Shelter Prioritization Tool

Preamble and introductory notes: In light of funding and response capacity constraints, it is unlikely that shelter partners will be able to reach all people in need. It is therefore crucial to use existing funds and projects to target and prioritize persons/households who are most vulnerable. This will require not only targeting geographically, and within specific areas/locations but also requires vulnerability analysis within those identified areas to establish those most in need. Such targeting should take into account personal factors such as the family composition, along with a family’s capacity to recover (for example what resources are available for rebuilding), as well as taking account of environmental issues (such as exposure to known hazards). This tool brings these keys factors together and adds a weighting process to assist with prioritization.

At the core of the Shelter Cluster’s approach is the objective of supporting self led recovery and building back safer.

What this tool is and is not: This is a beneficiary prioritisation tool. It is not a household assessment or a needs assessment tool. It is not a tool for selecting communities and it does not replace community consultation processes.

How to use this tool: Ideally the information you have already collected in your assessment process should be fed into this prioritization tool. If you have a computerized database to record household assessment data then it may be possible to design a formula that attributes the right information into the prioritization categories and can then automatically calculate the score. However without a database that can undertake this function, it will be necessary to attribute and score the criteria manually.

Please also note,

The decision has been taken to use this prioritization tool to assess families rather than households; the intention behind this is to take into account that many people are living together temporarily as a result of the typhoon, and that to assess them together as a household unit may not be the best method of assessing vulnerability (for the purpose of shelter) for the medium to longer term. Please also note that the definition of family is a difficult one in the context of extended family arrangements in the Philippines, it is therefore recommended that the ‘family unit’ is the group of people who would normally live together outside of the current emergency situation.

There is no proposed minimum score attached to this tool; more simply it is suggested that those families who score the highest are prioritized accordingly and within the context of available resources.

The development of this tool has been informed by a number of other key documents and process, the majority of which are Typhoon Haiyan specific:

- Vulnerability Criteria (Protection Cluster) March 2014
- Beneficiary Selection Criteria for Shelter Supported by Humanitarian Organizations (Shelter Cluster TWiG Region VI February 2014)
- Methodology Beneficiary Selection Feb 2014
- Household Assessment Tool (HandiCap International, still being finalized April 2014). When finalized this will provide greater explanation on many of the criterion used in this prioritization tool.
- Minimum standards for Beneficiary Selection Criteria (Shelter Cluster Bohol Earthquake 2013)

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Pantawid recipient (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, or 4Ps), this is part of the Government’s (DSWD) social welfare scheme. If family is eligible for Pantawid benefits, then no further assessment is required; they have already been identified as vulnerable/high risk category re socio economic indicators. Pantawid beneficiaries have a household ID number (card or validation slip that can be used to verify eligibility.)

**Household Characteristics**

- Number of individuals in the family is greater than five  
  If yes, score 5
- Family includes an elderly person (i.e. 60+), a pregnant or lactating mother, a person with a disability and/or chronic illness, a teenage mother (i.e. < 18)  
  If yes, score 5
- Primary income earner is elderly (i.e. 60+), a woman, a child (i.e. <18), a person with a disability or is chronically ill  
  If yes, score 5
- Family contains indigenous persons  
  If yes, score 5
- Other (Please adapt this section for site/community specific issues such as remote community, disability caused by the typhoon, a number of children aged > 5, complex family arrangements, or additional issues as noted in the footnote)  
  If yes, score 5

**Total score this section (maximum 25)**

**Economic Situation**

- No adult member of the family is currently working/engaged in paid in regular employment  
  If yes, score 5
- Not in receipt of overseas remittances/financial support for from relatives nationally or internationally  
  If yes, score 5
- NHTS registered (National Households Targeting System for Poverty Reduction)  
  If yes, score 5
- Family has little to no significant assets, or suffered asset loss as a direct result of the typhoon  
  If yes, score 5
- Family is not a recipient of any other housing assistance from any other groups or organisations (government or non government) as part of this typhoon response  
  If yes, score 5

**Total score this section (maximum 25)**

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1 These are poor (or ‘poorest of the poor’) families that have a pregnant or lactating woman or children aged from one day to 14 years at the time of the survey (2010). Pantawid beneficiaries are currently receiving financial assistance from the government (subject to compliance of conditionalities and ongoing monitoring). It is intended that the survey is an ongoing government process, however it is possible that there are eligible people/families who are not currently ‘registered’ as Pantawid recipients.
2 Other known vulnerabilities in this context also include people who identify as gay/lesbian/transgendered, trafficked women and children, men who have sex with men, and women and children subjected to family violence. However, these are not issues that can be routinely screened for and/or information collected in standard household assessments and should therefore only be taken into account if information is known; this information must not be specifically sought for the purposes of completing this prioritization tool.
3 Also poor families (refer note 1 above), but do not have a pregnant or lactating woman, nor child(ren) aged one day to 14 years. While these families do receive targeted government assistance/services, they do not receive financial support.
Housing conditions

- Family has no formal or informally recognised evidence of ownership or occupation (current arrangements include informal rental arrangements, sharing with other families, etc) If yes, score 3
- Accommodation is too small for the size of the family (3.52 m of safe durable undercover living space per person, as per Sphere standards) If yes, score 3
- Currently living in a known hazard zone/no build zone and other hazards such as flood prone area If yes, score 3

Total score this section (maximum 9) =

Access to services

- Family has limited access to health and welfare services, especially medical/rehabilitative (and where medical facilities exist) If yes, score 2
- Lack of access to clean water of appropriate standard and quantity for drinking, cooking and personal/domestic hygiene; close proximity to water point (as per Sphere Standards) If yes, score 2
- Lack of access to adequate, appropriate and acceptable toilet facilities, sufficiently close to their dwellings, to allow rapid, safe and secure access at all times, day and night (as per Sphere Standards) If yes, score 2
- Little/no electricity supply (when others in the community have access) If yes, score 2

Total score this section (maximum 8) =

Coping mechanisms/resilience

- Family reports having had to sell critical assets since/as a direct result of the typhoon If yes, score 2
- Family reports a reduction in quantity/quality of meals If yes, score 2
- Children have stopped attending school and/or are working If yes, score 2
- Family reports having had to take loan(s) since/as a direct consequence of the typhoon If yes, score 2

Total score this section (maximum 8) =

Capacity to rebuild their houses

- Family has limited/no labour capacity to rebuild the house (either themselves and/or they are without community support) and/or they lack the knowledge and ability to undertake this work If yes, score 5
- Family has little access to local materials and/or is unable to access/use recycled materials from debris (e.g. own house, surroundings) If yes, score 5
- Family has not received any unconditional cash grants for the purpose of rebuilding If yes, score 5

Total score this section (maximum 15) =

Total score all sections (maximum 100) =