied.

Conclusion/Recommendation

83% of the sample are satisfied or very satisfied that shows the effectivity of the community mobilisation. To identify the reason of the 17% of unsatisfied respondents a deeper analysis have to be done. A individualized follow up of this respondent can be a good strategy to understand their needs.

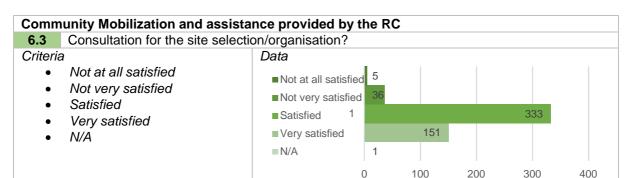


Comment

90 respondent very satisfied and 278 satisfied. 157 respondent are not very satisfied or not at all satisfied.

Conclusion/Recommendation

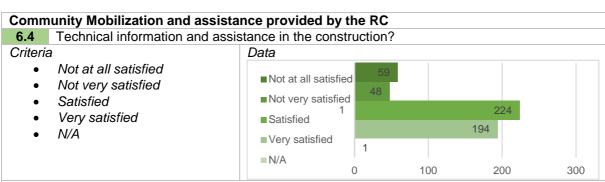
69% of the interviewed persons reply with different levels of satisfaction. The time component together with the security situation would be a good explanation about the not satisfaction of the 31% of the interviewed. Time monitoring and regular assessment can provide the necessary information to implement future actions with higher level of satisfaction.



151 very satisfied and 333 satisfied replies. 41 with different levels of no satisfaction.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The high number in the satisfaction responses could be related to the options that the beneficiaries has in a non-structured site. The direct participation on the site organization and community representation can be an explanation of the level of satisfaction.

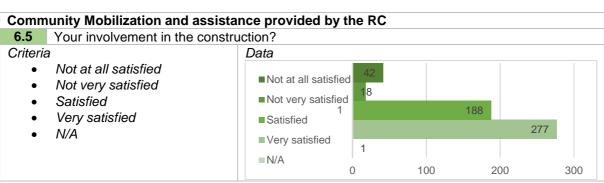


Comment

191 respondent very satisfied and 224 satisfied. The others 107 respondent shows different levels of not satisfaction.

Conclusion/Recommendation

80% of the sample are satisfied with the assistance in the construction. Identify the reasons and need why the other 20% that is not satisfied, will be the challenge to improve next operations. Direct participation and more effective channels of communication could be two possible tools to facilitate this actions.



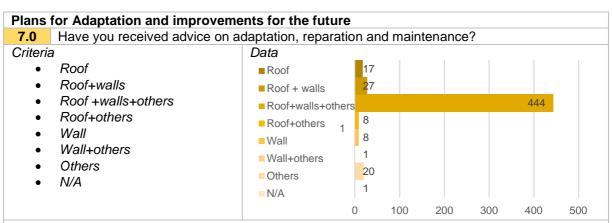
Comment

277 very satisfied and 188 satisfied respondents. The Not very satisfied and not at all satisfied are 60 respondents in total.

Conclusion/Recommendation

88% are satisfied or very satisfied that shows the good acceptance and the pertinence of the assistance provided by the RC.

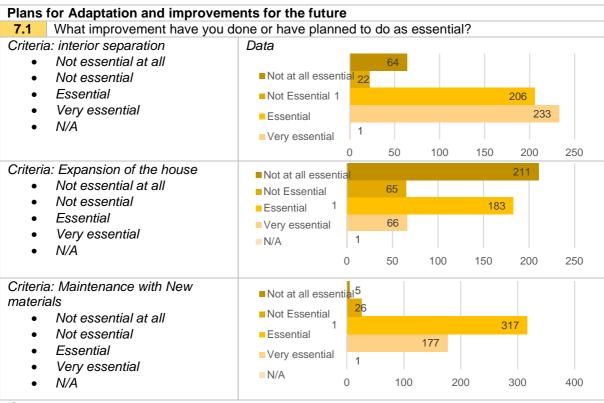
Define the reason of the 12% with different levels of not satisfaction and put in place the corrective measures are the future challenges for the RC assistance in place. Specific assessments and other participatory approach can be the proper tools the be implemented.



All respondents have received advice in how to adapt, repair or maintain the shelter. The majority of the respondents (444) flagged that the received advice include the principal component of the shelter (roof+walls+others). Specific advice with in individual comments was received but in small percentages.

Conclusion/Recommendation

100% of the interviewed have received some advice in how to maintain, repair or adapt the shelter. That show the affectivity of the actions implemented by the RC in place. Keep having this high percentage in a mid-long term period will be a big challenge. Continuous monitoring and close community work are two of the possible tool to be developed in this context.



Comment

439 respondents consider essential or very essential the interior partition of the shelter; 276 respondents consider that a surface extension of the shelter is not essential or not essential at all; 494 respondents flagged the need of receive new materials for maintenance.

Conclusion/Recommendation

In terms of future improvement of the shelter the distribution of new materials for "maintenance" is a priority for the beneficiaries. The inner partition is the second priority this shows that the design of the Sahel shelter respond to this need providing a structure to divide the interior space in 2 or 3 spaces. The beneficiaries just have to add the material of his preference to build the interior division. The increase in the surface is not a priority for the beneficiaries. Is important to highlight that according to the Sphere hand book is recommended a minimum surface 3,5m2/person in emergency situation (Shelter and settlement standard 3: Covered living space –Guidance note n1)

6.2 Shelter technical survey

The purpose of this survey was to focus in particular on the technical aspects of the construction of the shelters by the beneficiaries as well as their assessments. This Technical Questionnaire Matrix was designed in collaboration with the IFRC-SRU and covered different components of the shelter. 63 households have been addressed by this technical survey.

The door-to-door system of data collection was followed by a technical survey conducted by the evaluator with the support of the Logistic officer of Niger Red Cross, Issoufou BOUBACAR. The collection of the information for the technical review was done following specific guidelines designed in the IFRCSRU that includes structure, cladding among others topics to evaluate.

The local team deployed to collect the technical data did the interpretation of this information. Secondly, the information already processed was transmitted to the IFRC SRU to be compiled in a final document. Therefore, is important to flag that the comments in this section have a qualitative approach as a result of the different background of all the intervenient in the project.

General aspects

The main parameter to assess the shelter were the stakeout measures, which were defined in the project as 6,50m in length, 3,40m in width and 2,20m in height. General assessment: beneficiaries have reduced the planned dimensions. Up to 55% of the visited beneficiaries have reduced the initial dimensions of the shelter. This concerns around 300 identified shelters with this characteristics.



Structure

On the shelter structure, we can see that the materials used as well as the dimensions and numbers (square poles 30X30mm -12 units) are those initially planned in the project: dome formation, fasteners and PVC tubes in 32mm diameter. All materials as well as the Shelter structure in general remain stable after 5 months of use.



Field observation: the beneficiaries, by reducing the dimensions of the shelter did not use the rest of the materials for other proposes. Indeed, elements such as metal poles, PVC tubes were doubled to further strengthen the solidity of the shelter.



The general shape of the shelter remains as proposed but the geometry of the bracing systems was not well used. Most of the observed examples are not triangulated in the dome and or in the walls. Therefore, the structural resistance is weaker in comparison with the original model.



Shelter structure without bracing systems

Cladding system

The materials distributed in the Sahel Shelter kit for covering the dome (water proof membrane) are two tarpaulins following IFRC standards, vegetable mats for walls and plastic mats for doors. As foreseen in the shelter construction plan, the covering materials can be observed on all shelters.



Field observation: In general the cladding materials are still in good condition and on more than 90% of the visited shelters, no mayor damages can be noted. The tarpaulins were mostly in good condition. We notice no holes, no cracks and the colour is stable.

No insect attacks noted on the vegetable mats.

In most cases, plastic mats have been used as sleeping material. The doors are not closed with plastic mats. The beneficiaries have modified the door by adding a different door made with a metallic sheet over a wooden framework.



Door with metallic sheet over wood framework

Amendments & Maintenance

The beneficiaries have made significant improvements. Indeed, due to heat and other extreme weather conditions (sand storms, wind, heavy rain, etc.), the shelter has undergone adaptations. Square poles were used twice to reinforce the solidity of the poles. In several cases, these square poles have been complemented with wood to have a solid structure.



PVC tubes used twice in the dome structure

Walls of vegetal mats were also reinforced with "secco", millet stems woven together with tall grass, which at the same time forms a barrier against dust and provides natural thermal insulation. The shape of the dome is in some cases modified due to the additional use of wood, millet stems woven to attenuate heat. Inside the dome, loincloths used on the top of the roof serve as the ceiling.



Vegetable layers over the shelter as thermic insulation

A major change is concerning to the door. The beneficiaries with regard to the concerted material in the shelter wish to fix a secured protection. Thus, the fixing of the secured door concerns the major part of the shelters. However, it is important to note that ethnic Peulh beneficiaries now prefer the

prototype such with two doors without seeking to place a door there as a security measure. This is linked to the habits of each group of beneficiaries.



Shelter with modifications in the door and insulation over the roof and walls

6.3 Discussion group

The discussion group was organized following the technic of door-to-door surveys. Each group was composed of men and women in order to obtain feedback from the beneficiaries on the proposed prototype. The discussion group was created with the support of the Community leaders that are the current site managers and represent their own community. (Participation on the Discussion goup: 11 women and 7 men.)

The main output of this discussion group, was:

Women

- Women find the dimensions built to meet their needs and the prototype adapted.
- They participated in the construction of the shelter alone or in company of other family members
- They were able to reproduce the model by themselves (with some differences according to traditions).
- The shelter protects their privacy and secures them and their belongings.
- They want more vegetable mats than are given (28 per shelter).
- The door is an essential element and they suggest that the door is integrated.
- Beyond the shelter, the women ask for a distribution of NFI (clothing for adults and children, sleeping material, kitchen equipment...).
- They would like to see a distribution of tarpaulins and mats to cope with the winter season.
 Finally, they comment about the lack of food to feed the family and also want shelter and food distributions.

Men

- The interventions of the men did not differ from those of the women and a particular emphasis is placed in the lack of food to feed the family.
- When they return to the shelter, the men find that it meets their needs and is adapted to their situation
- They are asking for distribution before the winter season to reinforce the shelters.



Picture during the discussion group

7. General conclusion and recommendations

The report structure includes an individual matrix analysis for each question. This matrix includes particular comments, basic conclusions and if necessary recommendations.

This section will summarize the main conclusion and recommendations without excluding any of the previous one. To facilitate the lecture and traceability of the information, the following matrix is organized with the same structure than the analysis before, including references to the questions numbers.

Shelter Occupancy

- 2.2 The ratio of person/m2 is according to the Sphere standards if the shelter is built as designed (Shelter and settlement standard 3: Covered living space Guidance note 1 3,5m² person in emergency). To keep these positive values it is recommended to reinforce the sensitization training and put in place a monitoring system to ensure the minimum standard quality in the shelter.
- 2.3 In 5% of the shelters reviewed there are persons with disabilities but no mention of any specific action to cover the specific needs. It would be a good idea to assess the particular needs of these beneficiaries and develop a group of related actions. Example, no architectural barriers to access to the shelters, adapted latrines and specific education programs if needed.
- 2.4 & 2.5 A high percentage of the reviewed population express their will to stay in place for at least one more year. In addition, an important number of beneficiaries have not decided yet the time of permanence in the camp. The Sahel Shelter was designed to resist at least one year in normal conditions. In this context, a package of combined actions appears as the most logical solution. A basic suggestion can be a provision for maintenance and reparation in the logistic chain, a monitoring system to evaluate the possible damages to the shelters and a strategy of fluent communication with beneficiaries.
- 2.8 high number of respondents show interest in developing livelihood activities in place.
 2.9 the 84% of respondents are thinking that the shelter is better prepare for living that for livelihood activities. The link between the shelter solution and the livelihoods is very strong in this case. The suggestion is to put in place a specific assessment including expert participation to develop a particular program that takes into account the beneficiaries' needs and the link shelter-livelihoods.

Appropriateness of the Shelter Solution

- 3.1 to 3.3 & 3.10 The high level of satisfaction is constant in all these questions from surface to materials, and from height to resistance, the respondents are showing a high level of satisfaction. Keeping up these high levels will be a challenge. It can be a good suggestion to setup a continuous monitoring system that provides a constant flux of information and facilitates the communication with beneficiaries.
- 3.4 The lack of feeling of security against intrusion in the shelter is common up to the 50% of the respondents. The feeling of security is one of the main functions of the shelter. Therefore, actions will be needed to reduce this feeling of lack of safety in the shelter. Design improvements, different materials, and strong communication strategies are just some of the possible actions to be taken.

3.9 The quality of the doors and walls is one of the expressed concerns from the respondents and they are linked with the feeling of lack of security in the shelter. Defining a participatory approach to solve this topic together with the users appears as the most logical solution. The design and improvements can be focussed on a different door system, locking tools and evaluating the possibility of new elements in the walls to increase the rigidity of the panels.

Implementation - Support and participation

4.1 to 4.3. The procedure implemented by the RC in place with training and the direct involvement of the beneficiaries in the construction and maintenance of the shelter have shown good results and appears as the correct strategy. Similar than in previous questions, keeping the high acceptance and positive results are the current challenges. The logical suggestion is to put a good coordination, monitoring and communication system in place.

In general, the satisfaction % are high with recorded information over 85% of the sample. A monitoring process that includes the time parameter could be a good tool to implement in order to obtain the evolution of the situation.

Summary of suggested actions

- Design and implement a continuous monitoring system that includes a temporal parameter to follow-up the evolution of the beneficiaries' satisfaction.
- Improve the communication systems with more effective channels to create awareness about the adequate use of the Sahel Shelter Kit and promote the maintenance
- Adapt the doors and locking system of the shelter design and provide alternative options to improve the thermal comfort inside the shelter. The inclusion of local available materials like secco mats or tiffa, would be a good starting point for this reflection. This activity will provide better results if performed in close collaboration with the beneficiaries and local RC team. A specific project/action can be implemented to provide adequate response.
- Prevision of logistic actions in order to respond to the future needs (distribution, warehouse, security and others)

Additional comments

From the available information, we conclude that the Sahel Shelter kit is providing a flexible shelter solution that meets the real needs of people affected by disasters in this particular context.

The flexibility provided by the Sahel Shelter kit allow the beneficiaries to adapt the shelter to their convenience. The beneficiaries appreciated the fact that they can gather easily the elements of the shelter when they would like to establish in another place. This shows the efficiency of the "transitional" component of the Sahel Shelter Kit.

8. Annex

8.1 QUESTIONNAIRE OF BENEFICIARY SURVEY

Respondent information

Name of the respondent:

gender of the respondent:

Age of the respondent:

Picture of respondent

Relation to the head of household who occupy the shelter

Current status: Refugee IDP Returned

Shelter Occupancy

How long after your arrival to the site you recive the shelter

How many persons are living in the shelter?

Does the family includes people with disabilities?

Do you want to settle or go back?

How long do you plan to live in the shelter?

Could the shelter become a permanent house?

What is the main activity that you realise in the shelter?

There are other important activities included?

Can be the shelter be used for livelihood activities?

Are you feeling safe in the shelter?

Appropriateness of the Shelter Solution

Rank from 1 to 4 (1 not satisfied at all, 4 very satisfied)

The location and orientation

The available covered space

The privacy

The safety from intrusion

The security provided from natural disaster

The type of material

The ventilation

The thermal comfort

Are you satisfied with the quality the shelter elements/materials?

Rank from 1 to 4 (1 not satisfied at all, 4 very satisfied)

Quality of the poles

Quality of the arches and dome.

Quality of the wall

Quality of the roof

Quality of the Door and their fixation system

Satisfaction in comparison with other shelters?

How you perceive the shelter dimensions in general?

Rank from 1 to 4 (1 not satisfied at all, 4 very satisfied)

Long side

Short side .:

High.:

Shelter implementation

Have you participate in the shelter construction?

Have you receive assistance, indications or technical support to build the shelter?

What kind of help?

Members of your family that participated in the shelter construction?

Are you satisfied with the assistance provided to build the shelter?

Rank from 1 to 4 (1 not satisfied at all, 4 very satisfied)

Training and technical assistance to build safe shelter

Timing for start distribution of material

Timing to completed distribution

Quality of distribution of material

Site layout

Shelter and latrines

Rank from 1 to 4 (1 not satisfied at all, 4 very satisfied)

Do you have access to a latrine provided by the RC?

Have you receive the latrine materials together with the Shelter kit?

Do you have an exclusive latrine for your family?

How many persons use the latrine?

Are you satisfied with the latrine?



Community Mobilization and assistance provided by the RC

Rank from 1 to 4 (1 not satisfied at all, 4 very satisfied)
Are you satisfied with the process of community mobilisation
Relevance and timing of general information
Consultation for the site selection/organisation
Technical information and assistance in the construction
Your involvement in the construction

Plans for Adaptation and improvements for the future

Have you received advice on adaptation, reparation and maintenance? What improvement have you done or have planned to do as essential?

Room separation Extension for living Maintenance with new materials

8.2 Matrix with guidelines for technical review

1. Shelter identification

General aspect

Stakeout	Value in project	Observed in the field
L:.	6,50 m	
W:.	3,40m	
H:.	2,20m	
Fiscal review (objective appreciation)		

2. Structure

Pillars	Value in project	Observed in the field
Material and dimension	Metallic tube 30x30 mm	
Number of elements	12 units	
Rust	No rust	
Fiscal review (objective appreciation)		

Dome Arches	Value in project	Observed in the field
Material and dimension	PVC 32mm (grey colour)	
Geometry	Same geometry than in plans	
Attached to the pillar head	Attached with metallic wire	
Attached point between arches	Attached with metallic wire	
Fiscal review (objective		
appreciation)		

Wall Arches (brazing)	Value in project	Observed in the field
Material and dimension	PVC 32mm (grey colour)	
Geometry	8 Arches in plan	
Attached to the pillar	Attached with metallic wire	
Attached point arch top	Attached with metallic wire	
Fiscal review (objective		
appreciation)		

3. Cladding Materials

Dome waterproof layer (tarpaulin)	Observed in the field		
The used tarp is IFRC standard (visual inspection)	YES		NO
Time of exposition			
General aspect of the tarp (visual inspection)	Please describe		
Close inspection	Holes	Cracks	Others

Dome inner layer (vegetal mat)	Observed in the field		
General aspect of the mat (visual inspection)	Please describe		
Close inspection	Insect attack	Cracks	Others

Walls (vegetal mat)	Observed in the field		
General aspect of the mat (visual inspection)	Please describe		
Close inspection	Insect attack	Cracks	Others

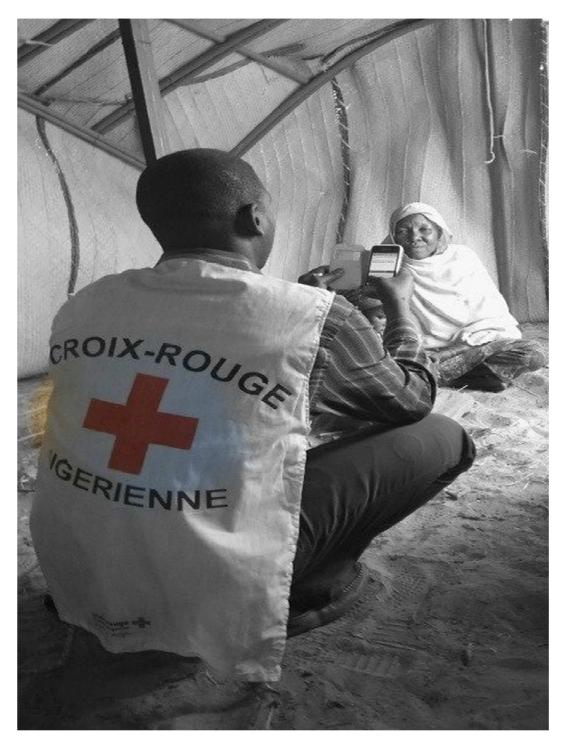
Doors (plastic carpet)	Observed in the field	
General aspect of the carpet	Please describe	
Bar in the low sections	YES	NO
Closing system	YES	NO
If yes please describe		

4. Maintenance

	If NO marck here	If YES Please describe if action taken
Ropes		
Stitches		
Tarpaulin		
Vegetal mat		
Plastic carpets		
Metallic poles		
PVC tubes		
Others		

5. Modifications

	There are important modifications in the shelter?
YES	NO
If yes, please explain	
General description	
Structure	
Pillars	
Dome	
Walls	
Cladding	
Dome tarpaulin	
Dome inner layer	
Walls	
Doors	
Other comments	



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